
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Project: Bottimore Field III Project

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. The Central Valley Water Board is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

Project Location: The Bottimore Field III Project is located south of Walmart Road, west of Alta Mesa Road, and north of the rural community of Wilton, in Sacramento County, California. Unnamed wetlands and drainages on the project site drain into Cosumnes River.

Project Description: Sutter Home Winery proposes to develop a vineyard on the 223-acre Bottimore Field III site. The project would involve the standard approach to vineyard development in similar soils, which is to prepare the land to provide soil conditions for grape root expansion and exploration. Site preparation will require the use of tractors pulling a straight or beveled shank to a maximum depth of 5 or 6 feet, thus breaking up the soil and allowing deep-rooted perennial plants access to subterranean soil. This procedure will require 2 or 3 passes in various directions, followed by disking the soil to provide a fairly uniform surface to eventually stake and plant the vineyard.

Work would occur during the summer and fall and will not change the general contour of the land. The ground preparation activity may be accompanied by the installation of the drip irrigation main lines, addition of soil amendments and planting a winter cover crop for erosion control on sloping surfaces. Additional disking may be required after the initial work is completed. Because the entire site will be prepared for installation at one time, no "phasing" other than actual planting of the vines will be required. No off-site improvements are required for this project. The equipment associated with the initial ground preparation for vineyard development will be staged on-site. Access to the site will be off of Alta Mesa Road via a gate located across from an existing fire station.

The entire site will be planted with grapes, with the exception of a 40-foot buffer at the north, east, and south boundaries of the site, which will be used as equipment turnaround areas.

The proposed 223-acre project site contains approximately 3.326-acres of waters of the United States which will be all filled as part of the current proposal. Permanent impacts to wetlands and ditch on the project site will be mitigated via the allocation of credits for the creation of 3.326-acres of vernal pools on the Gill Ranch site.

Public Review Period: The Draft MND is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning 12 June 2012. Written comments should be submitted no later than 11 July 2012 to the following address:

Genevieve Sparks, Environmental Scientist
401 Water Quality Certification Program
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Address Where the Draft MND is Available for Review: Copies of the Draft MND may be reviewed at the location below during normal business hours by contacting Genevieve Sparks at (916) 464-4745 or gsparks@waterboards.ca.gov or at:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

The Draft MND can also be found online at
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_certification/.