March 15, 2017

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

Rafanelli Dry Creek Emergency Repair Project
WDID No. 1B170047WNSO

Sonoma County

On January 17, 2017, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) from Mr. David Rafanelli (Applicant) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. SB14008IN for US Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit No. 5 for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations (General 401 Certification) for the Rafanelli Dry Creek Emergency Repair (Project). Emergency work within waters began on January 15, just after a high rainfall / creek flow event. The US Army Corps of Engineers required regulatory coverage under their Nationwide Permit No. 13 rather than their Regional General Permit No. 5, requiring the Regional Water Board to issue an individual Water Quality Certification (Certification). The Project is located within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit 114.24. The Project impacts to Dry Creek, waters of the US are located at approximately 3500 W. Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg, Sonoma County. Coordinates of the Project are approximately latitude 38.644836° N and longitude 122.915764° W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 55 linear feet of rock and willows on the banks of Dry Creek. No temporary impacts are proposed.

The primary purpose of the Project is to repair 55 linear feet of the bank of Dry Creek that failed due to recent flooding and is threatening the loss of property and facilities onsite. The Project includes: installation of large boulders at the toe of the erosion and building up to the top of bank. Additionally, the Applicant has planted approximately 100 willows among the rock slope protection to create a bioengineered structure "softening" the bank hydraulically and creating shade and stream nutrients. The Project employed best management practices (BMPs) to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The Applicant installed erosion control BMPs including straw and fiber rolls at the top of the bank to reduce further erosion.

The Project was conducted beginning January 15 – February 7, 2017.

The Applicant applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit No. 5 for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations. The US Army Corps of Engineers required regulatory coverage under their Nationwide Permit No. 13 rather than their Regional General Permit No. 5. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15269 Emergency 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. 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 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 Gil Falcone Gil.Falcone@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten Stephen.Bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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