

May 3, 2012

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

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit  
Colgan Creek Bridge Repair  
WDID No. 1B12039WNSO

Sonoma County

On April 3, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Pierre Bordenave, of J.L. Patterson Environmental on behalf of Mr. Bill Gamlen of Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART)(Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit Colgan Creek Bridge Repair (Project), for activities associated with removal and replacement of bridge piles and abutment repairs to the Colgan Creek Railroad Bridge. Project is located on Copeland Creek, approximately 450 feet north of Hearn Avenue, Santa Rosa, latitude 38.415771°N, longitude 122.721173°W, in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause temporary impacts to approximately 862 square feet/43 linear feet, and 6.5 square feet/15 linear feet of permanent impacts of creek bed and bank of Colgan Creek, Laguna Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.21, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The work proposed includes pile replacement under the existing railroad bridge. Two rows (bents) of existing wooden piles will be removed and replaced with one bent of steel piles. The existing wooden piles will be broken or cut below existing stream bed and the stream bed will be smoothed to existing grade by the addition of clean washed river gravel, if necessary. New steel piles will be driven into the streambed from a pile driver on the existing bridge. If there is any flow in the creek, flow will be bypassed around the construction areas with sandbag or other type of coffer dam. No turbid water will be allowed to escape the construction area, and will be pumped out and disposed of properly. Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be used to prevent any materials from entering the creek or any other waters of the state.

Compensatory mitigation includes removal of concrete debris from below and adjacent to the project, as well as a reduction of two bents of piles to one bent of piles having a smaller area of impact within the creek. SMART will also submit a Master Operations Plan, covering similar items as Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's Master Operation Plan, received by the Regional Water Board on October 26, 2011. This Master Operations Plan will be due six months following the date of issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification for the Project. Additionally, SMART will also submit station design packages implementing LID stormwater treatment features within the same six month period.

Additional work to be undertaken by SMART between Santa Rosa and Petaluma includes replacement of approximately 18 miles of track, replacement of three existing wood trestle bridges, re-capping and re-decking three existing wood trestle bridges, minor rehabilitation of two existing concrete bridges, and construction of an operation and maintenance yard. Some of this work is within the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's region (Region 1), and the rest is within the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's region (Region 2). Work is being permitted by

each Regional Water Quality Control Board respectively. Work within Region 1 that will directly impact waters of the state includes the bridge repair on the Colgan Creek Railroad Bridge. The balance of the work within Region 1 will require use of the proper BMPs to prevent impacts to waters of the state. Such BMPs would include erosion control practices to prevent erosion and delivery of sediment to waters of the state; use of tarps or other materials to prevent debris from bridge work reaching waters of the state; and defining/fencing of existing wetlands to separate them from work areas to prevent detrimental impacts. Additionally, there will be a contaminated materials handling and disposal plan for ties and treated timbers so that these materials will be handled and disposed of properly. Impacts to any waters other than the work at the Colgan Creek Railroad Bridge are not being proposed in this application and will not be covered by the forthcoming 401 Water Quality Certification.

Other work that will require additional and separate 401 Water Quality Certifications would include Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater treatment at future station platforms and any other future facilities, replacement of culverts, pedestrian trails, and other miscellaneous activities.

The Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has produced an Environmental Impact Report, and filed Notices of Determination with the State Clearinghouse, (SCH No. 20021122033) on 7/21/2006, 7/16/2008, and 11/16/2011, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The Applicant has an existing Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game, Agreement Number 1600-2011-0086-R3, dated 7/28/2011.

The Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit; file number SPN-2010-00441-N.

Project work is scheduled to begin in May 2012 and have a duration of 14 months.

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.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed Project activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The related documents are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.