

August 13, 2015

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

**Stuhlmuller Vineyards Driveway Culvert
WDID 1B13085WNSO**

Sonoma County

On July 9, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Fritz Stuhlmuller (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 Stuhlmuller Vineyards Driveway Culvert Project (project). A revised application was submitted on July 8, 2015. The application was deemed complete on August 11, 2015. The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with an unnamed tributary to the Middle Russian River (114.25). The project is located at 5216 West Soda Rock Lane in Healdsburg, at latitude 38.374650°N and longitude 122.473924°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 78 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to construct a driveway that will serve a future building site and that will abide by Sonoma County standards, including implementation of Low Impact Development stormwater techniques. The proposed driveway will partially utilize existing vineyard avenues and an old ranch road. The proposed driveway will be 16 feet wide with shoulders. Two 54-inch by 65-foot long culverts will be used to cross the tributary and rip rap will be used at the culvert outfalls to serve as energy dissipation.

As mitigation, 9 coast live oaks, 5 arroyo willows, and 5 poplars will be planted along a mostly barren stretch of the tributary approximately 340 feet long. An additional 5 valley oaks may also be planted. The plantings will be connected to the adjacent vineyard irrigation system to ensure a success rate of 85% after 5 years. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The project may start this year and is expected to take approximately 70 days.

The applicant has received Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Projects (file number 2013-00253N). The applicant has also received a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (SAA# 1600-2013-0279-R3).

The North Coast Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15303d: 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. Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.