

June 11, 2009

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

Odd Fellows Recreation Club, Lower Russian River
Riparian Restoration/Bank Stabilization Project
WDID No. 1B09035WNSO

Sonoma County

On March 18, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Evan Engber of Bioengineering Associates, on behalf of Odd Fellows Recreation Club (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities associated with a riparian restoration/bank stabilization project on the southern bank of the Russian River. The project involves restoration and stabilization at four separate sites with numerous sub-areas, to install bioengineered bank stabilization and restoration of the riparian area. The project uses logs and boulders for fish habitat structures, gravel and native soil for areas to be built up/reinforced, and extensive use of native willows and other trees and plants for reinforcement and construction of stabilization structures. The project is located at the Odd Fellows Recreation Center, 13500 Riverside Drive, near the Town of Guerneville, latitude 38.505612°N, longitude 122.947099°W, Sonoma County. The project permanently impacts approximately 0.76 acres of riverbank and has a total linear impact of approximately 1,150 linear feet of waters of the State associated with the Russian River in the Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.11, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The purpose of the project is to restore native vegetation and arrest the continuing erosion on five distinct riparian sites that total 1,150 linear feet within a 2,115 length of riverbank, and to install and enhance fish habitat structures. At several of the areas of bank failure, roads, buildings, infrastructure, and potential mass failure of the banks and increased sediment delivery, are at risk.

The Applicant proposes to use numerous bioengineering techniques to restore the lost riparian vegetation in ways that will resist further loss of bank material from all causes. These techniques include live willow siltation baffles, live willow and coir brushlayer lifts, live willow brush mattresses, deep planted live willow clusters and live woven willow walls, all of which have been well-proven in other projects on the Russian River. Silt fences and silt curtains will be used to avoid delivery of sediment to the Russian River during construction. Gravel to be used within the coir brushlayer lifts will be skimmed from an adjacent gravel bar owned by the Applicant, to a maximum of 6 inches deep and 100 feet wide by 1,000 feet long. Large rock necessary for the project will be from a local quarry. Large and small excavators, whose fittings are greased with food grade hydraulic grease, will be used. On-site machinery and vehicles will be run on biodiesel fuel where possible. Dust control will be done by watering down roads and construction areas. All operations, including harvesting of local willow stems, will be done to respect all wildlife and to cause the minimum of disruption possible to humans and wildlife alike.

All plantings shall be managed for a minimum of 5 consecutive years immediately following planting. The applicant shall attain a minimum of 85% survival of thriving trees and other vegetation planted after 5 years. Additionally, the bioengineered structures shall be monitored for their function. All work done shall be monitored and reported on yearly for a minimum of five years, or until deemed successful.

Compensatory mitigation is not required as the project itself consists of streambank riparian restoration and fish habitat restoration.

The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, submitted a Mitigated Negative Declaration to the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2009032030) on March 24, 2009, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.

Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit.

The Odd Fellows Recreation Club, Lower Russian River Riparian Restoration/Bank Stabilization Project is scheduled to begin in June 2009, and end before October 15, 2009. 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. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." Due to the nature of emergency associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period; ending July 2, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.