

October 19, 2006

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
Yerba Buena Storm Damage Repair Project  
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B06150WNSO)**

On September 26, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Steve Brady of the City of Santa Rosa Department of Public Works requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Bennett Valley Road at Holland Drive Stormwater Ditch Maintenance Project in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to Waters of the United States and Waters of the State associated with the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.22, within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project has two sites; both are in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. The first site is located at 2000 Escalero Road (APN 153230001). The second site is located at 5923 Del Rey Court (APN 153030035) and is known as the Yerba Buena site. The purpose of the project is to address storm drain entrance facility damages caused by heavy storm events in December 2005 and January 2006.

At the Escalero Drive site work will include removal and disposal of an existing redwood drainage box damaged during heavy rains in December 2005 and January 2006. During these same storm events banks along the ephemeral drainage eroded away. These are to be repaired using seven (7) cubic yards of compacted fill. A new trash rack and field inlet assembly will be fabricated and installed. The new trash rack will be designed to block a significant amount of debris from entering the storm drain. The field inlet assembly will allow flows to enter the storm drain system in the event that the trash rack becomes clogged.

Work at the Yerba Buena site will include removal of the existing trash rack that was damaged during the above mentioned storm events. A new trash rack will be fabricated and installed along with a field inlet assembly. The designs for both of these will be similar to those that are to be used at the Escalero Drive site. The work at this site is to be done manually

Approximately fourteen (14) cubic yards of fill will be used to complete the project. A Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal has been developed to offset the impacts to Waters of the United States. Standard Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used at the sites to prevent erosion onsite.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will be attained through the planting of six (6) native riparian trees along Santa Rosa Creek. The trees will be planted in

late 2006 along the upper banks within the Prince Memorial Greenway Project between Santa Rosa Avenue and Railroad Street. The trees will be monitored annually for five years to assure 100% survival.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures include standard BMPs. All disturbed soils will be stabilized as soon as possible upon completion of construction. After the work is completed, reseeded with native grasses will be performed to stabilize disturbed banks. Erosion control blankets will also be used to stabilize the bank repair work. No equipment will be stored in the channel and no equipment or tools will be washed in an area where the water will be allowed to run into the channel. All fill material used on the site will be clean and free of contaminants.

The Santa Rosa Department of Public Works has filed a Notice of Exemption (Emergency Project 15269(a)) with the City of Santa Rosa. The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined the Project qualifies for Statutory Exemption Section 15269, Emergency Project, pursuant to the CEQA guidelines.

The project is scheduled to begin as soon as it is permitted. 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 urgent nature of this project and to avoid an emergency situation, Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities may be issued during the 21-day public comment period. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period; and the certification may be modified. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member John Caleb Sarsfield at (707) 576-6728 or at [jsarsfield@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jsarsfield@waterboards.ca.gov) or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or at [sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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.