

July 06, 2007

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

**Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Works
Camp Meeker Culvert Replacement Project
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B07098WNSO)**

On June 25, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Crystal Acker, on behalf of the Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works, Camp Meeker Culvert Replacement Project, located in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes permanent impacts to 0.02 acres of ephemeral stream within the Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 114.11.

The proposed project is located on Front Street, Mission Street and Montgomery Street in Camp Meeker, Sonoma County, California. The latitude and longitude is 38.4235°N and -122.9568°W. The purpose of the project is to replace three damaged culverts and repair eroded slopes to protect public roadways and adjacent private properties.

The proposed project will remove the existing 48 inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culverts, asphalt and debris from the project site and dispose of it in a permitted manner. Excavated soils will be stockpiled and re-used to backfill the trenches after the new high density polyethylene (HDPE) culverts are installed. Two of the replacement culverts will be the same length; one will be longer than the existing. All will be shifted slightly upstream to correct shotgun placement and decrease erosive discharges. Rock slope protection (rip rap) will be placed around culvert ends to protect the new structures from erosion and stabilize adjacent banks. A head wall will be constructed at one of the locations (Front Street). The repaired culvert crossings will be re-paved. All work will be conducted from the adjacent roadway. Vegetation removal will be kept to the minimum feasible. It would not be practical to attempt to remove non-native species and replant with natives due to predominance of invasive non-native species in the surrounding area. Any re-planting is likely to be out-competed by adjacent vegetation (ivy and/or blackberry). A full tree canopy already exists at all three culvert sites. Disturbed soil surfaces will be stabilized with appropriate erosion control measures, including use of erosion control fabric or turf reinforcement mat and seeding with a native grass mix.

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 20, 2006, pursuant to CEQA.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion. All construction in and around waters of the

state will be conducted during the dry season (April 15th to October 15th), to minimize construction related impacts to hydrology and water quality.

The Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works, Camp Meeker Culvert Replacement Project is scheduled to begin in 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 Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov, or Darren Bradford at (707) 576-2466, dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov, within 21 days of 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.