

October 12, 2010

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**  
Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works  
Carriage Lane Drainage Improvements  
WDID No. 1B10063WNSO

Sonoma County

On June 3, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Crystal Acker, on behalf of Mr. Levi Gurule of Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works (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 Carriage Lane Drainage Improvement (project). Project is located in the unincorporated Wikiup area, Northwest of the City of Santa Rosa, latitude 38.5114°N, and longitude 122.7523°W, in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 0.009 acres, of bed and bank of an unnamed tributary to Mark West Creek, Mark West Creek Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.23, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace an existing inlet riser on a storm drain culvert with a larger inlet/trash rack to decrease debris blockage and prevent flooding down Carriage Lane. The inlet has had a history of clogging with debris, resulting in water bypassing the culvert pipe and flooding out onto Carriage Lane and into adjacent residences. The new inlet structure/catch basin will consist of a 14 foot (ft) wide and 18 ft long concrete box with an angled trash rack. The existing 36-inch reinforced concrete pipe culvert will not be replaced, but may be trimmed to fit the new catch basin. The catch basin wing walls will be set to match the ground elevation at the upstream end of the basin and will be excavated into the bank slopes to allow installation of a cut-off wall. The headwall will be about 1 ft higher than the curb of the roadway. A safety rail will be installed to prevent pedestrians from falling into the catch basin. The rail will be removable to allow maintenance access to the trash rack.

Rock slope protection (rip-rap) will be placed (approximately 11 cubic yards) approximately 3 linear feet upstream into an excavated keyway at the interface between the creek and the catch basin where the existing concrete spillway is located (the spillway will be removed). If, during construction, it is determined that there is not enough linear space to fit in the rock slope protection without disturbing the natural channel and/or adjacent trees upstream, the concrete box will be poured with an angled bottom so the inlet matches the elevation upstream.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project; the proposed inlet structure has been designed to stay within the existing disturbed basin. Although the structure itself will be larger, there will be no changes to the creek as a functional stream system and no net loss of natural channel.

All direct impacts to undisturbed channel will be avoided by the proposed project. Use of erosion control best management practices (BMPs) will be employed. Disturbed areas of soil will be protected from erosion by appropriate erosion control BMPs.

The project has received a Nationwide Permit 3 [Maintenance] from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project pursuant to Clean Water Act section 404. The project has received a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game, on August 26, 2010, Notification Number 1600-2010-0207-R3.

The project is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b). The project meets the exemption criteria under title 14, California Code of Regulations, Class 1, Section 15301 [Maintenance and repair of existing public infrastructure]. The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15062 after issuance of the 401 Certification order.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed activities including maps and detailed drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file area available for public review.

Due to the nature of the project and the limited timeframe for implementation, Regional Water Board staff anticipates that certification will be issued in less than 21 days from the posting of this notice in order to complete the project before the rainy season. 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. Pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858, if a project requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with the issuance of certification. 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.