

July 16, 2009

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

Newman Development Group of Cotati
State Route 116 Reconstruction and Widening Project
WDID No. 1B09041WNSO

Sonoma County

On April 2, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Hope Kingma of Monk and Associates, on behalf of Newman Development Group of Cotati (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for the State Route 116 Reconstruction and Widening Project (Project), located in Sonoma County. The Project is located at State Route 116, between Redwood Drive and Alder Avenue, in the City of Cotati, latitude 38.33194° N and longitude 122.71792° W. The Project involves widening State Route 116 (Gravenstein Highway) from a two lane highway to a four lane divided facility with left turn lanes. The proposed Project will cause temporary and permanent impacts to approximately 0.074 acres of waters of the State associated with seasonal wetlands in the Laguna Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.21, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The purpose of the Project is to comply with the recommendations of the South Sonoma Business Park Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and mitigate for traffic impacts caused by the proposed Cotati Commons mixed use development, to the north. According to the FEIR, State Route 116 must be widened between Alder Avenue and Redwood Drive.

The Applicant proposes to extend the State Route 116 roadway 5 to 10 feet north of the existing footprint, filling seasonal wetlands adjacent to the highway. The proposed project would extend the right turn lane at Redwood Drive and widen the road from Redwood Drive west to Alder Avenue, where it would then transition back to two lanes between Alder Avenue and Locust Avenue. New culverts would be installed under driveways between the western project terminus and Alder Avenue, and a new drainage swale would be constructed in this area, paralleling the north side of State Route 116. Drainage immediately west of the Highway 101 southbound off-ramp, on the north side of State Route 116, would be regraded to accommodate modification of the right turn lane at Redwood Drive.

As onsite post-construction stormwater treatment is not practicable, the applicant has proposed an off-set storm water treatment program at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. The Applicant is developing a plan for the Sonoma County Fairgrounds location to comply with the requirements for off-set programs set forth by the Regional Water Board.

The Applicant will develop and implement an erosion and sediment control plan, addressing both short and long term erosion and sedimentation resulting from the proposed project and submit the plan to the Regional Water Board. Ground disturbance

will be limited to the minimum necessary and all disturbed ground will be restored using a native seed mix. 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 (BMP) shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.

Compensatory mitigation will consist of the purchase of 0.2 acres of wetland credits and 0.2 acres of Sebastopol meadowfoam preservation/California Tiger Salamander preservation combined credits.

The City of Cotati, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, submitted a Notice of Determination to the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 200052045) on November 21, 2006, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Applicant obtained a Biological Opinion from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (File No. 1-1-07-F-0082) on April 13, 2007, which determined the project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of California Tiger Salamanders or Sebastopol meadowfoam.

Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit (File No. 279140N), issued on January 26, 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. 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.