

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice  
of  
Application for Water Quality Certification**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple RWQCB jurisdictions.

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

**Applicant:** Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

**Applicant Contact:** Mr. Kim Batchelder, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

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**Project Name:** North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project

**Date of Application:** April 12, 2012

**Affected Counties:** Sonoma County

**General Location:** The trail project alignment extends east and south of Rohnert Park in Sonoma County.

**Project Description:** On April 12, 2012, the State Water Board received an application from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401 Water Quality Certification related to the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project (Project). The project was previously authorized by the State Water Board in 2009 (file no. SB09003IN) and amended in 2011 but the authorized project activities were not completed before expiration of the US Army Corp of Engineers (2009-00204N) Nationwide Permits in 2011. The purpose of the overall project is to create a 4.25 mile multi-use trail to accommodate hikers, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists. The proposed remaining activities include the following:

- the redistribution of river rock for the creation of ten armored ford crossings (wet crossings);
- replacement of the existing wooden vehicle bridge which connects to the Jacobs Ranch driveway and spans the South Fork of Matanzas Creek;

- demolition of the existing concrete abutments up to an elevation approximately 10 feet from the bridge deck; and
- the existing bridge on the South Fork of Matanzas Creek will be replaced with a modified railroad flatcar with a wood deck

In order to accomplish the improvements described above, the contractor will use three pieces of equipment: 1) trail dozer to cut the initial trail tread cut while maintaining a proper outslope and trail grade across native soils; 2) mini-excavator to pull back the uphill slope in order to reduce sloughing and to stabilize the trail bank; and 3) a mechanical rock porter to haul rock from a construction staging area to the stream crossings. The trail dozer will cut trail tread into native soil for a 7-10% grade and outslope the trail to 3-5%. The mini-excavator will pull down the upslope side to create a 2:1 slope to reduce sloughing of the trail. The mini-excavator will be used to shape the rolling dips and place the 9-14" rock into the armored crossings. Armored crossings will be installed at each of the ephemeral stream crossings to allow seasonal rains to drain through the trail. The armored crossings will provide trail users with a harden surface during the winter. Installation of the armored crossings will take place during the dry season when there is no threat of sediment delivery downstream.

Erosion and siltation controls will be applied during and after project construction. Once the trail tread has been properly outsloped and shaped, the offcast will be raked out. All exposed soils will then be covered with native seed mix broadcasted over the trail edge and covered with certified weed-free straw. Stream corridors will be lined with silt fencing to prevent fine or coarse material from entering into the stream channel.

The bridge replacement component of the project will require the removal of an existing bridge including the abutments. A new bridge will be installed that will widen the stream corridor to allow more natural flows during large rain events without constricting the waters into a narrow channel. A drilling rig will be used from the paved road to create the concrete pier holes. A crane will lay the bridge onto the piers which will then be bolted and welded into place. The 42' bridge span will be placed on concrete piers set into native soil. The channel will then be sloped back to ground level at a 2:1 slope and armored with 9-14" rock to stabilize the bank. The exposed soil will be seeded with a native seed mix in the areas along the abutments with full sun exposure. The bridge project will take place between September 1 and October 15 when the stream flows are lowest. A coffer dam will be constructed to pass water from upstream of the bridge construction to downstream of the bridge. Straw wattles and silt fencing will be installed to prevent sediment delivery into the stream channel.

The locations and impacts for the proposed project are summarized in Table 1 below.

**TABLE 1: DESCRIPTION OF DRAINAGES ALONG PROPOSED TRAIL  
NORTH SLOPE SONOMA MOUNTAIN RIDGE TRAIL PROJECT, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA**

**Hydrologic Unit Code: San Pablo Bay 18050002**

<b>Drainage #</b>	<b>WUS<sup>1</sup> Y/N</b>	<b>Average Width of OHWM<sup>2</sup> at Crossing</b>	<b>Potential Corps Jurisdictional Area within Trail Alignment<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Width of Top of Bank at Crossing</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Proposed Treatment/Structure</b>
7	Y	15'	510 sq. ft.	20-25'	38° 21' 14.10"N	122° 34'38.96"W	Armored Ford (36'x5')

**Hydrologic Unit Code: Russian River 18010110**

<b>Drainage #</b>	<b>WUS<sup>1</sup> Y/N</b>	<b>Average Width of OHWM<sup>2</sup> at Crossing</b>	<b>Potential Corps Jurisdictional Area within Trail Alignment<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Width of Top of Bank at Crossing</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Proposed Treatment/Structure</b>
8	Y	8'	272 sq. ft.	8'	38° 21' 15.38"N	122° 34'42.92"W	Armored Ford (20'x5')
9	Y	12'	408 sq. ft.	22'	38° 21' 21.66"N	122° 35'02.22"W	Armored Ford (20'x4')
10	Y	12'	136 sq. ft.	15'	38° 21' 21.61"N	122° 35'08.13"W	Armored Ford (16'x5')
11	Y	10'	204 sq. ft.	10'	38° 21' 27.57"N	122° 35'19.47"W	Armored Ford (20'x4')
12	Y	11'	374 sq. ft.	15'	38° 21' 27.49"N	122° 35'31.42"W	Armored Ford (16'x5')
13	N	2-3'	-	NA	38° 21' 34.21"N	122° 35'45.66"W	Armored Ford (16'x4')
14	N	2'	-	NA	38° 21' 37.10"N	122° 35'54.66"W	Armored Ford (10'x5')
15	Y	4'	136 sq. ft.	10'	38° 21' 39.12"N	122° 35'59.09"W	Armored Ford (20'x4')
16	Y	3'	102 sq. ft.	NA	38° 21' 49.15"N	122° 36'09.00"W	Armored Ford (16'x4')
<b>Vehicular Bridge</b>	Y	26'	884 sq. ft.	35'	38° 21' 57.82"N	122° 36'39.50"W	Vehicular Bridge (20' x 40' steel span on concrete piers)
		<b>TOTAL CORPS AREA</b>	<b>2,516 sq. ft. or 0.06 acre</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Water of the U.S./State

<sup>2</sup> Ordinary high water mark

<sup>3</sup> Assumes a 15-foot buffer on either side of a 4-foot wide trail for a total 34-foot wide area of potential affect.

The US Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) issued a letter on May 15, 2012 for this project authorizing coverage for Nationwide Permits (NWP) 33 and 42 expired. The California Department of Fish and Game 1602 permit is valid until October 15, 2013).

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project on November 15, 2007.

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Woody at (916) 341-5785 or [CWoody@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CWoody@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Date Posted: June 13, 2012**

**State Water Resources Control Board Staff Contact:**

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**Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.**