

August 12, 2010

Newman Development of Cotati State Route 116 Widening Project
WDID No. 1B09041WNSO
Sonoma County

On April 2, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Hope Kingma, of Monk & Associates, Inc., on behalf of Mr. George Akel, Newman Development Group of Cotati, LLC (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 Newman Development of Cotati State Route 116 Widening (Project). Project is located on State Route 116, also known as Gravenstein Highway, in Cotati, between Alder avenue east to Redwood Drive, (latitude 38.33225°N, longitude 122.72070°W and latitude 38.33147°N, longitude 122.71497°W, respectively) , in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 0.074 acres of season wetland, within the Laguna de Santa Rosa Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.21, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The project consists of the widening of State Route 116, also known as Gravenstein Highway, between Alder Avenue and Redwood Drive, from a two lane highway to a four lane divided facility with left turn lanes. The roadway will be extended 5 to 10 feet beyond the existing footprint and permanently impact approximately 0.074 acres of wetlands adjacent to the highway. New culverts would be installed under driveways between the western project terminus and Alder Avenue, and a drainage swale would be installed paralleling the north side of State Route 116, along this area. Drainage immediately west of the Highway 101 southbound off-ramp, on the north side of State Route 116, would be regraded to accommodate the extension of the right turn lane at Redwood Drive. The work extends approximately 0.5 mile.

Compensatory mitigation includes purchase of 0.2 acres of wetland mitigation at an approved wetland mitigation bank. California tiger salamander and rare plant credits will also be purchased from an approved mitigation/conservation bank and will comply with US. Fish and Wildlife Service requirements.

The project will also include an off-site post-construction stormwater treatment project at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds facility, which will treat an equivalent amount of stormwater. This has been agreed to because stormwater treatment at the project site would result in additional impacts to wetlands, and California tiger salamander, and endangered plant habitat. The LID techniques are designed to attenuate stormwater runoff, infiltrate stormwater on-site, and treat stormwater to remove contaminants from parking lots, roads, and landscaping areas.

The City of Cotati, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has filed a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Notice of Determination with the State Clearing House, (State Clearinghouse No. 20005245), on November 21, 2006, 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 received a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects, File No. 2003-279140N, from the US Army Corps of Engineers, on January 26, 2009.

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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