

January 30, 2013

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

Sonoma County Regional Parks
Coastal Prairie Trail Project
WDID No. 1B12018WNSO

Sonoma County

On March 22, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Amanda McCarthy of WRA, Inc. on behalf of Mr. Mark Cleveland, of Sonoma County Regional Parks (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with construction of a Class I bicycle path along State Highway 1 to provide a safe travel way separate from the state highway.

Project is located on the west side of Highway 1, north of the town of Bodega Bay, between Ranch Road and Keefe Avenue, in Sonoma County. The northern end of the project is located at latitude 38.350163°N, and longitude 123.061069°W; the southern end of the project is located at latitude 38.33975°N, and longitude 123.051188°W. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 1.4 acres of seasonal wetland and creek, and temporary impact to 3.7 acres of season wetland and creek, within the Bodega Head Hydrologic Subarea No. 115.21, Bodega Hydrologic Area 115.00.

The Coastal Prairie Trail (CPT) will be a Class I bike path, as defined by the Caltrans Highway Design Manual. However, it will function as a multi-use trail in that it will provide equitable access for all modes of trail use, including bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian. The CPT will be approximately 1 mile in length and 12-feet wide. The trail width includes an 8-foot wide trail with rock aggregate shoulders along each side of the trail. Approximately 4,230 feet of the trail will be surfaced with resin-stabilized aggregate. The trail shoulders will be one-foot wide along one side of the trail and three-feet wide on the other side. The three-foot wide shoulder will accommodate equestrian use. The remaining sections of the main trail will consist of approximately 980 feet of boardwalk over wetlands within federal regulatory jurisdiction and a 120-foot long bridge over an unnamed tributary. The finished vertical profile of the cement-stabilized rock aggregate trail sections will be approximately 18-inches in depth. The profile will include a 6-inch sub-base of scarified and recompacted native soil, a 6 to 8-inch layer of compacted Class 2 aggregate base rock, and a 2 to 4-inch section of compacted cement-stabilized rock aggregate. The finished trail surface will be level with native ground. The finished trail grade will be less than 5 percent, rendering it compliant with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California Access Code title 24 standards. There will be a 140-foot long section of rock aggregate trail at the southern trail terminus. This trail section will connect the CPT to the existing unpaved footpath that extends from the Bodega Bay Community Center to the Nicholas Green Bell Tower.

Mitigation for impacts to waters of the state is designed to enhance existing areas that have become compromised by non-native vegetation. The plan includes planting of native trees and shrubs at a 3:1 ration based on trees removed from riparian areas with a dbh of 6

inches or greater; seeding of impacted areas with a mix of native grasses, forbs and flowers; enhancement of existing wetlands at a 3:1 ratio resulting in a minimum of 4.17 acres of wetland enhancement; removal of non-native/invasive species within wetland areas; removal of non-native and planting of native species within riparian areas. All mitigation will be monitored for a minimum of 3 years to achieve a 75 percent survivability of planted vegetation. Mitigation will be done within three separate areas.

All erosion control measures will be installed and in place by October 15 and maintained thereafter. At a minimum, the following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans as appropriate in order to reduce and control soil erosion: work in and around waterways will be conducted during the dry season; installation of construction barrier fencing to preclude equipment entry into sensitive areas; straw wattles, straw bales, erosion control matting, and/or seeding of disturbed soil. Additionally, all required BMPs shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.

Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed it with the State Clearinghouse, (SCH No. 2011042095) and recorded a Notice of Determination on June 23, 2011, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit, and to the California Coastal Commission for a Coastal Development Permit.

Project is scheduled to start August 2013, and take approximately 60-75 days to complete. In-stream work should be completed by October 15, or by date determined by resource agencies.

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.