

July 9, 2009

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

City of Santa Rosa
Hearn Avenue Widening Phase 2
WDID No. 1B09027WNSO

Sonoma County

On March 3, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. George Molnar of LSA Associates, on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for the Hearn Avenue Widening Phase 2 (Project), located in Sonoma County. The Project is located at Hearn Avenue, between Whitewood Drive and Victoria Drive, in the City of Santa Rosa, latitude 38.414408° N and longitude 122.721323° W. The Project involves extending the existing box culvert, including wing walls, in order to widen Hearn Avenue. The proposed Project will cause temporary and permanent impacts to approximately 0.09 acres of waters of the State associated with Colgan Creek in the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.22, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The purpose of the project is to improve traffic circulation along the eastern Hearn Avenue corridor with changes along an approximately 620 foot long segment of Hearn Avenue. This application applies to the widening of an approximately 150 foot stretch of Hearn Avenue. The remainder of the project area will consist primarily of roadway resurfacing, pavement reconstruction, and striping.

The Applicant proposes to temporarily divert the flow of Colgan Creek by use of a pump and cofferdam, installed in the channel north of Hearn Avenue, upstream of the new culvert, in order to dewater the work area during construction. A cofferdam will also be installed south of Hearn Avenue at the southern limit of the work area. Water will be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Approximately 47 feet of box culvert will be constructed adjoining the south side of the existing structure. New wing walls will be constructed, resulting in a total extension of approximately 55 feet. Rip Rap will also be installed on the re-graded channel slopes adjacent to the new culvert up to the top of the bank. Approximately 70 cubic yards of fill and 180 square yards of rip rap will be required for construction and bank stabilization.

Ground disturbance will be limited to the minimum necessary and all disturbed ground will be treated with hydro-mulching, seeding or erosion control blankets. Silt fences, silt curtains and straw bales will be used to avoid delivery of sediment into sensitive areas during construction. Any pump used will be screened with wire mesh openings not larger than 5 millimeters. All operations, including harvesting of local willow stems, will be done with respect to all wildlife and to cause the minimum of disruption necessary. All erosion control measures will be installed and in place by October 15 and maintained thereafter by the contractor. Additionally, all required Best Management Practices

(BMPs) shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.

Compensatory mitigation will consist of riparian habitat improvements. Non-native species, such as Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), will be cleared and red willow poles, harvested from the vicinity, will be planted at four foot centers on the slopes adjacent to the new culvert up to the existing tree line under the supervision of a qualified restoration specialist or botanist. The total area planted is to be no less than 0.18 acres. Upper riparian shade trees will also be planted in the vicinity. The Applicant will be responsible for all maintenance of the trees and will conduct weed eradication and trash removal on a scheduled basis.

All plantings shall be irrigated and managed for a minimum of 5 consecutive years immediately following planting. Planted vegetation shall have at least an 85% survival rate of thriving planted species at the end of five years. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board for five years, and shall include photos of the revegetated areas, and include survival rates and a narrative summary of the status of the revegetation/mitigation effort. Continued maintenance of these facilities shall be the responsibility of the Applicant.

The City of Santa Rosa Department of Public Works, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, submitted a Notice of Exemption to the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2008108388) on October 27, 2008, 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 (File No. 400818N), issued on November 15, 2007.

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.

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California Environmental Protection Agency

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