

March 4, 2011

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

City of Santa Rosa Oakmont Trunk Sewer Relocation Project  
WDID No. 1B11003WNSO

Sonoma County

On January 7, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Steve Brady, on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with the Oakmont Trunk Sewer Relocation Project (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to approximately 25 linear feet of waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with Annadel Creek within the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.22, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project is located between Melita Road and the Oakmont Treatment Plant in northeast Santa Rosa, latitude 36.972343°N, longitude 123.141943°W, in Sonoma County.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to relocate a section of the existing trunk sewer main trunk line (sewer line) upland, away from Santa Rosa Creek, due to stream bank erosion and maintenance factors. The relocated portion of the sewer line will extend from Oakmont Treatment Plant south crossing Annadel Creek and proceeding toward the toe of the slope below Channel Drive continuing along Channel Drive where it crosses several private parcels, utilizing an existing common driveway, before turning northeast to intersect an existing manhole immediately south of Santa Rosa Creek.

The proposed project includes three main components: 1) In the Oakmont Senior Living Property, access from Channel Drive, a gravel access/service road will be constructed atop the new sewer line to facilitate construction activity, future light duty maintenance equipment, and emergency response. 2) Installation of roughly 3000 feet of 15" to 18" poly vinyl chloride sewer line approximately 100 to 300 feet south of its present location. 3) Abandonment of approximately 2550 feet of 12" to 16" existing sewer line, which will involve removal of the manholes to roughly 4 feet below grade and filling the sewer line with a cement slurry mixture.

The proposed new sewer line will be installed across Annadel Creek at a depth of approximately 10 feet with 6-8 feet of cover over the pipe compacted to 90%. All natural/native rock will be replaced back to pre-construction condition and the stream banks and stream bed will be restored with contouring and planting of native plant species. Construction is planned for the dry season, when there is no flow in the creek. If there is flow in the creek, appropriate methods will be taken to bypass flow around the work area, and implement biological monitoring to minimize impacts to aquatic species. Construction is planned for approximately 4 months and is tentatively expected to start in July 2011.

Compensatory mitigation for the construction of the trunk sewer main and construction access/maintenance road will be planting to mitigate for the loss of riparian trees and/or shrubs at a 4 to 1 ratio with native species. 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. Non-compensatory mitigation for this project includes re-vegetation of disturbed areas, as appropriate, and the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and turbidity control, and cement containment, to ensure that materials do not enter the waterway.

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. On November 18, 2010, the City of Santa Rosa submitted a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2010082037) for the project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

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.

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.