

March 6, 2006

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
Dehlinger Winery Stream Restoration and Stabilization Project  
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B05121WNSO)

On September 2, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Kathie Lowrey of Prunuske Chatham, Inc., on behalf of Mr. Dan Dehlinger of Thomas and Carol Dehlinger Trust, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Dehlinger Winery Stream Restoration and Stabilization Project Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with an unnamed seasonal stream in the Laguna Hydrologic Subarea Unit No.114.21, and the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project is located at 4101 and 4405 Vine Hill Road in Sebastopol, Sonoma County. The purpose of the project is to restore and stabilize the natural bed elevation of the unnamed stream, to the extent possible through the upper reach.

Existing conditions of the site include an eroding and downcutting unnamed stream, which is tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. There are approximately 110 acres of watershed area above this spring fed reach of stream, and after exiting the project site; the grade flattens into a stable riparian corridor, which extends to the confluence with the Laguna. In summary, the project area is described as a steep, transitional zone between an upland watershed and the lowland stream habitat that connects with the Laguna. At the present time, the stream is unstable, falling almost 35 feet, in a series of headcut features, over an approximately 740 foot long reach. The overall slope is about 5%, with sections reaching 9%. It is estimated that already 900 cubic yards of eroded sediment have been delivered downstream, and without the completion of the proposed project, several thousand more cubic yards will discharge downstream.

The proposed project consists of using several techniques to help restore and stabilize the stream, including:

- use cobble and gravel fill to restore and stabilize the natural bed elevation;
- sloping back the banks in some locations, to a 2:1 slope to prevent further erosion and mass wasting;
- install grade control structures through the mid to lower reaches, creating boulder step pools and roughened cascades to help provide the grade control;
- utilize bioengineered bank stabilization techniques on actively eroding banks;
- preserve nearly all of the existing mature riparian trees on the site;
- implement an aggressive native riparian revegetation plan.

The project is designed to protect riparian habitat as well as the valuable agricultural assets that are present on the property. In addition, the project goals are to reduce erosion and improve overall water quality of the stream. The project is designed to

maintain and improve habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. According to the application, the project will also help maintain the flood diffusion properties of the Laguna de Santa Rosa by reducing and slowing stormwater run-off through the property.

In the immediate area of the project site, continued erosion will compromise the stability of an existing 7 acre-foot irrigation pond, which is located near the right bank of the stream. Continued erosion from the stream, will continue to impact important riparian woodland, which is habitat to a wide range of species, as well as increase sediment discharges to the Laguna de Santa Rosa downstream.

The proposed restoration and stabilization project will result in fill placement along a 740 linear foot reach of stream, with a total of approximately 1895 cubic yards of fill material placed in the stream to raise the grade. The source of the fill material is Bohan and Canelis Quarry class 2 materials. Prunuske Chatham, Inc. performed biological resource evaluations and determined that there are no threatened or endangered species within the project reach; therefore there are no projected impacts to such species.

The project has been designed to avoid adverse impacts to biological and cultural resources, and to result in overall beneficial effects on riparian and aquatic habitat, as well as reduce erosion and increase water quality within the affected stream. Short term impacts will be avoided by use of construction Best Management Practices (BMPs), including avoiding existing riparian habitat, storing work equipment and supplies outside of the stream channel, refueling of equipment away from the stream and in a designated area, and use of standard erosion control BMPs.

A Monitoring Proposal will be developed to monitor the project for a total of 3-5 years. Prunuske Chatham, Inc. staff will prepare annual reports during the monitoring period, and will submit copies to the regulatory agencies for review.

The project has been designed to be self-mitigation, therefore no compensatory mitigation has been proposed for this project.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of the BMPs mentioned above, including avoiding existing riparian habitat, storing work equipment and supplies outside of the stream channel, refueling of equipment away from the stream and in a designated area, and use of standard erosion control BMPs. In addition, the project involves removal of non-native invasive plant species. The areas of removal will then be replanted with appropriate native riparian plant species. If there is flow in the stream at the time of construction, a site dewatering plan will be prepared by Prunuske Chatham, Inc., for review and approval of the regulatory agencies. Work will be performed during the dry season, and will be complete prior to October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), is the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, and is currently preparing the environmental documents for the project, pursuant to the CEQA.

The project is scheduled to begin in August 2006, and will take approximately two and a half months to complete. 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. In addition, staff will consider 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](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 Blvd., Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.