

April 23, 2009

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

Mr. Oliver Max
Felta and Salt Creek Road Restoration Project
WDID No. 1B08129WNSO

Sonoma County

On August 8, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Roger Sternberg, Registered Professional Forester, on behalf of Mr. Oliver Max (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Felta and Salt Creek Road Restoration Project (Project), located in Sonoma County. The latitude and longitude is approximately 38° 33' 32.62"N and 122° 54' 44.95"W. The proposed Project will cause permanent impacts to 0.059 acres of stream bed and bank within the Warm Springs Hydrologic Unit Subarea No. 114.24, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The Project involves decommissioning approximately 8,000 feet of former logging/ranch roads, by use of out sloping, removal of culverts, removal of berms, installation of rolling and critical dips, installation of rock fords and a bridge to replace culverts or eroding stream crossings, installation of large woody debris in stream channels to improve habitat and complexity, use of erosion control best management practices (BMPs), and seeding and planting of native vegetation. The decommissioned roads will not be used for vehicle traffic, but may be used for ATV access for administration of the property. The Project will reduce erosion and sediment delivery to Felta and Salt Creeks, and their tributaries. These creeks are tributary to Mill Creek, and the Russian River. Five road creek crossings will be improved to reduce sediment delivery, improve fish passage, and reduce risk of failure. Work will be done during the dry period, with the specific time frame being set by other resource agencies, such as NOAA Fisheries and California Department of Fish and game.

Compensatory mitigation is not necessary, as the Project should improve water quality over current conditions.

The Project has applied for a California Department of Fish and Game 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement, Notification Number 1600-2008-0381.

Applicant has applied for a United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit(s), File Number 2007-400624N. Army Corps of Engineers have requested a Biological Opinion from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Red-legged Frogs.

The California Department of Fish and Game, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, will file a Notice of Exemption, with the Office of Planning and Research, (State Clearinghouse), 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 to be conducted only 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 Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.