

August 1, 2007

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

Calpine, Exploratory Borings for Big Sulphur Creek (BSC) #2 Water Extraction Facilities
Replacement and Maintenance Project
WDID No. 1B07112WNSO

Sonoma County

On July 18, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Prunuske Chatham, Inc., on behalf of Jody Spooner, Geysers Power Company, LLC (GPC) (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Calpine, Exploratory Borings for Big Sulphur Creek (BSC) #2 Water Extraction Facilities Replacement and Maintenance project (Project). The proposed project causes disturbances to Waters of the State and Waters of the United States associated with Big Sulphur Creek and the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.26.

The proposed project is located at 10350 Socrates Mine Road, approximately 20 miles east of Geyserville, Sonoma County, (APN no. 117-160-014 & 141-020-023). The latitude and longitude is approximately 37° 47' 30" N, -122° 47' 30" W. The purpose of the project is to assess the condition of infiltration gallery walls, pipes, and slots. This information will be used to finalize plans for a future maintenance and/or replacement project. It is hoped that this investigation will allow a reduction in the amount of future work needed, thus minimizing disturbance to Big Sulphur Creek.

The project entails excavation of two exploratory borings at an existing water intake gallery on Big Sulphur Creek upstream of a total fish passage barrier. Before conducting borings, the project site will be isolated from stream flow and dewatered. Each boring will be approximately 6 feet deep. A total of approximately 10 cubic yards of material will be removed from the two borings. A section of PVC pipe will also be removed. And cameras will be inserted. All spoils will be stockpiled and returned to the boring holes in order to return Big Sulphur Creek to its original, pre-project conditions. Equipment access for the borings will be from the existing road to a non-wetted portion of the channel. A 12' x 12' pad will be placed in the creek to hold construction equipment in order to minimize creek bed impacts; it will be removed following the exploration activities.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (file No. 299111N) to perform the project under Nationwide Permit #6, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404.

The applicant has applied for a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement (1602), file number 1600-2005-0724-3.

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 15306 – Information Collection) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

The Project is scheduled to begin mid-August 2007 and should take less than two weeks to complete. 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, 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.