

June 15, 2006

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
Cook Creek Landslide Stabilization  
Rohnert Park, WDID No. 1B06081WNSO**

**Sonoma County**

On May 23, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Jones and Stokes Consultants, on behalf of the Sonoma County Water Agency, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Cook Creek Landslide Project, Bella Vista Road, Rohnert Park, Sonoma County. The Cook Creek Landslide Project (Project) is proposed as an attempt to arrest a large historic landslide that at present continues to migrate into Cook Creek. At present, a constructed Cook Creek sediment basin, located 1-mile downgradient from the landslide, continually fills with landslide sediments. The project intends to control sediments at their source in order to reduce the sediment loads to the sediment basin.

The proposed Project consists of installation of 120 feet of 2-3 foot diameter rip-rap along the toe of the landslide slope; compaction; stabilization and installation of surface erosion control measures including revegetation and bioengineering; rehabilitation of the access road, and installation of a 40-foot culvert at the access road's creek crossing. Approximately 225 yards of riprap, and 370 yards of fill material will be required for erosion reduction and culvert installation tasks.

The project will take place during the summer months, when Cook Creek is typically dry, thus no dewatering is anticipated. If dewatering is required, it will consist of either excavating a sump and pumping residual water around the work zone or placement of a cofferdam. The project includes the use of heavy equipment including a long reach excavator and backhoes.

No special status fish, wildlife or plant species exist within this reach of Cook Creek, nor is the area designated as critical habitat for the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, or the western pond turtle. Results of the Jurisdictional Delineation (confirmed by the US Army Corps of Engineers on October 12, 2004) identified 0.010 acres of waters of the state would be impacted by this project. No wetlands were observed or delineated within the study area.

Mitigation will not be required for this project is a restoration project for an existing and active landslide. The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a categorical exemption under Section 15301 (i), Existing Facilities.

The project is scheduled to begin in early July 2006 and take several 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 Paul Keiran at (707) 576-2753, or at [pkeiran@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pkeiran@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. Calling (707) 576-2220 can make appointments.