
State Water Resources Control Board

**Public Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification for Hall Brambletree Associates, LP
Walt Ranch Vineyard Phase 1
Affected County: Napa**

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

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 that may discharge to waters of the United States must seek a Water Quality Certification from the state with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge would meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has responsibility for issuing certifications for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board 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: Mike Reynolds, Hall Brambletree Associates, LP
Agent: Laurie Monarres, Dudek
Agent Telephone: (510) 601-2515
Agent Email: lmonarres@dudek.com

Project Name: Walt Ranch Vineyard Phase 1
CIWQS Regulatory Measure ID: 413657
WDID: SB17031IN
Date of Application: 6/27/2017
Affected County: Napa

On June 27, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received an application requesting Federal Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for activities related to the Walt Ranch Vineyard Phase 1 project (Project) from Hall Brambletree Associates, LP (Applicant). The proposed Project spans the jurisdiction of more than one Regional Water Quality Control Board, and therefore, the State Water Board has jurisdiction over the Project. Activities would be conducted within the boundaries of the San Francisco Bay and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Boards.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Applicant proposes to improve and maintain existing roads for site access to the Walt Ranch Phase 1 Development Project, an approximately 91.84-acre vineyard development project within the approximately 2,300-acre Walt Ranch property. The proposed Project would be located in an area bounded by Atlas Peak Road to the west and Monticello Road to the east in unincorporated Napa County.

The proposed Project would install and maintain 16 rocked low-water crossings; decommission, de-compact, and revegetate 0.5 miles of roads; and decommission four existing stream crossings throughout the Walt Ranch property. Projected temporary and permanent impacts to Waters of the U.S. and waters of the state are summarized in Table 1, below. Subsequent vineyard development activity would be permitted separately under other appropriate permits, including the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Order No. R2-2017-0033, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Vineyard Properties in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds (the Vineyard Order).

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity¹									
Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary Impact²			Permanent Impact					
				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition Only		
	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF
Stream Channel				0.035		336			

State Water Board staff has determined that the Project, as designed, would improve surface water quality and stream conditions when compared to current site conditions. Compensatory mitigation for physical loss of jurisdictional waters will occur as permittee responsible mitigation through on-site enhancement of impact sites, and placement of stream crossing structures according to the Walt Ranch Erosion Control Plan, as prepared by the Napa County Resource Conservation District. Projected area of aquatic resources that would be restored are summarized in Table 2, below.

¹ Cubic Yards (CY); Linear Feet (LF)

² Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.

Table 2: Total Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Quantity							
Aquatic Resource Type	Res. ³ Type	Units	Method⁴				
			Est.	Re-est.	Reh.	Enh.	Pres.
Stream Channel	Permittee Responsible	Acre		0.005		0.035	
Stream Channel	Permittee Responsible	Linear Feet				336	

Status of CEQA and other Natural Resource Documents and Permits

On December 27, 2016, the Napa County Planning, Building and Environmental Services Department, acting as lead agency under CEQA, filed a Notice of Determination for the Walt Ranch Erosion Plan Application (Alternate Title: Walt Ranch Vineyard Conversion Walt Ranch) under the Final Environmental Impact Report for Walt Ranch Erosion Control Plan (State Clearinghouse No. 2012102046).

The Applicant is seeking authorization from the South Pacific Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), San Francisco District, under a 2017 Nationwide Permit #14.

The State Water Board is proposing to regulate the Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

Submission of Written Comments

The State Water Board will accept and consider written public comments regarding this item. Written comment letters must be received at this office no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2017. Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in PDF text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) to Alex Lopez via email at Alexander.Lopez@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line: "Comment Letter – Walt Ranch Vineyard Phase 1."

Written comments may also be mailed or hand-delivered to:

State Water Resources Control Board
 Division of Water Quality
 Water Quality Certification Unit
 Attn: Alex Lopez
 1001 I Street, 14th Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Mr. Lopez.

³ Restoration (Res.)

⁴ Methods: establishment (Est.), reestablishment (Re-est.), rehabilitation (Reh.), enhancement (Enh.), preservation (Pres.).

Date Posted: December 11, 2017

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:

Alex Lopez, Environmental Scientist
Water Quality Certification Unit, Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
Telephone: (916) 327-8117
Email: Alexander.Lopez@waterboards.ca.gov

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

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service. To enroll, go the State Water Board webpage: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/index.shtml, select "State Water Resources Control Board," and enter your contact information. By enrolling in the State Water Board's list, you will receive notices for all current 401 project applications, including the project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.