

January 14, 2016

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

**Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit Non-Motorized Pathway – East Cotati to Golf Course  
Project  
WDID No. 1B15114WNSO**

**Sonoma County**

On August 27, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART), Bill Gamlen (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit Non-Motorized Pathway – East Cotati to Golf Course Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with wetlands and waters of the State associated with riparian habitat within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.21. The Project is located between East Cotati Avenue and Golf Course Drive adjacent to the SMART rail line, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. The Project's southern terminus: latitude 38.332053°N, longitude 122.691551°W and northern terminus: latitude 38.363129°N, longitude 122.710915°W. No temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. are proposed. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 0.001 acres of wetlands, permanent impacts to waters of the State include 0.046 acres riparian habitat.

The primary purpose of the Project is to construct a non-motorized pathway adjacent to the SMART rail line. The proposed Project would include construction of approximately 2.4 miles of paved pathway and ancillary features including retaining walls, culverts, fences, bridges, curbs and signage. The project description includes dewatering plans for culvert work. The pathway is proposed to be 8-foot wide with a 2-foot wide shoulder. During construction of the pathway, extension of culverts P-N8, P-N11/P-N12 and installation of two bridges will permanently impact 0.003 acres of wetlands and 0.046 acres of riparian habitat.

The proposed Project includes the purchase of 0.001 acres of wetland mitigation credit at the Laguna Valley Mitigation Bank; verification of purchased wetland credits has been submitted to the Regional Water Board. The proposed Project includes plans to purchase 0.092 acres mitigation credit at the East Austin Creek Conservation Bank; verification of purchased wetland credits shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board prior to issuance of certification. The Project proposes to employ best management practices (BMPs) to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Project is planned to begin in the spring of 2016 through spring of 2017 with construction work planned to last approximately 6 - 12 months.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit, Nationwide Permit No. 14. The

Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

On July 19, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), determined that an environmental impact report was prepared and certified for the project (SCH 2002112033). Subsequent amendments, additions, and notices of determination are available and listed on the state clearinghouse website. 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. In addition, 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 Gil Falcone [gil.falcone@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gil.falcone@waterboards.ca.gov) at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten [stephen.bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:stephen.bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov) at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.