

July 7, 2005

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

**M A Properties, LLC
Medlock Ames Vintners
WDID No. 1B05054WNSO**

Sonoma County

On April 29, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Jeff Shaddock, on behalf of M A Properties, LLC, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for Medlock Ames Vintners Project. The proposed project will cause temporary disturbances to the streambank associated with an unnamed tributary of Franz Creek within the Geyserville Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.25, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project will consist of the construction of approximately 40 feet of retaining wall on an unnamed tributary in Healdsburg, Sonoma County, California. The retaining wall will consist of up to 5 steel piles buried approximately 4 feet into the stream bank above the ordinary high water level and connected with wood lagging placed to a height of three feet above ground level. The steel piles will be embedded in concrete and rock rip rap will be placed along the bank at the toe of the wall. A minor amount of vegetation will be removed during project construction and a stump and rootball that will be removed during construction and will be replaced over the rip rap when complete. The purpose of the proposed project is to protect an eroding section of stream bank adjacent to a winery building. A dewatering plan is yet to be submitted in the case the stream needs to be dewatered.

The project affects a total of 100 sq feet (0.002 acre) along the streambank of the unnamed tributary. It is yet to be determined if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) will take jurisdiction.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will include the planting of native riparian trees along the streambank. A list of species to be planted will be required prior to issuance of the permit. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a categorical exemption under Section 15301 (i), Existing Facilities.

An application for a Nationwide Permit #13 from the ACOE was submitted on June 27, 2005. A Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game was issued on March 4, 2005 (Notification No. 1600-2005-0011-3).

The project is scheduled to begin in June 2005 and take 15 days to complete. 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.