March 10, 2010

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

City of Santa Rosa
Delta Pond Diffuser Project
WDID No. 1B09108WNSO
Sonoma County

On September 14, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Roger D. Harris of LSA Associates Inc., on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for the Delta Pond Diffuser Project (Project), located in Sonoma County. The Project is located at Santa Rosa Creek approximately 420 feet upstream from the confluence with the Laguna de Santa Rosa, near Delta Pond, Santa Rosa, CA, latitude 38.450104° N and longitude 122.834509° W. The Project involves replacing an existing discharge outfall with a less environmentally impacting multi-port diffuser. The proposed Project will cause temporary impacts to approximately 175 linear feet, 1.47 acres, and permanent impacts to approximately 35 linear feet, 0.09 acres, of waters of the State associated with Santa Rosa Creek in the Laguna Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.21, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The purpose of the Project is to provide disposal of recycled water generated by the Subregional System in a reliable manner that is compliant with regulatory requirements. The Project will construct a 36-foot eight-inch long, 48-inch diameter multi-port diffuser consisting of eleven equally spaced, 24-inch nominal-diameter, variable stiffness "duckbill" style elastomeric check valves, with 15-degree integral rubber elbows on the existing 48-inch diameter Delta Pond outfall pipe as part of the City of Santa Rosa Discharge Compliance Project. The new diffuser will provide additional initial mixing and reduce the size of the mixing zone.

The Applicant proposes to access the work site from Willowside Road along an existing access road. The proposed Project will temporarily dewater an approximately 2,000 square foot work site by constructing a cofferdam. An approximately 20 foot wide bypass channel will remain flowing during the Project. A crane, operated from the top of bank, will place Z-type steel sheets and install them with a vibratory hammer. Standing water inside the temporary cofferdam will be pumped out and distributed to upland areas as dust control, in such a way as to prevent any of the water from returning to the channel, and/or disposed of properly. Any pump used will be screened with wire mesh openings as per NOAA Marine Fisheries Services criteria for protection of juvenile salmonids. During the dewatering process, an approved, qualified biologist will be on hand to capture and relocate any native fish trapped inside the cofferdam. The dewatered channel bed and embankment will be excavated around the existing 48-inch corrugated metal outfall pipe, which will be removed along with approximately one section of the existing reinforced concrete pipe. Topsoil will be removed first, stored separately and replaced after the subsoil has been returned to the excavated areas. Approximately 1,000 cubic yards of excavated material will disposed of at the City of Santa Rosa's West College disposal site, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. A geotextile-wrapped building pad will be placed in the excavated trench

and the diffuser pipe will be installed on top of it. The proposed Project will pour a concrete casing around the diffuser pipe, back fill crushed aggregate over it and armor the channel bed and adjacent embankment with crushed aggregate. The concrete will be allowed to cure completely before the cofferdam is removed. After installation of the multi-port diffuser, it will be attached to the existing reinforced concrete pipe and a 48-inch diameter manhole will be installed between them to allow for future maintenance. Water will then be pumped from the creek into the cofferdam and the Z-type sheets will be removed by a land-based crane. Turbidity may be monitored downstream of the cofferdam during installation and removal to ensure compliance with water quality criteria. The project will require the removal of one approximately 30-foot tall arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepsis*) and herbaceous vegetation within the work site.

Compensatory mitigation will consist of riparian habitat restoration as proposed in *Draft Concept Restoration Plan, City of Santa Rosa, Discharge Compliance Project, Delta Pond Diffuser – Discharge Outfall Replacement*, prepared by Roger D. Harris, LSA Associates, Inc., dated November 19, 2009. The existing woody riparian corridor will be extended and augmented; improving habitat values for native fish and other wildlife, and native herbaceous vegetation will be planted above the top of bank. Willows will also be planted in and around the newly installed rock. The restoration will be designed to reflect existing vegetation in the vicinity of the project site. Approximately 425 linear feet of creek bank and 2.30 acres of riparian corridor will be restored, enhanced, and preserved. The project should reduce erosion and the delivery of sediment, as well as increasing shade and delivery of leafy material at the project location.

All plantings shall be irrigated and managed for a minimum of 5 consecutive years immediately following planting. Planted trees shall have at least a 50% survival rate of thriving planted species at the end of five years, and other restoration areas will have an areal herbaceous cover of no less than 90%. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board for five years, and shall include photos of the revegetated areas, 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 property owner.

Non-compensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control and for operation of heavy equipment near a channel. Ground disturbance will be limited to the minimum necessary and all disturbed ground will be treated with hydro-mulching, seeding or other erosion control measures. 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 BMPs shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.

The City of Santa Rosa, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report on December 12, 2008, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification No. 1600-2009-0331-03).

The Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit (File No. 2009-002449N), issued on September 11, 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.

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