September 18, 2007

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

Fetzer Vineyards,
Fetzer Russian River Habitat Enhancement and Streambank Stabilization Project
WDID No. 1B07111WNME

Mendocino County

On July 16, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Bioengineering Associates Inc., on behalf of Fetzer Vineyards (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements for the Fetzer Vineyards River Habitat Enhancement and Streambank Stabilization Project. The proposed project will impact Waters of the State and Waters of the United States associated with Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00.

The proposed project is located approximately one mile North of Old Hopland at 12901 Old River Road, Mendocino County, (APN no. 048-060-01). The latitude and longitude is 38. 9857° N, -123.1004° W. The purpose of the project is to reduce the quantity of sediments that are entering the Russian River water column while enhancing the aquatic and riparian habitat. The project sites are actively eroding. Vineyard property and two irrigation pump stations are in danger of collapsing into the Russian River water course if stabilization efforts are not implemented.

The project involves two bioengineered stream bank stabilization sites located approximately 1500-feet apart from one another on a reach of the Russian River near Hopland. The stabilization sites are on the downstream left bank of the Russian River. The first site is a boulder and 'live willow' log deflector which will enhance resting areas and pool development, for anadromous fish species, while deflecting the rivers hydrologic force away from the eroding stream bank. Immediately downstream of this deflector is an eroding sandy bench with little vegetation. Seventy live willow clusters will be planted to slow flow along the bank and enhance the deposition of fine materials. Continuing downstream and about 140 feet upstream of the first pump station, seven live willow siltation baffles (20 ft. in length, 20 ft. on center.) will be keyed into the toe of the vertical bank perpendicular to the shoreline. At this location, the top of bank will be sloped back eight feet and down four feet along 140 feet of shoreline, in order to stabilize the incised river bank. At the downstream end of the live willow siltation baffles, a boulder and log deflector will be constructed to deflect flow away from the eroding pump station, stabilize riparian habitat and enhance fish habitat.

The second pump station site is located approximately 1500-feet downstream from the first project site. Three feet high, one ton boulder longitudinal stone toe protection (rip-rap) will be installed along approximately 60 feet of eroding bank to stabilize the second pump station. Rip-rap will be shaded by willows placed vertically against the bank and staked and sprigged in the interstices at a maximum spacing of three feet on center.

Compensatory mitigation will include 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 percent survival rate required 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 3:1 or greater. 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 a Nationwide Permit No. 27, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404.

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. Additional BMPs will include installation of construction barrier fencing to prevent equipment entry into sensitive areas, installation of silt fencing or fiber rolls to prevent sediment loss from immediate work area, topsoil salvage and reapplication, and seeding and mulching.

The Fetzer Russian River Habitat Enhancement and Streambank 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.