

April 12, 2016

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

**Dry Creek Enhancement Miles 2 - 3 Project  
WDID No. 1B12001WNSO**

**Sonoma County**

On February 16, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Water Agency, Grant Davis (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Miles 2 - 3 Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with wetlands, creek channel and riparian on Dry Creek within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.24. The Project is located at Reaches 2 and 8 on Dry Creek, Healdsburg, Sonoma County, at approximately latitude 38.599380°N, and longitude 122.878170°W and latitude 38.676303°N, and longitude 122.941778°W respectively. No permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. or state are proposed. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and state include approximately 4.78 acres of wetlands, 1,550 linear feet of creek channel and 8.87 acres of riparian.

The primary purpose of the Project is to construct instream and associated habitat structures to enhance available habitat for steelhead and coho salmon as a requirement of the Russian River Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service to the Sonoma County Water Agency. The Regional Water Board issued a water quality certification for a demonstration phase of the Project on May 10, 2012. This second phase of the Project will include construction of riffles, backwater alcoves, side channels and ponds, as well as, bank stabilization, installation of large wood structures, boulder clusters, removal of invasive species and revegetation with native riparian species on Dry Creek reaches 2 and 8.

The proposed Project site specific activities would include dewatering and bypass flow pumping diversions using imported barriers such as water filled bladders, gravel coffer dams, sheetpile cofferdams or other appropriate measures to isolate the work areas where water is present. Where necessary the applicant will stockpile materials, remove of vegetation, excavate backwater and alcove areas and place boulder and log structures. Completion of construction activities would include rewatering the reaches and stabilizing disturbed areas for erosion control.

The Project is mitigation for impacts that resulted in issuance of the Russian River Biological Opinion. The proposed Project includes mitigation measures from the Russian River Biological Opinion and the Dry Creek Environmental Impact Report. The proposed Project would have a net increase of up to 2.1 acres of waters of the US. The Project

proposes to conduct restoration and evaluate the success of the Project, post-construction implementation, effectiveness and validation monitoring in accordance with the *Dry Creek Adaptive Management Plan* (Plan). The Plan includes a three-tiered approach to quantitatively evaluate and determine effectiveness of implementation of habitat enhancement elements, physical response to enhancements and if habitat enhancements are resulting in beneficial effects for salmonids. The Project also proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Project is planned to begin on June 15, 2016 through October 15, 2017 with construction work planned to last approximately 10 months. Construction within waters is only proposed during summer low flows each year between June 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has also applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

On November 17, 2015, Sonoma County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, certified an Environmental Impact Report and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2014052020), 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. 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.