

July 19, 2006

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

**Sonoma County Water Agency
Emergency Repair of Mirabel Inflatable Dam Project
Sonoma County (WDID No. 1B06099WNSO)**

On July 11, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Jessica Martini-Lamb on behalf of the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the SCWA Emergency Repair of Mirabel Inflatable Dam Project, Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with the Russian River Hydrologic Area No. 114.00.

The proposed project is located in Sonoma County, on the Russian River, near Mirabel, APN 110-300-037, at approximately ½ mile south of Wohler Bridge, on Westside Road, Sonoma County, California. The purpose of the project is to conduct emergency repairs to the SCWA's inflatable dam and to avoid further impacts to the dam. Emergency repair of the dam is critical to maintaining water supply for the SCWA's customers in Sonoma and Marin Counties.

The proposed project involves repair of a section of the dam that has developed a leak. The repair involves deflation of the dam. Two other inflatable dams will be installed in the river as coffer dams to isolate the repair area, and contain any sediment from entering the Russian River. SCWA biologists will perform a fish rescue and relocate any fish from within the work area to an appropriate downstream location with flowing water of depth sufficient to provide cover. The repair area will be dewatered, with the resulting water and sediment being routed to an infiltration pond at SCWA's Mirabel facility. The dam will be detached approximately 50% from the concrete foundation that runs across the river bed, raised by a crane working from the top of the riverbank, and inspected. The dam will be patched/repared from the inside by use of a heat sealed patch. If it is found that the inlet/drain valve area of the dam needs repair, then concrete under this structure will have to be removed and replaced after the repair. Once repaired, the inflatable dam will be resealed and tested prior to removal of the temporary coffer dams. Cofferdams will be secured with tag lines, emptied by pumping water to the infiltration ponds, and removed from the riverbed. To access the work area, riparian vegetation will need to be trimmed or removed.

Two additional temporary, inflatable rubber coffer dams will be placed downstream of the work site to be used to deflect flows downstream towards the emergency pumps. These emergency pumps will be operated during the repair to continue to flood the infiltration ponds and maintaining pumping capacity at the Mirabel Ranney collectors.

Compensatory mitigation for this project includes revegetation of the riparian vegetation that is removed or disturbed. Revegetation includes: seeding with native grasses, application of erosion control fabric (C125BN), planting of 50 willow (*Salix sp.*) sprigs, 15 *Baccharis salicifolia*, 25 *B. douglasii*, and 25 *Carex barbarae*. Weeding will occur at least twice a year. Watering will be weekly, or as necessary, for the first 3 years. Tree protection will be installed if necessary, and be removed yearly before high flows. Vegetation will be monitored for 3 years with 80% survival at end of monitoring period. A monitoring report will be submitted annually during the monitoring period summarizing the number of surviving plants, proposed remediation of any issues that have arisen (loss of plants, herbivory), and the overall success of the revegetation effort.

The Sonoma County Water Agency, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined the project qualifies for Statutory Exemption, Section 15269(b) – Emergency Projects, pursuant to the CEQA guidelines. The Sonoma County Water Agency has

prepared a Notice of Exemption, Section 15269(b) – Emergency Projects, pursuant to the CEQA guidelines (Resolution No. 05-1129-3).

The project is scheduled to begin July 19, 2006 and end prior to September 1, 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. 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; ending August 9, 2006. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at Sbargsten@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.