

November 8, 2010

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

URJ Camp Newman Phase II-B1 Sediment Removal  
WDID No. 1B10108WNSO

Sonoma County

On October 7, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Laura Saunders, on behalf of Mr. Ruben Arquelevich of Union of Reformed Judaism (URJ), Camp Newman (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with the URJ Camp Newman Phase II-B1 Sediment Removal Project (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to approximately 500 linear feet of waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with an unnamed tributary to Porter Creek, Mark West Hydrologic Area 114.23, Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.00.

The proposed project is located at 4088 Porter Creek Road, Santa Rosa, California, within the property known as Camp Newman. The proposed project activity will occur on a reach of Porter Creek downstream of its confluence with an unnamed tributary; latitude 38.548056°N, longitude 122.669167°W, in Sonoma County.

URJ Camp Newman was issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order by the Regional Water Board on June 16, 2010, No. R1-2010-0058, related to an unauthorized release from a dam located on the Camp Newman property. The impoundment, owned and operated by the Discharger, had been emptied, which resulted in the discharge of impounded water and entrained fine sediments to an unnamed tributary and Porter Creek. The primary purpose of this project is to remediate and restore all affected areas as directed by the Cleanup and Abatement Order.

On September 2, 2010, Regional Water Board issued a Notice of Applicability for Phase I of this multi-phase project. Phase I included the removal of 33 cubic yards of sediment from the ephemeral unnamed tributary and above water in Porter Creek.

Phase II-B1 of the proposed project includes the removal of sediments in Porter Creek below water level on URJ Camp Newman Property. Access, removal, and disposal of the excavated sediment will be done in accordance with the project activities outlined in the 401 application packet.

The project involves the removal of instream sediment per Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2010-0058. Non-compensatory mitigation for this project includes re-vegetation of disturbed areas, as appropriate, and the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control, and for heavy equipment use near a waterway.

Compensatory mitigation is required for loss of vegetation, and for impacts of sediment and sediment removal, as these are detrimental to water quality. The proposed project will result in temporary impacts to 500 linear feet and 0.05 acre of streambed and channel. The minimum vegetation necessary for project completion will be removed, and all disturbed areas will be restored to pre-project conditions after project implementation. Additional restoration/revegetation may be required; an impact/restoration plan has been requested from applicant and will be evaluated before issuance of the certification. Success criteria will be an 85% survival rate of the plantings over a 5 year period with annual reporting submitted to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Use of erosion control best management practices will be employed.

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project pursuant to Clean Water Act section 404. The applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The project meets the exemption criteria under title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15308-Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. 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 this 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 design drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file are 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.