

June 12, 2014

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

CSU Sonoma Copeland Creek Outfall Replacement
WDID 1B14024WNSO

Sonoma County

On March 19, 2014, the North Coast Regional water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Craig Dawson, Sonoma State University (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with the CSU Sonoma Copeland Creek Outfall Replacement Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with the Copeland Creek watershed in the Laguna hydrologic sub-area of the Middle Russian River (114.21). The project is located at 1801 East Cotati Avenue, at latitude 38.34276°N and longitude 122.266949°W. Temporary impacts to waters of the state would be approximately 0.01 acres and 50 linear feet. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. and state would be under 36 square feet.

The purpose of the project is to re-establish a blocked storm conveyance line. The project will involve trenching approximately 75 feet from the outfall location at the top of the bank of Copeland Creek back to a storm drain manhole, punching into the casing, and installing a new line. Some hand digging is expected to avoid impact to the roots of redwood trees in the area. The new outlet will discharge above the ordinary high water mark onto existing boulders that were placed as part of a previous restoration project. One boulder of approximately 2 cubic yards will be placed in Copeland Creek to provide additional armoring against erosion.

Compensatory mitigation is not required due to the low level of expected impact. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of a silt fence and straw wattles during construction, jute matting for the small bare area on the bank, and replanting. Best management practices will be employed to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The project is expected to commence by July 1, 2014, after stream flow ends and would last approximately 10 days.

The applicant has applied for Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The applicant has also applied for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The North Coast Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15302(c): Replacement or Reconstruction, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, 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. 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 Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.