

October 3, 2005

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

**Sonoma County Water Agency
Potter Valley Check Dam No. 8 Emergency Repair Project
Mendocino County (WDID No. 1B05128WNME)**

On September 22, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Potter Valley Check Dam No. 8 Emergency Repair Project in Mendocino County. The proposed project causes disturbances to approximately 0.03 acres of Waters of the U.S. associated with the Upper Russian River Hydrologic Area, Coyote Valley Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.32.

The proposed project is located upstream of Lake Mendocino on the east fork of the Russian River in Potter Valley, Mendocino County. The purpose of the project is to conduct emergency repairs on Check Dam No. 8 in order to avoid further impacts to the check dam and potential impacts from its failure such as increased erosion of the stream banks and the development of a head cut that could potentially threaten the upstream check dams and upstream bridge abutments along the east fork of the Russian River.

The proposed project consists of performing emergency repairs on the left wing wall of the check dam where stream flows are moving through a hole under the wall rather than over the check dam. In order to fill and seal the void formed by previous erosion, placement of approximately 150 yards of 1-2 foot rock rip rap along with 100 yards of smaller 2-5 inch aggregate to fill interstitial spaces will be performed. This procedure will be repeated until the void is filled and sealed. The hole under the wall will be sealed with Mirafi 600 or similar fabric on the outside (upstream side) of the structure. Several 3-4 foot boulders on the upstream side of the failure will hold the stabilization fabric in place and help prevent future intrusion of water under the structure.

All work will be performed from top of bank and no heavy equipment will be allowed to enter the channel. Permanent impacts to riparian vegetation include the removal of Himalayan blackberry in order to gain equipment access to the wing wall. No endangered or threatened species will be impacted by emergency repairs as the project area is outside of critical habitat listed for salmonids.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs). All fill material used on the site will be clean and free of contaminants.

The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, is in the process of determining qualification pursuant to CEQA.

The project is scheduled to begin October 1, 2005 and end prior to October 31, 2005. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority.

Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the nature of emergency associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period beginning on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at A.Jensen@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.