

June 21, 2006

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

Mr. Bob Sauers

Sauers Property Project

Sonoma County (WDID# 1B05111WNSO)

On August 2, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Kurt Kelder, of Kelder Engineering, on behalf of Mr. Bob Sauers (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Sauers Property Project in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to Waters of the State associated with Foss Creek and the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project is located at 1434 and 1452 Grove Street in Healdsburg, Sonoma County. The purpose of the project is to construct two vehicle bridges across Foss Creek in order to provide access to the Sauers Property for future development.

The proposed project consists of the demolition of one existing bridge over Foss Creek and the construction of two pre-fabricated railcar type bridges. Both bridges are approximately 20 feet wide. The southernmost bridge will span approximately 50 feet and the northernmost bridge will span 30 feet. Foundation abutments will be concrete pier and grade beam set back from the top of bank. The new bridges will be craned into place and will clear span between the abutments. No work will be conducted within the active creek channel.

Construction is anticipated to last only three weeks and will be conducted during the dry season months. In the event that there are active surface water flows within Foss Creek, the water will be diverted during construction using a passive system of sandbag cofferdams upstream and downstream of the bridge through which an 8-inch bypass pipe will convey the flow. In the event that groundwater is contacted during the drilling of the piers, groundwater will be discharged to an isolated 30x30 foot sandbagged area lined with a plastic liner, such as visqueen. The discharge area will be at least 75 feet from the top of bank and will allow the groundwater to evaporate. This area is also proposed as a concrete washout station. Pre- and post-construction erosion control Best Management Practices will be incorporated into the project in order to decrease the potential for erosion and sediment discharges to Foss Creek. No permanent fill will be placed below the ordinary high water mark.

The project, as proposed, will result in the removal of one 14-inch oak tree. The Applicant is proposing to mitigate the loss of the oak tree by planting three native riparian trees in its place, providing additional shade canopy to Foss Creek.

The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Sauers Property Project is scheduled to begin summer 2006 and end prior to October 15, 2006. 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 Michelle Jensen at (707) 576-6711 or at mjensen@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.

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