

April 7, 2009

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

Jenner Community Club – Jenner Creek Bridge Replacement  
WDID No. 1B08110WNSO

Sonoma County

On July 14, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Jenner Community Club (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities associated with replacing the Jenner Creek Bridge located near 10432 Highway 1 in the town of Jenner, latitude 38.449573°N, 123.114771°W, Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impact to approximately 0.13 acres of waters of the State associated with the Jenner Creek in the Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.11, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The existing bridge is located over Jenner Creek, a tributary to the Russian River that was damaged in the winter storm event of 2005/2006. During the storm event, the bridge abutment collapsed and the water main to the Jenner Community Club (JCC) ruptured. Under the emergency situation the abutments and the adjacent banks were secured with rock revetment to prevent further damage. The bridge is the only access to the JCC and the primary entrance to the Fire Department Annex. The purpose of the project is to restore access to the JCC and the Fire Annex, as well as protection of the creek banks.

The existing bridge and both abutments will be removed. The replacement bridge will be a pre-cast concrete bridge with abutment system will be installed. Rock revetment will be placed on the front face of the footings and adjacent banks to prevent scour of the abutments. The creek bank will be stabilized by repositioning previously installed boulders into more favorable locations, and interplanted with native riparian vegetation to provide wildlife and aquatic habitat and bank stability. The former bridge and abutments formed a constriction in the stream width. This project will increase the stream width and add a flood terrace downstream of the new bridge that will help alleviate flood flow impacts.

Compensatory mitigation consists of revegetation of impacted area with species native to the area and increasing aquatic habitat. Species to be planted are listed on the Planting Plan, dated 5/23/08, by Prunuske Chatham, Inc. Planted vegetation will be monitored for at least five years, with yearly reports submitted to the Regional Water Board. Revegetation shall have an 50-80% survival rate (depending on species) at the end of five years, as outlined in the California Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement, Notification No. 1600-2008-0331-3. Plants shall be irrigated as necessary for survival and establishment. Invasive plant species such as vinca and Himalayan blackberry will be removed. Several root wads/large woody debris installations shall be done, one above and one below the bridge. These shall provide in-stream aquatic habitat. The stream may need to be dewatered during the project, and will be done per the "Dewatering and Species Protection Plan", Prunuske Chatham,

Inc., March 2009. A qualified biologist will be available to supervise necessary activities.

The Sonoma County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Section 15301 – Existing Structures), and have filed a Notice of Exemption for this project with the State Clearinghouse.

Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game and the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries, and the California Coastal Commission, to obtain their respective permits and permissions.

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 Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.