

January 8, 2009

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

Rudy Light, West Fork Russian River Streambank Stabilization Project
Redwood Valley
WDID No. 1B08069WNME

Mendocino County

On April 17, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Evan Engber of Bioengineering Associates, Inc., on behalf of Mr. Rudy Light (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Rudy Light, West Fork Russian River Streambank Stabilization Project (Project), located at 11535 East Road, Redwood Valley, in Mendocino County. The latitude and longitude is 39.307448° N and 123.216757° W. The proposed Project will cause permanent impacts to seven areas within a reach of approximately 2,500 feet of streambed and bank in the West Fork Russian River within the Forsythe Creek Hydrologic Unit Subarea No. 114.33, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The Project involves stream stabilization in seven separate areas along approximately 2,500 linear feet of the West Fork Russian River. Stabilization techniques will consist primarily of bioengineering such as using willow sprigging within existing/repositioned riprap, live willow siltation baffles, live willow clusters, live willow brushes, and live willow mattresses. A minimum of riprap will be installed. Use of these techniques reduce amount of environmental impact when compared with hardened stream bank stabilization such as riprap or concrete and allows the live materials to grow as in a natural system.

Work will be done during the dry season, and irrigation will be provided for plants where necessary.

The Russian River is identified as impaired on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list, and is listed as impaired for sediment and temperature. The Project should reduce erosion and release of fine sediment, and it should help to reduce water temperature within the river because of the planting of shade providing trees. Use of live willow siltation baffles encourage deposition and establishment of areas that may be colonized by native shade tree species and other habitat improving plants.

The Project has received a California Department of Fish and Game 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement, Notification number R1-08-0159, on August 25, 2008.

Applicant is in the process of applying for a United States Army Corps of Engineers Permit, The Army Corps may need to initiate a Section 7 consultation with NOAA Fisheries.

The California Department of Fish and Game, as lead agency determined that the Project qualified for Categorical Exemption, 15333 – Small Habitat Restoration Projects, and recorded a Notice of Exemption with the Office of Planning and Research, State

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Clearinghouse Number 2008098143 on September 11, 2008, 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 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, 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.