

July 14, 2015

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

**Wohler Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project  
WDID 1B14118WNSO**

**Sonoma County**

On November 10, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Cindy Rader, 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 the Wohler Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project (project). The application was deemed complete on June 6, 2015. The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with the Lower Russian River (114.11). The project is located near 9675 Wohler Road, at latitude 38.5075°N and longitude 122.883611°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.02 acre or 53 linear feet. Temporary impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.42 acre or 466 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to seismically retrofit the existing bridge over the Russian River so that it does not collapse in a large earthquake. The project will involve drilling new cast-in-drilled hole piles around the existing footings, enlarging the footing caps, installing new piles at the abutments, replacing the bridge bearings, retrofitting the pier caps, and replacing the bridge deck. A temporary work pad may be required in the Russian River.

Mitigation for the temporary impacts to riparian vegetation will consist of revegetation around piers 2, 3, and 5. There will also be a riparian enhancement plan to offset permanent in-stream impacts around pier 4. The riparian enhancement will consist of the removal of approximately 3,000 square feet or 0.07 acre of invasive *Arundo donax* and planting the area with individual container plants and tree species. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

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.

On November 24, 2014, Sonoma County filed a Notice of Determination approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project (SCH 2014082054) for the project in order to comply with CEQA. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document, BMPs, and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment. The environmental document includes mitigation measures for the project's impacts to biological resources including special status plants, nesting birds, riparian vegetation, sensitive natural communities, and federally protected wetlands.

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 notice 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.