

September 1, 2017

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

**Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline Seismic Hazard Mitigation
at the Russian River Crossing Project
ECM PIN CW-825702; WDID 1B16905WNSO**

Sonoma County

On June 29, 2017, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Water Agency (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline Seismic Hazard Mitigation at the Russian River Crossing Project (project).

Project Location

The project is located near 10290 Westside Road in Forestville, at latitude 39.49698°N and longitude 122.890195°W. The proposed project would cause disturbances to the banks of the Russian River.

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to replace a section of major water service pipeline that is at risk of failure in a moderate to severe earthquake. The project will involve installation of two segments of existing pipeline on the north and south sides of the Russian River, totaling approximately 1,080 linear feet of 48-inch diameter pipeline. An additional 328 feet of 28-inch diameter connector pipe will be replaced. The new pipeline segments will be buried approximately 38 feet deeper than the existing pipelines.

Project construction would occur in the following sequence: site clearing, trench construction, pipe installation, and trench backfilling in short segments extending in phases down the length of the pipeline alignment. The existing pipe would be abandoned upon completion of new pipe installation. Site restoration would be conducted last.

For work near the banks of the Russian River, temporary cofferdams of steel sheet piles will be constructed around the work areas. Grout and possibly sand bags will seal the cofferdam around the contours of the existing pipe. The cofferdam would only isolate a small portion of the stream bank and would allow continued fish passage around the work area. Specific BMPs have been identified to monitor and eliminate potential impacts from jet grouting.

Riparian habitat that is removed for construction will be restored, plus an additional 0.10 acres will be enhanced for a mitigation ratio of 1.1:1. Approximately 850 native riparian tree, shrub, and understory container plants will be installed.

Construction Timing

Ground disturbing activities in the creek channel would occur in the summer dry season between June 15 and October 15. The project is expected to take 1.5 years.

Impacts

Approximately 80 linear feet of the Russian River would be temporarily impacted, including 0.87 acres of riparian habitat.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

0.87 acres of riparian habitat will be restored and an additional 0.10 acres will be enhanced.

Total Maximum Daily Load

The Russian River is identified as impaired for sediment and temperature under Clean Water Act Section 303(d). The project includes provisions to reduce sediment impacts and will replant additional riparian vegetation to improve shade and temperature conditions.

Other Agency Permits

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

CEQA

As lead agency, the Sonoma County Water Agency certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 20015072007), pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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.