

April 1, 2010

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

Cloverdale Regional Park Phase 3 and  
FEMA Storm Damage Repair Project  
WDID No. 1B10005WNSO

Sonoma County

On January 10, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Michelle Julene, of Sonoma County Regional Parks (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with repairing storm damage from the 2005-2006 storms along the Russian River, and implementation of Phase 3 development of Cloverdale River Park including recreation and access improvements, restoration of natural riparian habitat, and stabilization of the river banks using bioengineering techniques, along approximately 1,200 feet of river side channel and riparian habitat. Project is located along the west fork of the Russian River, just upstream and adjacent with its confluence with Big Sulphur Creek, between Crocker Road and McCray Road, on the northeast side of the City of Cloverdale, latitude 38.822959°N, and longitude 123.01008 °W, in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 1.65 acres, 1,200 linear feet, of bed and bank of a side channel to the Russian River, Geyserville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.25, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The project includes restoration of 1,200 feet of side channel and riparian and oak woodland habitat. Restoration activities (including bank stabilization and the planting of native riparian species) will enhance the project area to serve as riparian habitat and protect water quality from future impacts of bank erosion.

Specific components of the project include:

- Construction of an ADA accessible river access ramp and boat portage.
- Construction of a small compacted gravel parking area for three vehicles.
- Development of eight picnic sites with tables and barbeques that can be removed during high water. Two of the sites will be paved to provide ADA access.
- Construction of 190 feet of paths.
- Installation of two interpretive panels providing information on the riparian and riverine ecosystem, and general information about the Russian River and water safety tips will be provided for environmental education.
- Removal of portions of an existing eroded levee that isolates the Russian River from its floodplain.
- Restoration of 1,200 feet of eroded riverbank slopes through importation of clean fill, regarding, seeding and planting.
- Placement of bioengineering (live siltation baffles and willow planted rock structures (6 total)), to protect the restored bank, collect sediment and reform sand bars at the toe of the restored riverbank.

- Stabilization of the bank and erosion control through use of coir/coconut fiber erosion blankets, willow mattresses, willow sprigging and cottonwood poles.
- Planting over 300 native tree and shrubs to improve habitat diversity, provide ground cover and food for insects, and shade to cool water temperatures.
- Hydroseeding to stabilize approximately 90,000 square feet of disturbed areas.

All erosion control measures will be installed and in place by October 15 and maintained thereafter. At a minimum, the following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans as appropriate in order to reduce and control soil erosion: work in and around waterways will be conducted during the dry season; installation of construction barrier fencing to preclude equipment entry into sensitive areas; straw wattles, straw bales, erosion control matting, and/or seeding of disturbed soil. Additionally, all required BMPs shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.

Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, completed an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed it with the State Clearinghouse, (SCH No. 2009032025) on May 5, 2009, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

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

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

Project is scheduled to start August 1, 2010, and end by October 31, 2010. In-stream work should be completed by October 15, or by date determined by resource agencies.

Regional Water Board staff are 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, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.