

September 20, 2017

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

**Russian River Avenue Stream Bank Restoration and Protection Project
ECM PIN CW-839966; WDID 1B171716WNSO**

Sonoma County

On September 14, 2017, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Matthew Damos of North Coast Engineering on behalf of Bill and Catherine Giacalone (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Russian River Avenue Stream Bank Restoration and Protection Project (project).

Project Location

The project is located at 21816 Russian River Avenue, at latitude 38.474150°N and longitude 123.021370°W. The proposed project would cause disturbances to the Lower Russian River (114.11).

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to provide protection for the applicant's property and residence and to establish, enhance, and protect riparian habitat. The project will involve installing rip-rap bank protection below the summer water level and live willow coir lifts above the summer water level. A temporary equipment access route will be developed on the east side of the residence across an undeveloped part of the property covered mostly with ivy.

Following construction, the project area will be sanitized, removing all foreign material introduced by construction activities and the temporary access route regraded to the original slope. The site will be prepared for the wet season by implementing appropriate erosion and sediment control measures. Such measures will include re-grading disturbed areas above, installing biodegradable wattles, applying grass seed/straw to open soil areas, irrigating the grass seed/straw to encourage grass growth, and any appropriate drainage or stabilization features deemed necessary.

The project will not require operating heavy equipment vehicles directly in the active channel; all construction equipment will be operated from the stream bank above the project. The excavator's boom will be operated in the water when placing the rip-rap below the summer water level. A turbidity curtain will be installed in the river, enclosing the project site, to contain the water next to the project site and allow any mobilized sediment to settle out and eliminate the chance of sediment discharge during construction.

The project is designed in coordination with bank stabilization projects for the two upstream properties (Tobey Property WDID 1B171485WNSO; McCook Property WDID 1B171423WNSO). The three properties together have been awarded a grant from the

Natural Resources Conservation Service, sponsored by the Goldridge Resource Conservation District, to address catastrophic loss of property.

Construction Timing

Operations would occur between June 15 and October 15, and is expected to begin in 2017. It will take approximately 20 actual work days for construction.

Impacts

The project will impact approximately 125 linear feet of streambank on the Russian River.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

The project is considered self-mitigating because it incorporates 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 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

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 15269(c) Emergency Projects, 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 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.

The Project is scheduled to start as soon as possible to reduce the increased sediment delivery from the failing stream 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 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.