

April 27, 2007

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
Sonoma County PRMD Old Redwood Highway Bicycle Lane Project  
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B07002WNSO)**

On January 8, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Laura Peltz of the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (SCPRMD), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Old Redwood Highway Bicycle Lane Project (Project) in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to Waters of the State associated with Wright Creek and the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.23.

The proposed project consists of work at two locations. The locations are alongside Old Redwood Highway approximately 0.9 and 1.0 miles north of Arata Lane in Windsor. The purpose of the project is to construct six-foot wide bicycle lanes on both sides of Old Redwood Highway. The proposed project has a larger scope of completing a bicycle corridor that will extend from Santa Rosa north to Healdsburg. In the project area there is a need for minor widening of the road to incorporate the bike lanes. Two culverts in this section will require modification, resulting in the placement of fill into waters of the United States.

Work at the first location will involve installing a new 48-inch plastic pipe culvert next to an existing 2x4 box culvert to increase conveyance capacity and prevent flooding. At the upstream inlet a portion of the existing concrete headwall will be removed and a new concrete headwall will be installed next to it. Approximately 14 linear feet of rock riprap will be placed on the channel bottom at the culvert inlet. Riprap will also be placed along the bed and bank of the culvert outlet, additionally an existing scour hole will be filled with riprap. Vegetation removal within the top of bank is limited to annual grasses for the placement of riprap. No equipment will operate within the channel.

At the second location work will consist of replacing the existing 15-inch corrugated metal pipe cross culvert with an 18-inch plastic pipe culvert. The existing concrete headwall at the inlet will be removed and replaced with a roadway inlet to accommodate roadway widening. The culvert inlet accepts sheet flow from the road slope and the shoulder through a small ditch. The headwall at the outlet will be removed and replaced with a flared end section that will extend four feet beyond the current culvert. Rock riprap will be placed on the channel bottom at the outlet to prevent scour. Vegetation removal will be minimal and limited to annual grasses. No equipment will operate within the channel.

The total area of fill associated with the culvert improvements is 0.006 acres, or 255 square feet. Construction is expected to begin in July 2007 and last until October 2007.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of standard erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction of the Project. All exposed soils will be seeded and mulched as per County specifications. Several trees along the bike path are proposed to be removed, only one of which occurs within the area covered by the proposed project. The tree will be replaced at a 1:1 ratio. Impacts to waters of the state are minimal.

The project meets the exemption criteria under title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15301(c), modification of existing highways and streets, and section 15304(h), creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way. The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15062 after issuance of an order for the project.

The Project is scheduled to begin in July, 2007. 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 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.

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