

May 9, 2007

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
Pistol Creek Bridge Replacement and Channel Restoration Project  
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B06085WNSO)**

On March 14, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Winzler and Kelly on behalf of Hop Kiln Winery, Vero Wine Group, LLC requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Hop Kiln Winery Bridge and Bank Stabilization Project. The proposed project causes disturbances to Waters of the State associated with Pistol Creek and the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.25.

The proposed project is located on the Hop Kiln Winery property at 6050 Westside Road, Healdsburg, Sonoma County, 38.53873° latitude, -122.86575° longitude. The purpose of the project is to replace a bridge that has been washed out by 2006 storm flooding. The bridge and its supports have subsequently been removed by the applicant. The project involves two sites located approximately 150-feet apart from one another on a 300-ft reach of Pistol Creek. A new bridge will be constructed in the location of the old bridge. The channel under and around the bridge will be restored to a stable geometry by re-establishing a bank-full channel and over bank-full terraces. The upstream site work will consist of stabilizing an eroded bank with rock slope protection in addition to adding three rock grade control structures across the channel within the bridge area and at the upstream site. The existing channel profile through the two project sites is currently unstable because of two head-cuts that are currently migrating upstream between the two project sites. The applicant is working with local resource agencies to secure grants for the purpose of restoration of this reach and to provide fish passage. Prior to any work in the channel the project site would be cleared of salmonids and other species by a qualified fisheries biologist. All rock slope protection (rip-rap) will be heavily vegetated.

Compensatory mitigation will occur on the project site within the footprints of the area of impact. Mitigation will entail the construction of a roughened channel or "nature-like" fish-way, which is an over-steepened channel designed to allow for passage of fish and other aquatic organisms in addition to accommodating peak flows, associated debris and sediment. Vegetation removal will be minimized. All trees removed will be replaced at a ratio of 3:1 with species native to the immediate area. A native stock of willows (Arroyo willows will not be used) will be obtained from onsite cuttings, and will provide soil stability in addition to riparian cover for the channel. A five year monitoring plan will be implemented with a 85% survival rate of all proposed plant species.

The California Department of Fish and Game, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15301 – Existing Facilities, September 29, 2006, pursuant to CEQA.

Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion. Work in and around waterways will be conducted during the dry season, installation of construction barrier fencing to

preclude equipment entry into sensitive areas, installation of silt fencing or fiber rolls to prevent sediment loss from immediate work area, topsoil salvage and reapplication, seeding and mulching.

The Hop Kiln Winery Bridge and Bank Stabilization Project is scheduled to begin Summer 2007 and end in Fall 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 Darren Bradford at (707) 576-2466, [dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dbradford@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.

This is a brief summary of this project; all 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.