

February 11, 2009

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

Evans Family Property – Streambank Stabilization Project  
WDID No. 1A08009WNSI

Siskiyou County

On January 22, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Albert Beltramo (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification (certification) for proposed activities related to installation of riprap for streambank protection on an ephemeral stream near Gazelle, Siskiyou County. On February 11, 2008, Regional Water Board staff sent a letter to the applicant stating that the application was not complete and requesting additional information and documentation to complete the application. The Regional Water Board did not receive a response to the written request for additional information and the request for certification was denied without prejudice on October 28, 2008.

Denial without prejudice does not reflect a judgment regarding the merits of the proposed project and provides the applicant with a one-year deadline to submit the required documentation to reactivate the application and request for certification. On December 10, 2008, the Regional Water Board received the additional requested information and the application was deemed complete. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Willow Creek in the Shasta Valley Hydrologic Area No. 105.50.

The purpose of the proposed project is to stabilize an eroding section of the Willow Creek streambank that is adjacent to an existing quarry pond at the Yreka Transit Mix Quarry (quarry). The proposed project was initiated to meet outstanding liabilities for mine reclamation and requirements from the Department of Conservation to prevent additional migration of the eroding streambank towards a narrow berm that separates an existing quarry pond from Willow Creek. The proposed project involves the placement of 35 cubic yards of one-foot to three-foot diameter rock riprap along a 60-foot long section of eroded streambank. The riprap will be placed by an excavator operating from the top of the streambank and no equipment will be operated in the streambed. The base of the riprap will be placed in a shallow toe trench.

The proposed project will result in permanent impacts to 270 square feet and 60 linear feet of streambank. The proposed project will not result in any temporary impacts. Willow Creek is an ephemeral stream with sparse riparian vegetation and there are no trees or riparian vegetation in the project area. Riparian vegetation will not be impacted by the proposed project. Compensatory mitigation is not required. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices for erosion control and for operation of heavy equipment near a stream channel. The proposed project is scheduled to be completed between July 1 and October 15, 2009, and is expected to take approximately 5 days to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under nationwide permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has obtained a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. The proposed project consists of minor alterations in the condition of land and water (minor trenching and backfilling activities) which do not involve removal of any trees. Regional Water Board staff have determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 4, Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

Regional Water Board staff are 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, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.