

September 8, 2005

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

**California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Fort Ross State Historical Park Treatment Plant Improvement Project  
WDID No. 1B05067WNSO  
Sonoma County**

On May 23, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Bill Orme on behalf of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the temporary impacts of .003 acres of Waters of the State associated with water treatment plant improvements in the town of Jenner, Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to the Waters of the State associated with Fort Ross Creek, Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 14.11, Lower Russian River Hydrologic Area No. 114.10, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project involves the installation of a temporary bridge crossing over a portion of Fort Ross Creek to facilitate access to a well on the farther side of the creek. The project further involves the installation of concrete support footings in two separate locations, one to support a water line and one to support a 6 inch steel carrier pipe. The proposed project is located on the Sonoma Coast, approximately 11 miles northwest of the town of Jenner on Highway 1, in Fort Ross, Sonoma County, 38 degrees 30.9 minutes north, 123 degrees 13.9 minutes west. The overall purpose of the project is to update the existing Fort Ross Water Treatment system.

The purpose of the two pipe crossings over Fort Ross Creek is to get the water from the treatment plant to Fort Ross (location 1), and from the source well to the treatment plant (location 2).

At location 1, a 3-inch diameter water line is currently secured to a rotting log that spans the creek approximately 150 feet north of the Coast Highway One crossing. The Applicant proposes to remove the log using non-mechanized means, and replacing it with two reinforced concrete block support structures on each side of the bank. A steel cable suspension system anchored to the support structures will attach to the pipe and span the creek. No construction will take place in the creek bed, and support structures will be built approximately 10 feet uphill from the top of the bank on each side. Installation will require approximately 4 feet of excavation in this uphill location.

At location 2, approximately 3,000 feet north of location 1, a 6-inch steel tube carrier pipe will be mounted across Fort Ross Creek to house a 1.5 inch polyethylene water line and a 2 inch PVC electrical conduit. The steel pipe will be supported on each side of the creek by concrete support footings which are proposed to be constructed a minimum of 7 feet from the edge of the bank. Up to 30 feet of trenching will be required on both sides of the creek to connect the water and electrical conduit to the carrier pipe.

Finally, the Applicant is proposing to install a temporary bridge crossing to facilitate access to the source well on the north side of the creek. This bridge would be constructed outside the creek, and made of plywood attached to 6"x8" timber stringers spaced one foot apart, to minimize disturbance to the stream substrate once in place. The bridge will be placed by hand such that the gaps of the stringers will be parallel with stream flow, thereby allowing aquatic passage if necessary. Biological monitoring will be implemented while the bridge is in place due to the presence of steelhead and yellow-legged frogs in Fort Ross Creek. Adult steelhead should not be in the creek at the time of placement, although juveniles may be.

The project temporarily affects 0.003 acres of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S., as delineated by Mr. Roy Martin, Associate State Park Resource Ecologist.

The Applicant is requesting that the water quality certification and/or waste discharge requirements be issued before their proposed start date of September 2005. Construction along the creek is projected to occur prior to October 15<sup>th</sup>, during the lowest flow period. Any construction projected to occur during the rainy season of October to April will be subject to additional conditions to ensure winterization techniques are implemented, and to safeguard water quality.

Compensatory Mitigation is not required for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the implementation of restrictions set forth by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). These restrictions include the design measures of the instream crossing, and halting work to allow fish or frogs to move out of the crossing area of their own accord or relocation if necessary by a certified biologist. Further measures include the restriction of motorized equipment from the stream bed and banks at location 1, staging equipment and materials a minimum setback of 10 feet from any top of bank, and specific training to alert all project personnel to methods of identifying and protecting sensitive species and their habitat, as well as conservation measures and spill avoidance/disposal techniques. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion control will be implemented at all times during construction and crossing near the creek, to include winterizing the site should rains become imminent. BMPs could include, but are not limited to, the use of silt fences, straw bales, or straw or rice coir rolls, to prevent soil loss and siltation into nearby water bodies.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Negative Declaration, (SCH# 2004012100, dated 2/26/04 and supplemented on 12/3/04), pursuant to CEQA.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has filed an application (dated March 23, 2005) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for coverage under Nationwide Permit number 33—*Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering*—or under Nationwide Permit number 14—*Linear Transportation Projects*. The Applicant has further obtained a Streambed Alteration Agreement (CDFG 1600) from the California Department of Fish and Game, Notification number 1600-2005-0136-3, dated April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

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 at [AJensen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:AJensen@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.