

September 13, 2017

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

**Windsor Creek Stream Improvement Remediation Project
ECM PIN CW-816296; WDID 1B15081WNSO**

Sonoma County

On July 19, 2017, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Don McEnhill of Russian Riverkeeper on behalf of the Sonoma County Airport (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Windsor Creek Stream Improvement Remediation Project (project). The application was deemed complete on September 11, 2017.

Project Location

The project is located near Brooks Road South and Jessica Drive in Windsor, at latitude 38.559831°N and longitude 122.807844°W. The proposed project would cause disturbances to Windsor Creek, tributary to Middle Russian River 114.23.

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to stabilize and revegetate a creek bank that failed after previous bank stabilization work was performed in the fall of 2015. The project will involve treating approximately 120 linear feet of bank. At approximately 0-15', rip rap will be installed to blend with upstream existing rip rap. From approximately 15'-80', rock lifts, interplanted with willow will be placed on the lower bank and encapsulated soil lifts with willow will be placed above the rock. From approximately 80'-120', the bank will be laid back to a 3:1 slope and a willow mattress will be installed. In addition to the willow, a mix of native trees, shrubs, and forbs will be planted throughout the site. One bay tree will be removed when the bank is laid back. Three large wood features will be incorporated into the project, including a tree that fell last winter when the bank failed.

Construction Timing

The project is expected to commence in September or October 2017. All earth work would be completed before the onset of the rainy period (October 15). Planting may occur in the wet weather period after October 15.

Impacts

Approximately 120 linear feet of creek bank would be permanently impacted.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

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

Other Agency Permits

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for 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

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

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.

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.

The project is scheduled to start as soon as possible to reduce the water quality impacts associated with significant sediment delivery from the failing bank during the next wet season. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the nature of water quality impact associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.