

August 26, 2013

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

**Sonoma County – Frei Road Sediment Removal Project
WDID No. 1B13057WNSO**

Sonoma County

On May 9, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from 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 sediment removal along a roadside ditch / linear wetland in Sebastopol, Sonoma County. The site is located along the south side of Frei Road at latitude 38.442222°N, longitude 122.846944°W. The Sonoma County – Frei Road Sediment Removal Project (Project) will cause impacts to approximately 3,800 Square feet / 950 linear feet of linear wetland, a tributary to the Laguna De Santa Rosa, Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Middle Russian River Hydrologic Area, Laguna de Santa Rosa Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.21.

The Project includes public safety and water quality protection improvements to the sediment filled roadside ditch that is causing flooding of the roadway, creating a driving safety hazard during rain events. The sediment filled area is approximately 950 linear feet and approximately 280 cubic yards of sediment are proposed to be removed to restore the capacity of the linear wetland and alleviate roadway flooding. The proposed Project will be conducted in the late summer when surface flows are minimal or dry. The Applicant will use an excavator operating from the roadway to remove sediment and deepen the channel to a depth of approximately four feet by four feet wide. All sediment removed from the channel will be disposed of at the Sonoma County Central Landfill. Following sediment removal the Applicant will seed the disturbed area with locally collected native seed and line the area with erosion control fabric.

The Project is planned to take place the summer or fall of 2013. Work is proposed to last for approximately one day.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit (file no. 2013-00165N). Additionally, the applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The Regional Water Board, as a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) responsible agency, has determined that this Project is exempt from CEQA and anticipates filing a Notice of Exemption for the project pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

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 Project including maps and photos. 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.

The Project is scheduled to start as soon as possible to reduce the public safety and water quality impact issues of the roadway flooding due to sedimentation of the drainage. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency 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 issuance of certification." Due to the nature of public safety associated with this project, 401 Water Quality Certification will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.