

August 11, 2008

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)
For
City of Santa Rosa
Talbot Avenue bridge Storm Drain Improvement project
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B08066WNSO)

On April 10, 2008 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Scott Reynolds of Coastland Engineering, on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the proposed Talbot Avenue Storm Drain Improvement project. The proposed project will upsize an existing corrugated metal pipe (CMP) storm drain outfall that extends from under the Talbot Avenue Bridge and outfalls into Santa Rosa Creek. The project is located in the City of Santa Rosa with Latitude 38° 26' 47" N and longitude -122° 41'59" W

In it's current condition the CMP daylights from the fill and concrete used to support the bridge, and extends under and parallel to the bridge above, the CMP is completely above the ground once it daylights, and is supported by a metal ribbon that is bolted into a concrete pillar that provides support for the bridge. The metal ribbon secures the CMP to the pillar, about two thirds of the way up from ground level, allowing to CMP to discharge storm water directly into Santa Rosa Creek from above. The discharged water, upon entering Santa Rosa Creek, falls upon rip rap to dissipate the energy generated by the drop from the CMP out-fall to the creek.

The proposed construction will remove the existing 21 inch CMP and replace it with a 24 inch CMP better equipped to handle heavy flows, and the pipe will be cut to conform to the existing grad of the slope from which it daylights. Rip-rap where the existing pipe daylights will be removed and concrete in the proposed alignment will be removed if necessary. The removal of the existing concrete may include removal of reinforcing steel. All work under the bridge will be performed with hand tools, which may include jackhammers and saws. No heavy equipment will be used under the bridge. The upstream storm drain will be installed by trenching in the roadway. To protect the creek during construction a silt fence will be installed downhill from the construction work and above the high water mark. Straw bales and fiber rolls will also be used to prevent discharge of sediments and pollutants into Santa Rosa Creek. All work will be performed above the high water mark in an area where no vegetation is present. To prevent erosion, rip-rap or concrete sacks will be placed around the pipe and down the slope to meet the existing concrete sacks on the downhill side of the pipe. The water from the proposed outfall will travel downhill over the new and existing rip-rap and fall onto the existing rip-rap in the creek bed. Surface water filtration systems are being added to the storm drain system in the form of vegetated planters. Vegetated planters will be installed on either side of Leonard Avenue prior to the proposed bulb-outs. Street gutter flow will be directed through the vegetated planter, which will act as a filtration system, prior to the flow entering a drainage inlet. The vegetated planters will be designed in accordance with SUSMP guidelines.

The Project is expected to be outside of US Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdiction because all construction is expected to take place above the ordinary high water mark.

The applicant has submitted a Streambed Alteration Agreement application to the California Department of Fish and Game

Construction is expected to take about one week and is planned to occur in late May and continue into early June of 2009.

The City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has found the project to be Categorical Exempt (Class 2: replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities that will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced) from CEQA review.

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 submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov, or Brian Lindell at (707) 576-6732, blindell@waterboards.ca.gov.

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.