

June 24, 2015

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

**Sidmore Driveway Access Project  
WDID 1B15052WNSO**

**Sonoma County**

On May 14, 2015, the North Coast Regional water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mark Sidmore (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 Sidmore Driveway Access Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with an unnamed tributary to the Lower Russian River (114.11). The project is located at 15320 Canyon Two Road in Rio Nido, at latitude 38.524419°N and longitude 122.977931°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately .009 acre or 45 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to provide driveway access to an existing home on the far side of the unnamed tributary. The project would involve building a 20-foot wide driveway over the tributary. A culvert will be installed in the channel and backfilled with a 2:1 slope to the culvert, which will be armored with rip rap. The tributary is culverted or has hardened banks both upstream and downstream of the project area. A limited area of open channel will remain after installation of the driveway. Past road related flood control work done upstream by other parties has diverted a major portion of this drainage to a storm drain culvert.

The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction, and includes off site riparian and watershed enhancement.

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

The North Coast Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15303(d) New Construction, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality 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 ameliorate safety issues associated with the failure of the existing pedestrian bridge and so that emergency repairs may be made to the existing home on the property. 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." The 401 Water Quality Certification is expected to be issued during the 21-day public comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.