

August 1, 2019

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

**West Fork Russian River Timber Bulkhead Bank Stabilization Project  
ECM PIN CW-859098; WDID 1B190073WNME**

**Mendocino County**

On June 11, 2019, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Joseph Thomas (applicant) on behalf of Moreno and Company, requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed West Fork Russian River Timber Bulkhead Bank Stabilization Project (Project). On July 29, 2019, the application was determined to be complete.

**Project Location**

The Project is located at 8000 East Road, Redwood Valley, California at latitude 39.2554°N and longitude 123.2038°W. The proposed project would cause disturbances to the West Fork of the Russian River, within the Upper Russian River Hydrologic Area (114.0).

**Project Description**

The application has been submitted in response to a Notice of Alleged Violation (NOV) issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on July 2, 2018, for unpermitted repairs of an eroding riverbank in 2017. The Project would repair and stabilize a section of eroding riverbank caused by channel incision and migration, it will also decrease the potential for additional bank erosion and the sediment discharge to the West Fork Russian River during future storm events. The Project would also revegetate approximately 700 square feet of riparian area at the top of the riverbank, enhancing habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife.

Fill material from previous bank stabilization repairs would be planted with willow staves inserted into pre-formed holes approximately 1.5-to-2 inches wide and 3 feet deep. No equipment or personnel would access the riverbed during this phase and only hand tools would be used. Willows would increase channel roughness and provide shade. Willows staves would be made from live post cuttings approximately one-to-two inches in diameter and six-to-eight feet long. Side branches would be removed, and the bark left intact prior to installation. Willows staves would be planted the same day as harvested or stored for no longer than two days. The bottom ends would be tapered to a point to facilitate insertion into the fill material and the tops cut smooth and square. Approximately three-quarters of each willow staff would be buried to increase the likelihood of success. Staves damaged during installation would be trimmed and/or removed and replaced. Native trees, shrubs, herbaceous vegetation, and grasses would be planted at the top of the riverbank. Vegetation would be harvested from a nearby location and replanted the same day.

Construction activities would be performed in accordance with California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) Stormwater Best Management Practices. The Best Management Practices to reduce sediment production and delivery include fiber rolls, straw mulch, hydroseeding, and construction waste management. The Project would be subject to, and performed in accordance with, the Mendocino County Stormwater Ordinance.

### **Construction Timing**

The project is expected to be completed in two weeks during the 2019 summer months.

### **Impacts**

Approximately 0.001 acres of state waters would be permanently impacted as a result of the Project.

### **Mitigation for Project Impacts**

The Project is in response to unpermitted bank stabilization activities conducted in 2017. The Project would augment those activities by incorporating bio-engineered stabilization techniques. The bio-engineering and riparian zone revegetation will enhance and restore riparian and aquatic habitat, and water quality. Overall, 0.04 acres of bank and riparian zone will be stabilized and revegetated.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

Annual monitoring reports containing geo-referenced photographs would be prepared and submitted no later than December 31 for a period of five years following construction completion.

In addition to the photographs, annual reports would include, at the minimum, the following information:

1. Summary description of the monitoring methods, including data collection and analysis,
2. Overview of the restoration effort, including a general discussion of site conditions, changes since previous report,
3. The number of surviving trees, shrubs and willow staves,
4. Percent cover of vegetation within the project area,
5. Plans to replace dead trees and shrubs, as needed or address the reasoning behind such failure.

Re-vegetation would be considered successful for any area if, at the end of the fifth monitoring year, 85% of all riparian zone trees and shrubs planted are alive and/or 80% vegetative cover has been achieved. Plantings would be irrigated as needed to increase the likelihood of survival. If vegetation cannot be established before expected rainfall, mulching, erosion control fabric, or other erosion control measures would be implemented. During the first year after implementation of restoration actions,

alrestoration areas would be inspected for significant erosion or instability prior to the storm season and then monthly during the season from October to May.

### **Post-Construction Storm Water Treatment**

The Project would not generate concentrated stormwater runoff of significance, thus Stormwater BMPs and LID treatment are not required.

### **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 Nationwide Permit No. 13, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

### **CEQA**

As lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption 15321 Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies (a)(1). The NCRWQCB 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**

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 Ryan Bey at (707) 576-2679 or [Ryan.Bey@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Bey@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.