

November 28, 2005

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

**County of Sonoma
Fitch Mountain Water District Access Road Repair Project
Sonoma County (WDID No. 1B05122WNSO)**

On September 6, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the County of Sonoma, Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Fitch Mountain Water District Access Road Repair Project in Sonoma County. The project was completed in May 2004 and caused disturbances to Waters of the United States associated with the Russian River Hydrologic Area, Geyserville Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.25.

The project was located along an unnamed tributary of the Russian River that parallels an access road off of Fitch Mountain Road at post-mile 13.0 near the city of Healdsburg, Sonoma County, California. The access road is used by County staff to maintain the Fitch Mountain Water District storage tanks. During the winter months of 2003/2004, the access road failed and the water line that travels beneath the roadway was exposed. The purpose of the project was to conduct emergency repairs on the access road in order to keep additional road, bank and the water line from failing.

The project consisted of performing emergency repairs at two locations, one on the upper portion of the road at Station 2+60 to 3+30 and another at the lower portion of the road from Station 0+00 to 0+30. At the upper repair location a rock buttress was constructed by placing three to five foot diameter rock from the creek level up to the roadway level. Road fill was placed behind the buttress to restore use of the roadway and ensure the safety of the water line. The rock fill at the upper repair was placed along 70 linear feet. Of the area that was filled, approximately three cubic yards was placed below the ordinary high water mark (OHW). The lower repair was constructed in the same manner with fill placed along 40 linear feet of stream bank. No fill was placed below the OHW at the lower repair location. The project permanently impacted 0.002 acres of Waters of the United States with a total fill volume of 20 cubic yards.

All work was performed from top of bank and Best Management Practices (BMPs) were used throughout the project to reduce erosion. BMPs that were implemented during and post-construction include: 1) use of fiber rolls at the top of the bank and at the edge of roadway and 2) fiber rolls were placed within the channel to catch sediments during low flow periods. The project had minimal impact to vegetation.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project.

The County of Sonoma, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, is in the process of determining qualification for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to CEQA.

Staff will be regulating this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. Staff will be issuing 401 Water Quality Certification concurrently with the posting of this public notice. However, staff will still be considering all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins 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 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.