

August 9, 2010

Laguna de Santa Rosa Trails Plan Project, Phase 1  
WDID No. 1B07080WNSO  
Sonoma County

On May 31, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Jim Sherar, of Garcia and Associates, on behalf of Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (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 Laguna de Santa Rosa Trails Plan, Phase 1 (Project). Project is located between Highway 12 and Occidental Road, on the east side of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, between latitude 38.40464°N, and longitude 122.81204°W on the south end, to latitude 38.42293°N, and longitude 122.82157°W on the north end, in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 0.25 acres, and approximately 0.16 acres of temporary impact to seasonal wetlands within the Laguna de Santa Rosa Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.21, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The purpose of the project is to construct a trail system along a portion of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Pedestrian and multi-use trails will be installed, along with parking lots, interpretive elements, and picnic areas. The pedestrian trails will be constructed by light grading and vegetation clearing. Approximately 1.6 miles of pedestrian trails will be constructed and will be four to six feet wide. Multi-use trails will be constructed from Occidental road south to Highway 12. There will be 1.8 miles of multi-use trails constructed with crushed fines or gravel mixed with a stabilizer and placed over erosion control fabric. The Multi-use trails are to be six to eight feet wide, with a one foot shoulder on each side. Work will be done during the dry season.

Mitigation will be through the purchase of 0.25 acres of seasonal wetland credits, and 1.24 acres of California tiger salamander habitat credits. Temporary impacts will be mitigated by revegetation of disturbed areas with native species and stabilization of the sites with erosion control techniques. If mitigation areas are not restored within five years, then contingency measures shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board. Annual monitoring reports shall be submitted before October 31 of each year.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and filed it's Notice of Determination with the with the State Clearing House (SCH No. 2006082076) on December 8, 2006, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The California Department of Fish and Game has determined that the project does not require a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The Applicant has received an US Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, Nationwide Permit 42 Recreational Facilities, on July 19, 2010, File No. 2006-400170N.

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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