

October 6, 2015

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

**Colonial Park Creek Maintenance Project
WDID 1B13075WNSO**

Sonoma County

On June 18, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Philip Etchell, Colonial Park, Inc. (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 Colonial Park Creek Maintenance Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with an unnamed tributary and to Pruitt Creek, which are tributary to the Middle Russian River (114.23). The project is located at 5645 Old Redwood Highway, at latitude 38.520173°N and longitude 122.776526°W. Permanent fill of waters of the United States and state would be approximately 806 square feet. Degradation of ecological condition would occur along approximately 1,052 linear feet of stream where 875 cubic yards of sediment will be removed. An additional 2,250 square feet (0.05 acre) will be temporarily impacted for access.

The purpose of the project is to alleviate flooding of the Colonial Park mobile home park. The project will involve removing accumulated sediment and recontouring the channel bed and banks to maintain fish passage while improving channel capacity. The project will be conducted when the creek bed is completely dry. Rock toe protection and bendway weirs will be installed at three locations on Pruitt Creek near the confluence with the unnamed tributary. Rock toe protection will also be installed in the channel in the vicinity of the storm drain outfall on the west end of the project. A flap gate will be fitted over the storm drain outfall culvert outlet to prevent backflow. A scour hole on the north bank of the creek at the location of a wooden culvert will be filled with streambed material and rock will be placed for energy dissipation.

Mitigation for the project involves removing 1,600 square feet of invasive bamboo, removal of other incidental invasive plants such as eucalyptus saplings, pampass grass, and Himalayan blackberry. Native valley oaks and Oregon ash nursery stock will be planted along approximately 220 feet of the unnamed tributary and a drip irrigation system will be installed. Acorns will also be planted at various locations along Pruitt Creek and will not be irrigated. The project will employ best management practices to avoid water quality impacts during construction. The project is expected to commence as soon as all required permits are acquired.

The applicant received Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Nationwide Permits 31: Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities, 33: Temporary Construction Access, and 41: Reshaping of Existing Drainage Ditches. The applicant has also applied for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On October 6, 2015, the Regional Water Board received a copy of a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (File Number ZPE14-0527) prepared by the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department. 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 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 reduce the public safety issues associated with significant flooding during the next wet season, which threatens multiple residences. 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 nature of the public safety issues associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will 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 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.