

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

**Gobbi Preserve No. 2 Wetland Mitigation Bank Project
Sonoma County
WDID No. 1B04163WNSO**

On December 10, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Ted Winfield, on behalf of Garrett Hinds of Trumark Companies, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for Gobbi Preserve No. 2 Wetland Mitigation Bank Project Preserve. The proposed project will cause temporary disturbances to the waters of the state associated with seasonal wetland habitat within the Laguna Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.21, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project will be constructed on part of the Preserve site located between Stony Point and Llano Roads, south of Todd Road, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California (APN # 134-151-021 and 134-151-020). The proposed project lies south of the existing 31-acre Gobbi Mitigation Site, outside the limits of the City of Santa Rosa. The project will involve the restoration and construction of vernal pools, and the connecting of swales and other seasonal wetlands. The land use designation for the site is "Diverse Agriculture" and the zoning is the same. The shapes and sizes of the restored and constructed vernal pools and swales will reflect the interaction between surface topography and the depth to the water-restricting horizon in an attempt to mimic natural systems.

The purpose of the proposed project is to perform seasonal wetland habitat restoration efforts on a 108.8-acre site, in order to mitigate for project impacts resulting from the development of the Dutton Meadows Project. Dutton Meadows will consist of residential housing, three parks, retail and commercial development, pedestrian trails, and will affect approximately 54.43 acres of upland habitat presumed to provide aestivation habitat for the threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) (CTS). Impacts to seasonal wetland and a drainage ditch include 1.97 acres of Corps jurisdictional waters and 2.4 acres of jurisdictional waters of the State of California (Regional Water Quality Control Board).

The total area of wetlands to be permanently filled and/or altered during the project is approximately 0.029 acre. The proposed project will result in the creation/restoration of approximately 5.77 acres of vernal pool, swale and other seasonal wetlands habitat. Mitigation credits will be calculated for the amount of wetland created or restored minus the amount of wetlands filled. A Mitigation and Monitoring Plan has been proposed to offset the impacts to wetlands and monitor the success of the restoration efforts.

The proposed project involves removal and stockpiling of topsoil (the top inch to two inches of soil) and mulch from the upland areas of the Preserve. Fill will be discharged into 1,247 sq. ft. of a drainage swale constructed to drain water from fill that was spread in the southwest corner of the proposed Preserve when Colgan Creek Flood Control Channel was excavated. Specified rough grades will be excavated and soils will be distributed in the vicinity of the constructed wetlands. Side slopes of the wetland habitat will be shaped and compacted and stockpiled topsoil will be reapplied to the graded areas. Wetland seed will be collected in source wetlands

on the Preserve along with a small amount of topsoil and above-ground plant material. The existing wetlands on the Gobbi site have been disturbed and few remain in their original native condition.

Grading will be achieved by using small rubber-tired equipment grade tractors, paddle-wheel scrapers used for topsoil salvage, dozers, and front-end loaders, and trucks used to excavate and load excess material. No soil importation, dewatering, or disposal of waste will occur on the site. There will be some temporary stockpiling of soil on the site, and standard erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated in order to reduce erosion potential.

In surveys conducted in 1995, 1998 and 2003, Sebastopol meadowfoam (*Limnanthes vinculans*) and Sonoma sunshine (*Blennosperma bakeri*) were observed in vernal pools and swales and Lobb's aquatic buttercup (*Ranunculus lobbii*) was found in several of the deeper vernal pools on the site. Larval surveys conducted in the spring of 2003 revealed that CTS were breeding in three vernal pools on the site. Because of the condition and suitability of the habitat in the vernal pools, they are also assumed to provide habitat for California linderiella (*Linderiella occidentalis*).

Compensatory mitigation for the proposed project will not be required since the overall project results in a net increase of the wetland habitat on the site through creation and restoration of 5.77 acres of seasonal wetland habitat. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be used during wetland construction and will include, straw bales or silt fences which will be placed between each wetland construction site and existing wetlands when and where either is necessary to prevent sediment discharge impacts. Wetland seed obtained in source wetlands will also be spread in created wetland habitat on the Preserve. Impacts on potential habitat for Sebastopol meadowfoam will be mitigated through the protection and preservation of 4.37 acres of habitat occupied by Sebastopol meadowfoam at the Preserve.

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 Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, is currently in the process of conducting CEQA review.

The applicant states that the wetland delineation has been verified by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the final map is pending. The applicant has applied to the ACOE for a Nationwide Permit No. 27 (pending). According to the applicant a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game is not required for the project because no stream habitat will be affected.

The project is schedule to begin in June 2005 and be completed by September 2005. Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and 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 notice. If you have any questions or comments please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683 at ajensen@waterboards.ca.gov or Kari Wester at (707) 576-6728 at kwester@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.