

October 7, 2015

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

**Jesse Property Lower Road Upgrades Project  
WDID 1B15098WNSO**

**Sonoma County**

On July 27, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Robert Jesse (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 Jesse Property Lower Road Upgrades Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with an unnamed tributary to Dutch Bill Creek in the Lower Russian River Hydrologic Area (114.11). The project is located at 3800 Highland Road in Occidental, at latitude 38.417°N and longitude 122.95°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 90 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to restore seasonal road access for fire fuel load management activities, and to stabilize an eroding crossing. The project entails grading and erosion control upgrades to an existing seasonal road approximately 600 feet in length (Lower Road) in an area where historical logging has occurred. There is a single crossing of a small, gravel-bedded ephemeral stream roughly 100 feet south of the seasonal road's intersection with the Jesse Property Main Access Road, and 150 feet upstream of the stream's confluence with Dutch Bill Creek. A former wet crossing of this stream has failed, and a gully has formed across the road fill.

Oversteepened banks at the downstream end of the existing gully will be excavated and laid back to a stable grade (2:1). To reduce the risk of culvert plugging during high flow events, a single-post trash rack will be installed 2 feet upstream of the culvert inlet, centered on the inlet. A critical dip (to prevent stream diversion in the event of culvert failure) will be constructed on the hingeline of the left approach. Work will occur during the summer/fall dry season, so no dewatering will take place.

An existing ditch ends at the top of the streambank in the vicinity of the crossing. The slope increases significantly at this point, and to protect the slope of the upper streambank from water discharged from the ditch, the bank is armored with 6-12" riprap. To allow for a 10' road width, the ditch will be reconstructed approximately 4 feet toward the inboard side of the road from its current location, and riprap will also be relocated. Reconstruction of the ditch will retain the characteristics of the existing feature to prevent the delivery of road-derived fine sediment to the stream.

Compensatory mitigation will not be required because this is a restoration project that will control erosion from an existing abandoned and unmaintained road. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The project is expected to occur between June 1, 2016, and October 15, 2016 and will take approximately 3 days.

The applicant has applied for coverage under a non-reporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Number 14, Linear Transportation Projects, pursuant to CWA, section 404. The applicant has also submitted a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration to 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, 15333: Small Habitat Restoration Projects, 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 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.