

June 21, 2007

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

**Sonoma County Regional Parks Department
Sunset Beach River Access Park Project
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B07039WNSO)**

On April 13, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Sonoma County Regional Parks requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Sunset Beach River Access Park Project located in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes permanent impacts to 0.32 acres of seasonal wetlands within the Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 114.11.

The proposed project is located on the south side of River Road, Sonoma County, California, (APN(s). No. 081-110-003, 081-100-031, 100-110-001, 100-110-002). The latitude and longitude is 38.5081°N and -122.9483°W. The purpose of the project is to provide public access to a new river access park along the Russian River.

The proposed project includes a river access with trailhead, trails, parking areas, portable restrooms, signage, and garbage cans, improvements to River Road, including a turn lane and shoulder widening. The project includes a riparian and riverine habitat enhancement element that will remove invasive, non-native tree and plant species and utilize a mixed palette of native species. Interpretive signage placed at the trailhead, along the trails, and throughout the park would provide educational opportunities for park users. After the proposed project is developed, it will be operated and maintained by Regional Parks.

The site does not support any listed or special status plant species, based on habitat surveys conducted between August 25, 2002 and July 16, 2003. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved the wetland delineation performed by Chris and Daniel Kjeldsen, consulting biologist, and determined that up to 0.01 acres of seasonal wetlands present on-site are considered isolated, and are therefore under the jurisdiction of the State (June 8, 2005, Corps File Number pending).

Compensatory mitigation for the impacts associated with the drainage improvements associated with the widening of River Road are all "in-kind" and therefore, all existing function and value will be the same as the existing roadside drainage ditches. Trees removed will be replaced at a ratio of 3:1. A vegetated buffer strip will be placed along the southern, eastern, and a portion of the western side of the parking area. The buffer strip will act to filter and treat the sheet-flow storm water run-off from the parking area. The treated stormwater will then flow into the vegetated buffer that will provide energy dissipation and infiltration. Plants will be monitored for a three-year period after installation with a 75% survival rate. If a survival rate of 75% is not achieved additional planting of trees and/or shrubs will be required.

Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion. Construction activities are proposed to take place all year, including the wet season months of October 15th through May 15th. Therefore, additional winterization BMPs will be implemented in order to stabilize all bare soils. Drainage improvements associated with the widening of River Road will be carried out during the dry season, to minimize direct and indirect impacts to Waters of the State.

The Sunset Beach River Access Park Project is scheduled to begin in 2007 and end in May 2008. 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.