

May 24, 2005

**Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**California Department of Transportation
Route 116, PM 33.84, WDID No. 1B04148WNSO**

Sonoma County

On November 1, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Caltrans requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Route 116 P.M. 33.84 project in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Washoe Creek, Laguna Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.21, Russian River, Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project consists of placing rock along an eroded bank of Washoe Creek where it crosses under State Route 116 just east of Stony Point Road near the town of Cotati, Sonoma County, California. The creek channel passes through a double box culvert at this location and the winter flows have caused the southwest bank to erode. The purpose of the proposed project is to prevent further bank erosion that could cause the above roadway to fail.

The project will be approximately 50 feet in length and rock will be placed approximately 12 feet high on the eroded bank. Approximately five cubic yards of dirt will be removed from the bank to provide a flat bench for the rock to sit on. If necessary, some shrubby willows may be removed to place the rock. All work will be completed from within Caltrans right of way and no equipment will be used in the channel. Dewatering will not be necessary because the project will be completed during the summer months when the project area is dry.

The project will cover an area of 0.011 acre below the ordinary high water mark as designated by Kelly Nelson, Associate Environmental Planner/Natural Science, Caltrans. No special status plant species have been observed on site. This area is within the Federally designated California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) (CTS) potential range, however, due to the nature of the project, it is unlikely that any CTS will be adversely affected.

Caltrans is requesting that the Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements be issued prior to the proposed start date of July 15, 2005. Construction of the project is projected for five working days, with a completion date of July 20, 2005. Construction is not proposed for the rainy season between October 15th and May 15th. In the event that it becomes necessary for construction to occur during this rainy season, the project will be subject to additional conditions to ensure winterization techniques are implemented, and to safeguard water quality. The water quality certification may need to be amended in that case.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. The drainage ditch that runs in front of the adjacent homeowner's property will be avoided. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, is currently in the process of conducting a CEQA review. The applicant has applied to the Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permits No. 3 and 13 and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish & Game (CDFG 1602).

Regional Water Board staff is 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 comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Mona Dougherty at (707) 570-3761, or at MDougherty@waterboards.ca.gov or Kari Wester at (707) 576-6728 or kwester@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.