

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220**

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

California Department of Transportation
Sonoma Highway 116 PM 3.21 Storm Damage Repair Project
WDID No. 1B04157WNSO
Sonoma County

On December 6, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (CDOT) requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Sonoma Highway 116 Storm Damage Repair Project in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes temporary disturbances to waters of the state associated with the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00, Guerneville Sub Area No. 14.11.

The proposed project is located along Highway 116 west of Duncan Mills, Sonoma County at Post Mile 3.21. The purpose of this project is to stabilize the road from further slippage due to past storm events and restore the roadway to pre-slide conditions.

The project consists of the construction of 331-ft long micropile wall and will consist of excavating a trench approximately 8 feet wide centered adjacent to the existing eastbound edge of traveled way. After construction, the micropile wall will be buried and the existing metal beam guardrail will be replaced. To further stabilize the roadway, horizontal drains will be installed in the westbound hillside and a 12-inch diameter perforated metal pipe (PMP) under drain system will be installed along the westbound shoulder of the roadway in the vicinity of the slide. Both the horizontal drains and the PMP under drain system will be connected to three existing drainage inlets. The existing cross culverts connected to these drainage inlets will be replaced.

The duration of construction and construction window has not been determined at this time. However, in the event that it becomes necessary for construction to occur during the rainy season, the project will be subject to additional conditions to ensure winterization techniques are implemented, and to safeguard water quality.

Compensatory mitigation for this project is not required. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion control and the revegetation of any unarmored impacted acreage. Species selected for revegetation will be native to the region and should include such species as California brome, blue wild rye, meadow barley, arroyo lupine, arroyo willow, and salal.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries was consulted by CDOT because the Russian River is designated critical habitat for listed threatened and endangered fish species.

The California Department of Transportation, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Negative Declaration (SCH No. 20003062109), pursuant to CEQA.

CDOT has applied for a Nationwide Permit #3 with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG 1602), and a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission.

Regional Water Board staff is 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 Mona Dougherty at (707) 570-3761 or at mdougherty@waterboards.ca.gov or staff member Michelle Jensen at (707) 576-6711 or at mjensen@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.