

August 12, 2010

Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa Project
WDID No. 1B10030WNSO
Sonoma County

On April 1, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Geoff Monk, of CalifoMonk & Associates, Inc., on behalf of Mr. Tom Minard, Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa (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 Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa Project (Project). Project is located, at 50 Mark West Strings Road, latitude 39.495191°N, longitude 122.75155°W, in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 582 linear feet of linear watercourse and 0.364 acres of season wetland, within the Santa Rosa Creek Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.22, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

Sutter Medical currently operates an acute care hospital in Santa Rosa, located on Chanate Road. Sutter Medical has determined that replacement of the existing hospital on Chanate Road is needed to achieve long-range compliance with the Hospital Seismic Safety Acts (SB1953 and 1661). Accordingly, Sutter Medical is proposing to build a new hospital to replace the existing hospital on Chanate Road.

The Project site is approximately 53 acres in size, and shares some parcels and uses with the existing Wells Fargo Center for the Arts. The project will be constructed over approximately three years, 2010-2013. Phased construction includes site preparation and Medical Center construction. The Medical Center will include an approximately 74,000 square foot building footprint, with a total of approximately 126,000 square feet of floor area. Also proposed is a Medical Office Building, Physicians Medical Center, Helistop, and on-site surface parking for a total of 1,941 spaces. Mark West Springs and Highway 101 northbound off ramp will also be widened/improved.

Compensatory mitigation includes purchase of wetland mitigation at a 2:1 ratio from an approved wetland mitigation bank. Additionally, in-kind on-site mitigation for linear features and linear wetlands will be done at a 2:1 ratio. Mitigation areas will be monitored for function and value, will have performance criteria, and will require monitoring and annual reporting for at least five years, or until criteria have been met. Mitigation areas will be protected in perpetuity by a legal instrument, such as a deed restriction.

The project will also include use of post-construction stormwater treatment features employing low impact development (LID) techniques. Techniques will include bioretention planters, vegetated swales, and detention basins. The LID techniques are designed to attenuate stormwater runoff to be the same or less than pre-construction amount, infiltrate stormwater on-site, and treat stormwater to remove contaminants from parking lots, roads, and landscaping areas.

The County of Sonoma Permit and Resource Management Department, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has filed a Final EIR with the State Clearing House, (State Clearinghouse No. 2008022012), on May 18, 2010, pursuant to CEQA guidelines. It is expected that the Notice of Determination will be filed near the end of August 2010.

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

The Applicant has applied to the US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, File No. 2010-29432N.

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.