

April 24, 2009

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

Roseland Elementary School-Burbank Avenue
WDID No. 1B08017WNSO

Sonoma County

On January 31, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. George Molnar, of LSA Associates, Inc., on behalf of the Roseland Elementary School District (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities associated with construction of a new elementary school located at 1683 Burbank Avenue in the City of Santa Rosa, latitude 38.42303°N, 123.735403 °W, Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impact to approximately 0.036 acres of waters of the State associated with Roseland Creek in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.21, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The proposed project entails the construction of the Burbank Avenue Elementary School within the City of Santa Rosa Burbank Avenue Annexation Area. The project will include a classroom building, parking lot, office, library, multi-use building, paved play area, play fields, and associated access roads, such as a drop-off loop encircling the parking lot and an emergency vehicle access road surrounding the classrooms. A pedestrian/bicycle bridge across Roseland Creek will provide access from the school facilities to the future Roseland School District offices to be constructed on the south side of the creek (which will require a separate or amended 401 Certification).

The Site is a rectangular property of approximately 11.4 acres bordered on the east by Burbank Avenue, and on the north, west, and south by residential development. Roseland Creek passes through the southeast portion of the site. The northern half of the site (where the development will largely occur) is a former walnut orchard. The southern portion of the site, north of Roseland Creek is ruderal grassland with scattered trees.

The entire site is uplands except for Roseland Creek, based on a wetland determination verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There are no other isolated or non-isolated wetland features on the site. The project will impact Roseland Creek in three locations where the following work will occur: (1) construction of a stormwater treatment bioswales with outfall; (2) construction of a storm drain outfall channel with associated creek restoration work; and (3) lengthening of a box culvert at the Burbank Avenue crossing.

Compensatory mitigation consists of the purchase of 8.4 acres of California Tiger Salamander mitigation credits; construction of a side channel (to mitigate for impacted stream channel) that will be vegetated with native vegetation and which shall receive treated storm water runoff; preservation and enhancement of existing riparian areas of Roseland Creek (EIR mitigation measure BIO-MM-4) that will be used as an "outdoor classroom"; and, additional revegetation and restoration of disturbed areas of Roseland Creek. Revegetation of impacted areas will be with species native to the area. Species to be planted are listed on the *Roseland School Burbank Avenue Project Site*

Revegetation Plan, (Revised January 2009), by LSA Associates, Inc. Planted vegetation will be monitored for at least five years, with yearly reports submitted to the Regional Water Board. Revegetation shall have an 85% survival rate at the end of five years. Plants shall be irrigated as necessary for survival and establishment. Invasive plant species and weeds within the revegetation/restoration area will be removed.

Post-construction stormwater treatment features will be incorporated to treat the increase in stormwater runoff as well as pollutants created by the increase in impervious surface and other activities associated with development and future use of the site. Stormwater will also be detained in a series of underground detention chambers to lower the peak storm water flow exiting the property during storm events, before this stormwater is treated and discharged to Roseland Creek. Landscape-based treatments such as bioswales, and mechanical filtration devices, will treat stormwater before it is discharged to Roseland Creek. The future phase of the project south of Roseland Creek will also be required to include equivalent stormwater treatment/detention features.

Contaminated soils/sediment within Roseland Creek in the area of the box culvert extension and work area will be properly characterized and disposed of, as detailed in the submitted *Soils Management Plan*.

The City of Santa Rosa, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has prepared and filed an Environmental Impact Report, with the Office of Planning and Research, (State Clearinghouse No. 2006092045, October 2006), pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.

Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game (No. 1600-2008-0183-3) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (File No. 29470N), for their respective permits.

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.