

June 13, 2008

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

City of Ukiah
Orchard Avenue Bridge Project
WDID No. 1B05018WNME

Mendocino County

On March 17, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Tim Eriksen, Public Work Director, City of Ukiah, on behalf of the City of Ukiah and County of Mendocino as joint applicants (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Orchard Avenue Bridge Project (Project), located in Mendocino County. The latitude and longitude is 39° 09' 29.87" N and -123° 11' 59.56"W. The proposed Project will cause permanent impacts to 0.06 acres of stream bed and bank of Orr Creek, within the Russian River, Ukiah Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 114.31.

The Project involves construction of a two span, reinforced concrete flat slab bridge, 95 feet in length and 62 feet in width. Construction of abutments and middle bent are on concrete reinforced driven piles. Construction of new storm drain outfall for new 48 inch storm drain setback is approximately 50 feet from the north line of Orr Creek stream bed and connected to creek via new channel of variable width. Benching of north creek bank will occur from approximately 75 feet upstream of new confluence of creek and channel to approximately 100 feet downstream of east face of bridge (approximately 1,000 cubic yards of removal of existing stream bank and uplands will occur to facilitate the recontouring of the area). The benched area will be restored with native vegetation, including trees, shrubs and grasses. The Project also includes construction of an access ramp, retaining walls, and the widening, reconstruction and extension of Orchard Avenue from Ford Street within the City to Brush Street within the County unincorporated area.

The purpose of the Project is to provide for the extension of Orchard Avenue from Ford Street to Brush Street as recommended in Ukiah's General Plan and the County of Mendocino Draft Ukiah Valley Area Plan, and to construct a new storm drain outfall structure for new storm drain which is to receive runoff from existing and future development within a portion of the 95 acre land area known as the Brush Street Triangle.

Vegetated swales for the purpose of stormwater treatment will be constructed and maintained for the newly constructed impervious areas of the proposed bridge and bridge approaches.

Future development to the north of the bridge will be required to incorporate post construction storm water treatment following low impact development (LID) principles.

Work will be done between June and December 31, 2008; if any dewatering or instream work is necessary, it will comply with NOAA Fisheries and California Department of Fish and Game requirements to protect fish and other species within Orr Creek.

Compensatory mitigation will include on-site restoration. On site, in-channel planting of a number of native species is proposed to naturalize the impacted areas. Invasive species such as vinca and Himalayan blackberry will be removed. Areas of revegetation and restoration will be monitored for five years, with yearly monitoring reports submitted. Vegetation will have a minimum of 85% survival with the provision of replanting as necessary. Reporting shall be yearly for this period, and shall include photos and details of status of the restoration.

The applicant has received a California Department of Fish and Game 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement, in June 2008, LSAA Notification Number R1-08-0100.

Applicant has applied for a United States Army Corps of Engineers Permit, File Number 272140N.

The City of Ukiah prepared an Environmental Impact Report, and recorded a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse Number 1998022086, on January 6, 2005, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.

At a minimum, the following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans as appropriate 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; and seeding and mulching.

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 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.