

June 17, 2005

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

**Hazel Mitigation Preserve Bank Project  
Sonoma County  
WDID No. 1B05057WNSO**

On February 25, 2005 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Laurence Stromberg, on behalf of Harvey Rich of Hazel Mitigation Preserve, LLC, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for Hazel Mitigation Preserve 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, Middle Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.20, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project will be constructed in the southwest part of the Santa Rosa Plain at 4589 Arlington Avenue between Scenic and Wilfred Avenues, Sonoma County, California (APN #s 134-241-012, -013, -014, -037, -054, and -060 and APN # 134-251-014). 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 purpose of the proposed project is to perform seasonal wetland habitat restoration efforts for the creation of wetlands and the preservation of California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) (CTS) breeding and estivation habitat on a 103.09-acre site. The proposed project will result in a total of 31.42 acres of wetland habitat enhanced, restored or created including 27.08 acres of vernal pools, 3.92 acres of swale, and 0.42 acre of seasonal wetland.

The proposed project involves removal and stockpiling of topsoil (the upper two inches to 0.3 ft of topsoil) and mulch from the upland areas of the site. 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. 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. Wetland seed will be collected in source wetlands on the site along with a small amount of topsoil and above-ground plant material.

Seven easements exist on the lands that are part of the proposed site. No wetlands will be created in or within 15 ft the easement areas. The Santa Rosa Sewer District's (SRSD) Easement will have a 15 ft buffer on the south and east side as well as staging and turn-around places. Within the SRSD easement, "low flow" concrete water crossings will be provided across the to-be-constructed swales. A 12 ft road will be graded and compacted in the middle of this easement. The Rohnert Park Easement will not have a right for construction of an access road and will not be the same as the SRSD easement. A 15 ft buffer on the north side of this easement will be provided.

The Bank site is a mosaic of 6.64 acres of jurisdictional habitat of federal (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and state (Regional Water Quality Control Boards) consisting of a defined drainage (0.53 acres), swales (3.32 acres), isolated seasonal wetlands (0.71 acre) and adjacent seasonal wetlands (2.08 acres). No special-status plant colonies have been observed in the swales and other seasonal wetlands.

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.

The total area of wetlands to be permanently filled and/or altered during the project is approximately 0.358 acre. 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.

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 31.42 acres of seasonal wetland habitat. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be implemented during construction and include the use of silt fencing and wattles and other features to prevent soil movement off-site. Wetland seed obtained in source wetlands will also be spread in created wetland habitat on the Bank.

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 County of Sonoma, as the lead agency, is currently in the process of conducting a CEQA review.

The applicant has applied to the Army Corps of Engineers for a Nationwide Permit No. 27 (pending) and the final map is pending. A Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement has been submitted to the Department of Fish and Game.

The project is schedule to begin in the summer of 2005 and be completed by October 16, 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](mailto:Ajensen@waterboards.ca.gov) or Kari Wester at (707) 576-6728 at [kwester@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kwester@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.