August 6, 2008

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

Sonoma County Water Agency
Roseland Creek Culverts Replacement Project
WDID# 1B09203WNSO

Sonoma County

On June 20, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Michael Stevenson, on behalf of the Sonoma County Water Agency, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Roseland Creek Culverts Replacement Project (Project), Township 6N, Range 8W, Section 5 on the Sebastopol quad located in Sonoma County. The proposed Project causes permanent impacts to 0.165 acres of perennial stream tributary to Laguna de Santa Rosa, within the Russian River, Laguna Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 114.21.

The proposed Project is located in the Sonoma County Water Agency's flood Control Zone 1A, in the lower 3,500 ft of Reach 1 of Roseland Creek. The latitude and longitude is 38°23'43.16" N, -122°46'20.40" W. The Project includes the replacement of culverts at six locations along lower Roseland Creek near Llano Road. The purpose of the project is top improve flow conveyance, stream water quality, and cattle safety at the six cattle crossings that have been impacted by sedimentation and worn out culverts.

The Project includes replacement of the existing sets of three 18 inch corrugated metal pipe culverts with three 30 inch corrugated metal or plastic pipes, which will be anchored in place with compacted earth and rock. The existing culverts will be removed using an excavator and backhoe. Work will be confined within the foot print of the existing crossing. The Project will result in 168 cubic yards of fill, and 0.165 acres of permanent impact.

Work may be conducted between August 1 and October 31, 2008; however it is likely that some flow will be present due to summer irrigation and urban runoff. If any streamflow or ponding in the channel are encountered, a dewatering approach such as the installation of a sequential coffer dam system to intercept and divert surface water or intercepted shallow groundwater moving through near surface sediments. If needed, the dewatering would be accomplished by installing temporary coffer dams/sumps at the upstream end of the project, and pumping or using gravity flow piping of any nuisance water around the worksite to re-enter the channel below the downstream end of the project. Fish screening shall be conducted at the intake that meets all NOAA Fisheries fish screen criteria. Large sediment filtering bags will be incorporated into the outlet end of the discharge line to minimize turbidity. The dewatering system will be removed following project completion.

Compensatory mitigation will include on-site restoration and off-site restoration and erosion control activities. On-site mitigation will include, toe-of-bank planting of red

willows on 30 foot centers for over 1,000 feet of the project. Monitoring and reporting will evaluate the efficacy of the revegetation, for a period of 5 years with 80% survival rate and annual reporting. Additionally, to compensate for repeated temporal impacts (repeated periodic dredging/removal of riparian vegetation), off-site water quality improvement projects are proposed. Off-site mitigation projects will be coordinated though the "Watershed Partnerships Program" (WPP) funded at a cost of 10% of the cost of the project, which results in a restoration area larger than 10% of the impacted area. WPP projects that are being contributed to for this project include: Cotati Creek Critters Upper Laguna de Santa Rosa restoration project, and the Cook Creek headwaters erosion control and sediment management project. The Cotati Creek Critters project involves understory revegetation and monitoring and maintenance of a portion of the total project area. The Cotati Creek Critters project will provide bank stabilization, increase ecological value of the stream, and provide environmental education to volunteers and users of the area. The Cook Creek headwaters erosion control and sediment management project includes slope grading and vegetation plating to decrease sediment delivery to Cook Creek. For each off-site mitigation project, native plants will be planted and managed, and a five year monitoring plan will be implemented with an 80% survival rate of all plant species. Yearly monitoring and reporting will be required.

Applicant has an existing 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement for routine maintenance, from the California Department of Fish and Game, Agreement No. 1600-2006-0254-3.

Applicant has applied for a United States Army Corps of Engineers Permit.

The County of Sonoma 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 June 12, 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 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.

The Project is scheduled to occur between August and October 15, 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**, or Brionna Drescher at (707) 566-3943, **bdrescher@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.

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