

August 8, 2005

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

**Meadowlark Homes, LLC
Meadowlark IV & V Housing
Sonoma County
WDID No. # 1B05089WNSO**

On June 24, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Darren Wiemeyer, on behalf of Meadowlark Homes, LLC, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for Meadowlark IV & V Housing Project. The proposed project will cause disturbances to the waters of the state associated with seasonal wetland habitat within the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.22, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project consists of two parcels totaling approximately 4.0 acres located at 3033 & 3043 Marlow Road (APN 036-035-056- & -057) in northwest Santa Rosa, California. The proposed project will consist of the development of 25 single-family homes. The project proposes the installation of underground utilities, construction of roads, sidewalks, and driveways as well as installation of landscaping and fencing. On-site soil will be used as fill material in the seasonal wetlands and staging areas will be located within the project boundary. Historically, the site was used for agricultural purposes and since has been developed with rural residences and landscaping. The site is in a relatively urbanized area and is surrounded by rural residences to the north, east and south. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide single-family home to the Santa Rosa area.

The project affects a total of 0.16 acres of seasonal wetlands as delineated by Marco Waaland, Bradley Welch and Billy Arnerich of Golden Bear Bio-studies on October 31, 2003. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) confirmed the wetland areas on the site in a letter dated May 4, 2005 and a final map is yet to be received. Betty Lovell Guggolz of the California Native Plant Society performed floral surveys at the site on April 21 and May 2, 1989. Burke's goldfields (*Lasthenia burkei*) was found on the parcel to the north of the site but no rare plant species were found on the site itself. Golden Bear Biostudies conducted floral surveys at the site in March 2001, July 2003, October 2003 and in June 2005. No sensitive plant species were observed during these floral surveys. The site is not within the potential range of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) as mapped by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Compensatory mitigation will be required for this project. A final mitigation plan has not been finalized, but the applicant is proposing to mitigate for the direct impact of 0.16 acres of seasonal wetlands by purchasing wetland preservation and creation credits at a

1:1 ratio from an approved wetland mitigation bank. Documentation demonstrating wetland credit purchases will be needed prior to issuing a permit.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Erosion control measures will be identified in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that will be prepared and implemented on the site. Anticipated erosion and sediment control measures include surrounding the site with silt fence, protecting all storm drain galleries with gravel filled snake bags or straw wattles and protecting any slopes susceptible to erosion with straw matting and/or straw wattles. Post-construction storm water BMPs will be incorporated into the development project in order to decrease potential detrimental impacts associated with storm water runoff from the developed site. Specific post-construction storm water BMPs are yet to be determined but will be incorporated into the final project design to achieve treatment of storm water runoff from the 85th percentile of any 24-hour storm event.

The City of Santa Rosa, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Resolution no. 10534).

The applicant states that the wetland delineation has been verified by the ACOE and the final map is pending. The applicant has applied to the ACOE for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit (File No. 28365N). According to the applicant a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game is not required for the project because no stream habitat will be affected.

The project is schedule to begin as soon as the Water Quality Certification is issued and construction activities are expected to take approximately six months. 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.