

August 31, 2016

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

**Davis Property–King Ridge Road Bank Stabilization
ECM PIN 817451; WDID 1B15110WNSO**

Sonoma County

On August 17, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Richard Thomas Davis (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Davis Property–King Ridge Road Bank Stabilization Project (project).

Project Location

The project is located at 19779 & 20675 King Ridge Road in Cazadero, at latitude 38.560997°N and longitude 123.102165°W. The proposed project would cause disturbances to Austin Creek within the Lower Russian River watershed (114.12). The project is located along Austin Creek, approximately 5 miles upstream from the Russian River.

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to stabilize an eroding bank on the east side of Austin Creek that is threatening a residence. The project will occur along two reaches on the east side of Austin Creek. One reach will be 60 feet long and the other will be 14 feet long. There will be an approximately 50-foot section of stream bank between the two treatment areas that will not be altered. Bank stabilization work will include excavation of the existing stream bank, placement of rock rip rap, installation of live plant poles and planting tubes throughout the rip rap, and top of bank plantings.

Rock rip rap will be individually stacked from the ground up. The largest boulders will be placed in a keyway trench and the rip rap will decrease in average diameter progressing up the stream bank. Willow pole cuttings will be installed between rocks. Planting tubes will also be installed during rock lifts. Red and white alder will be planted at top to middle of bank. A 196-square foot area above the 14-foot reach of bank stabilization will be planted with native tree species.

Willow cuttings will be collected from within the Austin Creek watershed system and will be slow growing varieties, preferably *Salix lasiolesis*, *Salix laevigata*, or *Salix gooddinii*. Specifically, the willow species *Salix exigua* (Sandbar Willow) shall be excluded from installation in consideration of concerns from a downstream neighbor.

Heavy equipment will access the work site by removing a section of fence along King Ridge Road and traversing the slope through the northern part of the property. There will be no staging of any kind in the creek bed. Silt fencing will be installed to protect against incidental fall-back during construction. Erosion control best management practices will be used to protect and preserve conditions on site.

Construction Timing

Construction is expected to occur in the fall of 2016 and will take approximately 2 weeks. Revegetation planting will be installed during the winter months of 2016-2017, once rainfall has sufficiently moistened the soil.

Impacts

Approximately 74 linear feet of stream bank will be permanently impacted by the project. Approximately 120 linear feet of upper stream bank will be temporarily impacted for equipment access.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

The project is considered self-mitigating due to the incorporation of bioengineering techniques.

Total Maximum Daily Load

The Russian River is identified as impaired for sediment and temperature under Clean Water Act Section 303(d).

Other Agency Permits

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit 13, *Bank Stabilization*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The applicant has also received a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

CEQA

The North Coast Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15304: Minor Alterations to Land, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Public Comments

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 phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within 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 or comments, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Kaete.King@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's project file includes the application for certification and additional details of the proposed project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.