

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

**California Department of Transportation Oakland
Guerneville River Park Project Phase I and II
Sonoma County
WDID# 1B04158WNSO**

On December 6, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Michelle Julene from the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Guerneville River Park Project in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to the stream bank associated with Russian River, Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.11, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project is located near the intersection of Highway 116 and the Russian River at 13882 State Highway 116, Guerneville, Sonoma County. The project consists of the development of a park facility including paved and gravel trails, group and family picnic area, small outdoor stage, small craft boat portage, restroom building, open grass areas, nature study areas, vehicle access and parking, amenities and appurtenances. The purpose of the project is to provide additional recreational opportunities along the Russian River to visitor and residents of Sonoma County and Guerneville.

The proposed project involves two phases. Phase 1 would include installation of erosion control at the former Cal Trans construction access, including grading of approximately 0.0275 acres. Phase II, not yet funded nor scheduled at this time, would develop the non-motorized boat portage that will be approximately 14 feet wide and 60 feet long that would extend from paved RV and boat trailer turn-around to the summer ordinary high water level. Approximately 0.55 acre will be graded and drainage redirected away from the boat portage to the gravel sump in the RV & boat trailer parking area. Gravel will be installed approximately 12 inches deep in the RV and boat trailer parking area and Class 2 aggregate baserock and asphalt concrete paving will be installed for boat turn-around around, on approximately 0.459 acre. Approximately 20 cubic yards of material will be excavated for bedding and riprap and 25 cubic yards of 6 inch minus rock will be placed and compacted to achieve 90% relative compaction.

The project affects a total of 0.096 acres along the Russian River above the ordinary high water mark and is located outside of Army Corps jurisdiction. NOAA Fisheries was consulted by County of Sonoma because the Russian River is designated critical habitat for listed threatened and endangered fish species and according to NOAA there is no spawning habitat in this section of the Russian River.

Michelle Julene is requesting that the Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements be issued prior to May 2005. Construction is projected to be completed by October 15th 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 the rainy season, the project will be subject to additional conditions to endure winterization techniques are implemented, and to safeguard water quality.

A Mitigation Monitoring Program was adopted as part of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and includes five mitigation measures that would apply to avoiding or mitigating direct and indirect impacts to Waters of the State.

Compensatory mitigation for this project during Phase I will be seeding the graded area with native grass erosion control mix and covered with straw. Approximately 0.0459 acre of geotextile fabric will be installed, willow stakes will be collected and planted and willow wattles will be installed along contours of the proposed boat portage. Temporary irrigation will be provided until rainy season starts and plants and erosion control measures will be monitored after each major storm. During Phase II seed and straw mulch will be applied to all disturbed and/or graded areas, approximately 0.115 acre and geotextile fabric will be applied to slopes greater than 5:1. Plants and erosion control measures will also be monitored after each major storm. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Additionally, silt fences and straw bale barriers will be utilized during rainfall events to prevent offsite erosion.

The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (SCH # 2004022066)

The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department has applied to the U.S. Army Corps for Nationwide Permit #42 and an application for a Streambed Alteration Agreement is being submitted concurrent with the Water Quality Certification Application. The ACOE has yet to confirm delineation of wetlands.

Phase I of the Guerneville River Park Project is scheduled to begin in May 2005 and end by October 15, 2005. Phase II is estimated to take place between August - October 2008. 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 Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683 at ajensen@waterboards.ca.gov or Kari Wester at (707) 576-6728 or kwester@waterboards.ca.gov, or within 21 days of the posting of this notice.