

October 22, 2009

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

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Spillway Approach Channel Erosion Repair at Warm Springs Dam
WDID No. 1B09093WNSO
Sonoma County

On August 11, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Tessa Bernhardt, on behalf of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for the Spillway Approach Channel Erosion Repair at Warm Springs Dam Project (Project), located in Sonoma County. The Project is located at the emergency spillway section of Warm Springs Dam, near 3333 Skaggs Springs Road, Geyserville, CA, latitude 38.72486° N and longitude 123.01014° W. The Project involves repairing erosion damage suffered by the dam's emergency spillway approach channel embankment. Damage, including the displacement of channel stone revetment (riprap) and erosion rills, has occurred over time due to wind generated waves and fluctuation of the reservoir pool. Repairing this eroded channel will also help stabilize the access road to the spillway. The proposed Project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 0.63 acres of waters of the State associated with banks of Warm Springs Dam in the Warm Springs Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.24, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The purpose of the project is to repair and replace revetment within the emergency spillway approach channel within an area of approximately 125 linear feet by 200 linear feet (0.63 acres) with geotextile material, a 6 inch thick layer of quarry stone bedding, and topped with a layer of 18 inch diameter graded stone riprap. The area of the project has already been impacted by the dam construction and this is essentially a maintenance/repair activity.

The Applicant proposes to perform work when reservoir pool is at an elevation below the work area; work will not be done within the wetted portion of the reservoir. Riprap will be washed prior to placement to prevent stormwater runoff impacts. Native trees to the north and south of the worksite will not be disturbed. All fueling and maintenance activities to equipment will be done outside of the reservoir. Work will be done during the dry season.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, as lead National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) issued a memorandum, September 18, 2009, stating that "This project falls under the provisions of 33 C.F.R Section 230.9 (b) Corps of Engineers – Procedures for Implementing NEPA which states activities at completed Corps projects that carry out the authorized project purpose, such a routine operation and maintenance, general administration, equipment purchases, custodial actions, erosion control, painting, repair, rehabilitation, replacement of existing structures and facilities such as buildings, roads, levees, groins and utilities, and installation of new building utilities, or roadways in developed areas, when considered individually and cumulatively do not have significant

effects on the quality of the human environment, and categorically excluded from NEPA documentation. It has been determined that this activity is erosion control and 33 C.F.R. Section 230.9 (b) applies.” This procedure is functionally equivalent to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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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