July 20, 2007

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

Salmon Creek School Bridge Replacement and Channel Restoration Project

WDID No. 1B07060WNSO

Sonoma County

On May 10, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Winzler and Kelly on behalf of Harmony Union School District Salmon Creek School (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Salmon Creek School Bridge and Bank Stabilization Project. The proposed project causes disturbances to Waters of the State and Waters of the United States associated with Salmon Creek and the Bodega Hydrologic Unit No.115.10.

The proposed project is located west of Santa Rosa at 1935 Bohemian Highway, approximately 2 miles south of Occidental, Sonoma County, (APN no. 073-140-010). The latitude and longitude is 38.38739° N, -122.93244° W. The purpose of the project is to repair storm damage caused to an access bridge, a road drainage culvert and a failing creek bank.

The project involves two sites located approximately 400-feet apart from one another on a reach of Salmon Creek that were damaged by the January 2006, storm event. An access bridge on the north side of the property was damaged as a result of high energy flows which scoured the concrete abutments and caused a large tree to fall on the bridge deck. The failed bridge will be removed from the site as well as the concrete abutments at the top of the banks. This work will be conducted from top of banks, eliminating the need for equipment to enter the streambed. A 12-foot wide pre-manufactured bridge deck spanning 75-feet will be placed on piles placed from the top of the stream channel bank on both the west and east ends of the deck. The bottom of the bridge deck will be placed 4.95 feet above the calculated 100-year water surface elevation. Because the construction practices will occur outside of the stream during a low stream flow, a diversion of the channel flow or dewatering efforts will not be required. Clearing the project reach of native salmonids and implementing fish screens above and below the project reach will not be required.

In addition to the bridge replacement, an existing failed elliptical concrete culvert located 100-feet west of the bridge crossing will be replaced with a HPDE culvert. The culvert provides roadside drainage conveyance underneath the access road. A rock apron placed at the outlet will provide flow energy dissipation for scour prevention.

The second project site is located 400-feet downstream from the access bridge and includes the restoration of approximately 50 feet of failed stream bank on the east side of the stream channel. The project includes regrading the slope, installation of rip rap along the 50-foot channel toe, and bioengineering practices such as live willow wall and biodegradable erosion control fabric. On-site willow cuttings will provide soil stabilization

and riparian cover along with other native plants to re-vegetate disturbed areas. Temporary sand bags may be preferable to direct continuous downstream stream flow away from bank during construction. Since construction will take place out of the stream, during a low stream flow, channel dewatering, clearing of native salmonids and fish screens will not be necessary.

Compensatory mitigation will be the replacement of riparian habitat lost due to storm damage. 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. Native trees and shrubs will be planted and managed. A five year monitoring plan will be implemented with an 85% survival rate of all proposed plant species. Additionally, a native seed mix will be spread below the erosion control fabric or mulch. Yearly monitoring and reporting will be required.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has determined that this project is statutorily exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (Section 15269 – Emergency Projects). Based on a review of the project information submitted to date, Regional Water Board staff determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1, Section 15269 – Declared Emergency) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

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 Salmon Creek 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**, or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at **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.