

June 3, 2015

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**Rohnert Park Eastside Trunk Sewer
Phase 3/Snyder Lane Widening Project WDID 1B14104WNSO**

Sonoma County

On October 24, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with the Rohnert Park Eastside Trunk Sewer Phase 3/Snyder Lane Widening Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with Copeland Creek, tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, which is tributary to the Russian River (114.21). The project is located along Snyder Lane between East Cotati Avenue and Parkway Drive in Rohnert Park, at latitude 38.342417°N and longitude 122.6855°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.14 acres (52 linear feet). Temporary impacts would be approximately 0.06 acres (23 linear feet).

The purpose of the project is to increase the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, reduce and resolve the congestion on a major corridor, and to increase the capacity of the trunk sewer system to provide for surcharge relief resulting in increased reliability as well as providing for planned development. The project consists of widening and reconstructing Snyder Lane and the entrance to Rancho Cotati High School; installing storm drain, sewer, water and recycled water pipes and infrastructure; extending the existing box culverts comprising the Snyder Lane crossing at Copeland Creek to accommodate the roadway widening; relocating a PG&E high pressure gas main and City sanitary sewer under Copeland Creek; undergrounding various overhead utilities; and roadway and parking lot overlay at the Spreckels Performing Arts Center.

The area of Copeland Creek being permanently impacted by the project is used as a Sonoma County Water Agency sediment catchment facility. Compensatory mitigation will, therefore, occur downstream on Copeland Creek between Commerce Avenue and Snyder Lane. Approximately 0.3 acre will be planted with a combination of instream herbaceous plantings around outfalls and on stream banks, as well as native shrubs and upper bank trees in gaps along the south bank of Copeland Creek. The project will also employ best management practices (BMPs) to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The project is expected to commence in June of 2015 and to last approximately 18 months with in-stream work occurring only in the dry season.

The applicant has received Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (File Number 2006-302970N). The applicant has also applied for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On April 28, 2006, the City of Rohnert Park approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2006042169) for the project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document, BMPs, and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment. The environmental document includes mitigation measures for the project's impacts to biological resources including special status plants, nesting birds, riparian vegetation, sensitive natural communities, and federally protected wetlands.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The application for certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter Cologne-Water Quality Control Act authority. The Project is scheduled to start as soon as possible to accommodate a compressed timeline to avoid disrupting the neighboring high school and to improve public safety. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the public safety issues associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. This notice was originally posted on June 3, 2015; it is being reposted due to the concurrent issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.