

June 13, 2008

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

Miles Jones,  
Staircase and Floating Dock Project  
14965 River Road, Guerneville  
WDID No. 1B08021WNSO

Sonoma County

On February 11, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Miles Jones, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Miles Jones, Staircase and Floating Dock Project, located in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to 0.002 acres and 100 linear feet of streambank within the Russian River, Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 114.11.

The project is on approximately 350 feet of river bank, at 14965 River Road, Guerneville, Sonoma County, California. The latitude and longitude is 38° 30' 56.12" N and -122° 58' 55.39" W. The purpose of the project is to install a removable stairway and floating dock to provide access to the Russian River during temperate months. The stairs and dock attach to previously installed unpermitted fill, therefore part of the project will be considered after-the-fact, which is addressed within the proposed compensatory mitigation. The project will not include any additional fill within waters of the state.

Compensatory mitigation for the project will be on-site and shall include planting of willow sprigs, on no greater than two foot centers, for the entire length of the property in all plantable areas from water level to at least top of bank. Additional mitigation includes removal of all *Arundo donax* on the property and planting of native riparian shade trees. Selection of tree species will be by matching the same variety of species on and nearby the property. Trees shall be planted in all areas of *Arundo donax* removal and in locations where shade will be beneficial to reduction of areal temperatures.

The project includes: (1) installation of two sections of removable staircase measuring three by fifteen feet each; (2) installation of floating dock; (3) permanent removal of invasive *Arundo donax*; (4) Planting of willow sprigs (red or yellow willow), at a spacing of no more than two feet on center, for the entire river front of the property from low water level to at least top of bank; (5) Planting of native riparian trees at or above top of bank within areas of *Arundo donax* removal, and in other areas where lower temperatures would be beneficial. Planting shall be done as soon as possible after removal of *Arundo donax*, and shall be done during the time of year that would be best for survival. Irrigation shall be done as necessary; (6) Monitoring and reporting is required for a minimum of 5 years, with a minimum of 85% survival of all planted vegetation. Reports shall be submitted by December 31 of each year; and, (7) removal of stairs and dock before first wet season storm, no later than October 15.

The applicant has received a California Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement, file number 1600-2007-0449-3, on December 17, 2007.

Applicant has consulted with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, who determined that a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit will not be issued for the project.

Applicant has applied for a Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department Use Permit.

The California Department of Fish and Game has determined that this project is statutorily exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (Section 15301 – Existing Facilities), and filed a Notice of Exemption on January 8, 2008. 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 15301 – Existing Facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

At a minimum, the following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the project in order to reduce and control soil erosion: work in and around waterways will be conducted during the dry season; installation of silt fencing or fiber rolls to prevent sediment loss from immediate work area; and seeding with native grasses and mulching.

The Miles Jones, Staircase and Floating Dock Project is scheduled to begin June 25, 2008. 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](mailto:sbargsten@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.