

September 14, 2016

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

**Fulton Road Mitigation Site Wetland Construction
ECM PIN CW-803393; WDID 1B14007WNSO**

Sonoma County

On January 13, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Harvey O. Rich (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Fulton Road Mitigation Site Wetland Construction Project (project).

Project Location

The project is located on the west side of Fulton Road between Alton Lane and Wood Road in Santa Rosa at latitude 38.479478°N and longitude 122.771997°W. The proposed project would cause disturbances to 0.97 acre of jurisdictional wetlands in the Laguna de Santa Rosa, within the Middle Russian River hydrologic area (114.22). The project area contains vernal pools and swales totaling approximately 1.37 acres of seasonal wetland habitat.

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to satisfy the Burke's goldfields mitigation requirements of the Sonoma County Airport Runway Safety Enhancement Project (WDID 1B12182WNSO). The project will create approximately 2.08 acres of vernal pool and swale habitat for Burke's goldfields and enhance approximately 1.36 acres of existing seasonal wetland habitat for Burke's goldfields.

The total area of wetland habitat on the site is 1.37 acres, and 1.36 acres of it will be enhanced to improve habitat for Burke's goldfields. Fill will be added to one vernal pool to raise the grade. Filling will reduce the risk of breaching the hardpan substrate. Excavation is proposed for the rest of the enhancement area. Excavation will reduce soil depth and create a pool outlet elevation favorable for Burke's goldfields and unfavorable for exotic wetland species such as Mediterranean barley and ryegrass.

Construction will take place after seed dispersal. Dry surface soils containing seed will be stockpiled and reused after construction in the improved pool bottoms. A designated biologist will be responsible for monitoring the work and minimizing impacts to California tiger salamander and its habitat. The construction process will be supervised by Dr. Larry Stromberg or Dr. Ted Winfield.

Construction Timing

The project will take approximately 6-10 weeks to complete and will not occur during the wet season months of October 15 – May 15.

Impacts

The project will temporarily impact approximately 1.36 acres of seasonal wetlands located on the Santa Rosa Plain in the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

Compensatory mitigation is not required because the project will enhance and create wetlands.

Other Agency Permits

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit 27, *Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

CEQA

As lead agency, the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department certified an Environmental Impact Report for the Sonoma County Airport Master Plan Project, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which included analysis of this wetland project.

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.