

August 22, 2008

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

**City of Sebastopol,  
Sebastopol Laguna Force Main Replacement Project  
Sonoma County (WDID No. 1B08007WNSO)**

On January 15, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Amy Jeane of Green Valley Consulting Engineers, on behalf of the City of Sebastopol (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with the Laguna Force Main Replacement Project located near Sebastopol, Sonoma County. The proposed project causes permanent impacts to approximately 0.02 acres of seasonal wetlands and riparian vegetation, within the Laguna Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.21.

The Laguna Force Main Replacement Project is a public utilities project implemented by the City of Sebastopol. The purpose is to replace segments of an existing sewer force main consisting of 14-inch diameter Techite pipe with new 14- inch diameter HDPE and PVC pipe. The existing Techite pipe is prone to failure and replacement with the more reliable HDPE and PVC pipe will reduce the potential that a spill of waste water effluent will occur in the future. The project will involve placing approximately 6350 feet of new pipe.

The latitude and longitude of the project start location, by Morris Street (most westerly part) is 38.404872°N and 122.81882°W. The most easterly section, where construction will end near Llano Street, has coordinates: 38.402238°N and 122.78896°W. (APNs 060-010-033, 060-060-060, -044, -056, -063).

The overall project will be completed along two segments. Segment 1 is between the existing sanitary lift station located at Morris Street, in Sebastopol, and a point approximately 0.35 miles south of Morris Street where the pipe will cross under Highway 12 and connect to a 14-inch diameter PVC pipe that is presently in service. New PVC piping will be installed parallel to the existing Techite pipe line, which will be capped and abandoned in place. The new piping must cross under the Laguna De Santa Rosa where there is already an existing ductile iron pipe. After the connection to the existing ductile Iron pipe has been made, new piping will be installed by methods of underground direction drilling continuing horizontally toward highway 12 for approximately 1125 feet. Underground direction drilling will be utilized in order to protect the jurisdictional wetlands and riparian areas, since it will alleviate the need for open trenching. The 14 inch HDPE piping will be installed to a depth of about 30 feet. In upland areas the piping will be installed by trenching to a depth of about 44 inches. Jack and Bore methods will be used to bore under the highway for about 120 feet. The new piping will be placed under the highway and will connect to existing PVC piping (which was installed to replace the Techite pipe years ago) that runs parallel to Highway 12 for approximately 1.2 miles.

Section 2 of the project begins where the existing PVC pipe ends just south of highway 12 and west of Duer Road. The new piping will be installed in an open trench heading southward for approximately 3300 feet. Trenching will cross the Joe Rodota Trail. Provisions have been made so that trail users will be able to navigate around the

construction area. Directional drilling will be used to cross under Gravenstein Creek, a tributary to the Laguna De Santa Rosa, to avoid trenching in the creek and to protect riparian habitat. On the other side of Gravenstein Creek, the new pipeline will be installed by open trenching method, making a turn eastward for approximately 1800 feet around the south side of a waste water storage pond, and tying back into the existing sewer system at Llano Road, approximately 1 mile south of the Highway 12/Llano Road intersection. The trenching activities in Section 2, specifically its eastward portion, will have temporary impacts to jurisdictional wetlands.

Compensatory Mitigation for impacts to wetlands and riparian habitat will involve the City of Sebastopol purchasing credits at an approved mitigation bank. This purchase will include .01 acre of credit for listed plant species, specifically Sebastopol meadow foam, as well as purchase of .09 acre of credit for California Tiger Salamander and wetlands.

Top soil (approximately one foot deep) from trenching activities in wetlands will be carefully removed and separately stockpiled to preserve the existing seed bank. The trench will then be backfilled with the stockpiled topsoil and restored to pre-excavation elevation. A biological monitor shall be present during the initial stages of the trenching/pit excavation to ensure compliance with construction-related impact avoidance measures. Provisions will be made to protect any special status wildlife species and plants that are within the construction zone, these activities will be supervised by a qualified biologist.

At a minimum, the following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion: Silt fences or other sediment containment methods will be placed around and/or down slope of disturbed areas prior to construction. Most importantly, silt fencing shall be placed around wetlands and swales that drain to water courses. Additionally, all required BMPs shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.

The Laguna Force Main Replacement Project is scheduled to begin in September 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 and ends at 5:00pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> day. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Brian Lindell at (707) 576-6732 or [blindell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:blindell@waterboards.ca.gov), or John Short at (707) 576-2065 or [jshort@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jshort@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 Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.