

Sept. 10, 2007

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

**Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department,  
Paulin Creek at County Farm Road Retaining Wall Replacement Project  
WDID No. 1B07117WNSO**

Sonoma County

On July 31, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements for the Paulin Creek at County Farm Road Retaining Wall Project. The proposed project will impact waters of the State and waters of the United States associated with Paulin Creek, a tributary to the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project is located at 3336 Chanate Road, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, (APN no. 180-090-006). The latitude and longitude is 38.46996° N, -122.70769° W. The purpose of the project is to replace a 55-foot long retaining wall along the west bank of Paulin Creek. The wall was damaged during the New Year's Eve 2005 storm event. A portion of the retaining wall has collapsed, depositing debris in the creek channel. The remaining portion of the wall is leaning over the creek, causing the adjacent parking lot to fail. This project will replace the damaged wall to prevent further damage to the bank and the adjacent property during future storm events and would repair the existing parking area.

The project involves the replacement of a 55-foot long retaining wall. The existing stone and mortar retaining wall will be removed and replaced with a Keystone® retaining wall. The new wall will be the same height as the existing wall (12 feet). The new wall will be 5 feet longer as it will tie back into the bank on the downstream end. A 26-foot by 20-foot parking area that was damaged due to the wall failure will also be replaced. Prior to removing the existing retaining wall, the stream will be diverted into a pipe culvert to isolate it from the work area. Hand crews and a backhoe, operating from the top-of-bank, will remove rock debris that has fallen into the channel as a result of the wall failure. The temporary coffer dam will be constructed of clean gravel or sand bags. All stone/gravel/sand materials added to the stream shall be completely clean and washed and shall not contribute any turbidity to the stream. In addition, wattles will be installed with filter fabric to control erosion and sediment transport during construction. All fish or other significant aquatic species (such as tadpoles, frogs, and turtles) in the dewatered portion of the stream will be collected by a qualified biologist and relocated downstream of the work area. Any remaining ponded water in the work area will be pumped to the adjacent grassy upland area or be placed in a tank and disposed of in a permitted manner. Approximately ten cubic yards of 12-inch to 16-inch rock slope protection will be placed at the base of the new retaining wall. This project will not result in a loss of channel capacity. The project will require the removal of at least two, but possibly four trees. Three of these are oaks growing at the top of bank and one alder.

Compensatory mitigation will include replacement of these trees with the same or similar species at a 3:1 ratio. A five year monitoring plan will be implemented requiring an 85% survival rate of all proposed plant species. Additionally, a native seed mix will be spread on all exposed soil surfaces. Erosion control fabric will be installed on all surfaces with a slope 2:1 or greater. Materials excavated from the channel will be removed from the site and deposited in an appropriate upland area.

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 applicant has proposed a categorical exemption, 15301 – Existing Facilities, for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Construction best management practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion and sediment transport. Work in and around waterways will be conducted during the dry season, and include the 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 Paulin Creek at County Farm Road Retaining Wall 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 Darren Bradford at (707) 576-2466, [dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov), or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at [sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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.