

June 20, 2005

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

**City of Cotati
Cotati Creek Bypass Project
WDID No. 1B05015WNSO
Sonoma County**

On February 14, 2005 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Cotati, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Cotati Creek Bypass Project located in Cotati, California. The proposed project will cause disturbances to the Waters of the U.S. associated with the Laguna Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.21, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project is located 500 feet east of Highway 101 at the West Sierra Avenue exit in the City of Cotati. The purpose of this project is to construct a reinforced concrete box culvert to bypass peak storm flows around a portion of Cotati Creek that parallels Water Road and West Sierra Avenue for approximately 675 feet.

Construction will include the installation of 375 feet of reinforced concrete box culvert (RCB) within the city streets along Water Road and the installation of an additional 296 feet adjacent to Cotati Creek along West Sierra Avenue in which a 60-foot portion will encroach into the north bank of Cotati Creek. The RCB will begin at an existing box culvert and terminate at an existing bypass culvert. The 6-ft by 4-ft RCB will be installed in an 8-ft by 10-ft open trench and will be placed on a 12-inch crushed rock bedding, backfilled with compacted aggregate base or native material. The project permanently affects 0.01 acres of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. with a total of 48.1 cubic yards of permanent fill as a result of the concrete inlet structure, the RCB and the concrete outlet structure.

According to the City of Cotati, Cotati Creek is an ephemeral stream and construction in the creek will occur only after it has become dry for the summer to reduce the potential for erosion. Construction is scheduled to take place between June 1 and October 1, 2005 and is expected to last approximately two months. In the event that it becomes necessary for construction to continue 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 will include the restoration and revegetation of approximately 0.6 acres at both the northern and southern ends of the project boundary. Restoration of an additional 200 feet of the Cotati Creek bank along Water Road will include the removal of non-native species along the Cotati Creek banks, removal and replacement of an existing degraded culvert, connection of the culvert to the new RCB, and replanting and stabilizing the creek banks with native vegetation and coco-matting to prevent erosion. Post-revegetation monitoring will occur for a minimum of three years after construction. Results of the monitoring program will be submitted annually to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Regional Water Board. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction and post-construction in order to minimize sediment and erosion.

The City of Cotati, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Mitigated Negative Declaration with the final draft still pending.

The City of Cotati has been approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit 12 (Corps File No. 29409N). The City of Cotati has been approved for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (NOT No. 1600-2005-0077-3).

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 Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683 or by email at ajensen@waterboards.ca.gov or Michelle Jensen at (707) 576-6711 and at mjensen@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.