

July 8, 2010

Battle Ranch Culvert Replacement Project
WDID No. 1B09117WNSO
Sonoma County

On September 30, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Kevin Doble, of Doble Thomas & Associates, on behalf of Mr. A. George Battle (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with the Battle Ranch Culvert Installation (Project). Project is located , near 12000 Chalk Hill Road, Healdsburg, latitude 38.594056°N, and longitude 122.769572°W, in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 0.02 acres, of bed and bank of an unnamed creek, tributary to Brooks Creek, Geyserville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.25, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The purpose of the project is to install a bottomless arch culvert over the creek to facilitate agricultural traffic passage. The arch culvert will be approximately 35 feet long, four feet high and eight feet wide. The culvert will be constructed of an arch of metal pipe, attached to two concrete footings that run parallel to the streambank. The creekbed will be of natural materials replaced from the immediate area. There will be a minimum application of rip-rap rock slope protection at the inlet and outlet of the new culvert. The proposed arch culvert replaces a ford crossing and is expected to reduce erosion and sediment delivery, and improve habitat.

Additionally, an existing shotgun culvert will be replaced with a properly installed culvert. The current shotgun culvert has eroded the downstream outlet area, and an accumulation of metal debris has been added to the eroded area by previous owners as an attempt to mitigate the erosion; however, erosion has continued. The replacement culvert will be of the proper size, will be installed at the correct slope, and will have it's outlet at-grade. The eroded area will be re-graded and will be planted with native vegetation and protected with erosion control materials. This part of the project will reduce amount of sediment delivered, and will improve the watercourse and surrounding area by planting of native vegetation.

Mitigation will be through the planting of native trees, including Live Oaks and Buckeye Trees, through removal of debris within the shotgun culvert area, and removal of invasive broom plants. Disturbed areas of soil will be protected from erosion by application of a native grass/vegetation seed mix and appropriate erosion control BMPs. Plantings will be irrigated as necessary until established, and monitored for five years.

Work will be done during the dry season, before October 15. If flowing water is encountered during work, it will be made to bypass the work area by use of a coffer dam and bypass pipe. Proper precautions shall be taken to properly move any fish or animals from the work area, per California Department of Fish and Game stream alteration agreement.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, will file Categorical Exemption, 15333 Small Habitat Restoration Projects with the State Clearing House, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, File No 1600-2009-0357-R3.

The Applicant has to the US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, File No. 2010-00018N.

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.

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