July 21, 2006

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

Sonoma Academy
Sonoma Academy High School Project
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B06054WNSO)

On April 28, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Douglas Spicher of WRA Inc., on behalf of Sonoma Academy (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Sonoma Academy High School Project in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to Waters of the State associated with seasonal wetlands and drainages within the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Sub Area, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.22.

The proposed project is located at the end of Kawana Springs Road in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County (APN 044-180-016). The purpose of the project is to construct a permanent campus for Sonoma Academy High School in Santa Rosa, CA in accordance with the rezoning of the property as originally designated in the City of Santa Rosa's general plan per Council Ordinance No. 3716, April 5, 2005.

The proposed project consists of the construction of classroom, gymnasium, administration, and theater buildings, and associated play fields on approximately 26 acres of the total 35 acre property. The school facility will accommodate approximately 300 students. The project is located adjacent to a developing urbanized residential area to the west and north with dedicated open space areas to the east and south (Taylor Mountain). Additionally, the project proposes the installation of underground utilities; construction of roads, sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas, and the installation of landscaping and fencing. Historically, the site was used for agricultural purposes with a barn and corral area that has been demolished.

Pre-construction erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) were incorporated into the project during initial mass grading in summer and Fall 2005 in order to decrease the potential for erosion and sediment discharges to Waters of the State. Similar BMPs will be implemented for the grading and construction work that will be conducted in 2006. Post-construction storm water treatment BMPs will be constructed as part of the Sonoma Academy Project in order to treat runoff from the 24-hour/85th percentile storm event. The components of the project stormwater management design are such that project drainage resulting from such an event will be subject to treatment by a combination of bioswales and stormwater detention ponds prior to discharging from the site. Bioswales have been located to collect run-off from parking lot pavement as well as other larger areas of the developed portion of the site. In addition to their flood control function, the detention ponds will be configured to also provide effective treatment for the flows lower

than the 85th percentile event. Located at the most downstream point of the project, the ponds will collect water that is a mixture of runoff collected from roofs, hardscape and landscaped areas, pre-treated in bioswales, filtered through sub-drains as well as diluted by clean runoff from natural watershed areas uphill of the project. The ponds have been sized to retain water for no more than 72 hours for mosquito abatement. The northern detention pond will discharge into the infrastructure of the adjacent Kawana Springs 6 Subdivision development, which will convey the flow to the development's mitigation ponds after routing through a linear vegetated swale feature and prior to release into Kawana Springs Creek. The southern detention ponds will have a single outfall set back approximately 50 feet from the Kawana Springs Creek channel, discharging into a swale that will dissipate the flow prior to entering Kawana Springs Creek.

The project, as proposed, will result in the permanent filling of 0.05 acres of seasonal wetlands and drainages. Compensatory mitigation for the permanent loss of 0.05 acres of Waters of the State will be by purchase of 0.10 acres of wetland creation credits purchased from the Hazel Mitigation Bank. This project is not within the Santa Rosa Plain geographic area; therefore no wetland preservation credit is needed.

No special status plant or animal species were observed or are expected to occur as determined by biological assessments and surveys (WRA, Inc., July, 2003). The site is not within the potential range of the California tiger salamander as mapped by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; in addition, the FWS confirmed in writing that the project was within an area that would have "no effect" on the California tiger salamander.

The City of Santa Rosa, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Mitigated Negative Declaration, pursuant to CEQA (Planning Commission Resolution No. 10682, February 10, 2005). The project was approved by the City Council (Council Ordinance No. 3716, April 5, 2005).

The Sonoma Academy Project is scheduled to begin summer 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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