

July 20, 2007

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

Barr Rosenberg,
Ratna Ling Retreat Center Project

WDID No. 1B06061WNSO

Sonoma County

On April 3, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Valley Environmental Consulting, LLC, on behalf of the Ratna Ling Retreat Center requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Ratna Ling Retreat Center Project located in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes permanent impacts to 0.0041 acres of ephemeral waters associated with Gualala HSA, Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No.113.85.

The proposed project is located on a 108 acre site in Cazadero, at 35755 Hauser Bridge Road, Sonoma County, California (APN. No. 109-230-024). The latitude and longitude is 38.355°N and -123.183°W. The purpose of the project is to provide single-unit housing for retreats.

The project includes: constructing 19 cottages and two associated paved, one lane access roads from existing conference hall/meditation facility to cottages, construction of water and wastewater treatment facilities to serve existing conference hall on site, and rebuilding a reservoir dam to proper engineering specifications. The proposed project will involve the filling of approximately 0.0041 acres of ephemeral waters or the United States and State. Waters of the United States/Waters of the State will be impacted at four locations on the project site. All impacts will occur on ephemeral stream channels. The channels are unnamed tributaries to the South Fork Gualala River. All four locations will be impacted by placement of culverts and fill material to provide for one-lane paved roads. The culverts will consist of 6 to 24-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe.

No special status plant species were found during the May 21, 2004, survey and none are expected to occur within the area proposed for development.

Compensatory mitigation for the permanent filling of 0.0041 acres of ephemeral drainage-way will be attained through the enhancement of 820-square feet of ephemeral drainage-way also on the property. The impact to mitigation ratio is 4 to 1. The mitigation area will be maintained for a minimum 5 years and will have a 85% plant survival rate.

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 Ratna Ling Retreat Center Project is scheduled to begin Summer 2006 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.