

April 19, 2019

**Public Notice
For
Consideration of Approval
Nutrient Offset Project**

Laguna de Santa Rosa Reaches 1 and 2 Offset Project

Sonoma County

In August 2017, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a draft proposal from the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), requesting consideration of a project to generate phosphorus credits by excavating legacy sediment and organic matter from the mainstem Laguna de Santa Rosa near its confluence with the Bellevue-Wilfred flood control channel Rohnert Park, California (Laguna de Santa Rosa Reaches 1 and 2 Offset Project). Sonoma Water refined the Laguna de Santa Rosa Reaches 1 and 2 Offset Project in response to informal comments from Regional Water Board staff and submitted a final Proposed Project for nutrient offset consideration on April 15, 2019.

The Proposed Project is intended for consideration by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB or Regional Board) as a basis for project approval under the Santa Rosa Nutrient Offset Program adopted by the Regional Board with Resolution No. R1-2008-0061 (NCRWQCB 2008), which allows the City of Santa Rosa (City) to offset nutrient discharges from its Subregional Water Reclamation Facility (Subregional Facility) by performing off-site nutrient reduction projects. The Proposed Project would remove phosphorus laden sediment from Laguna de Santa Rosa Reaches 1 and 2, provide habitat restoration, modify hydraulic conditions to reduce *Ludwigia hexapetala* (*Ludwigia* or water primrose) growth and mosquito proliferation, favor establishment of native vegetation, and reduce internal phosphorus loading within the system. A full description of the Proposed Project is provided in

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/nutrient_offset_program/pdf/2019/20190416_SW_Laguna_Credit_Proposal_April%202019_w_Appendices.pdf

Proposed Crediting Practice	Quantification Method	Annual P Reduction (lbs/yr)	Proposed eligibility period	Total P Reduction (lbs)
Legacy Sediment Removal	Reduced internal phosphorus loading	200 ^a	10 years	2,000
	Direct removal of phosphorous	4,500 ^b	3 years	13,500

^aReduced internal phosphorous loading quantification assumes annual reduction of 200lbs/yr (90.72 kg) for the life of the project (10 years).

^bDirect removal of phosphorous quantification assumes reduction of 13,500 lbs total, with a 3 year eligibility period (4,500/lbs/yr for 3 years).

The Proposed Project will be conducted in concert with Sonoma Water's Stream Maintenance Program (SMP). An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared for the SMP in 2009. Impacts required mitigation and management practices associated specifically with the Proposed Project are currently detailed in the existing 2009 EIR and Sonoma Water holds the needed regulatory permits. In the event project parameters change enough to be ineligible under existing permits and CEQA, Sonoma Water would develop the adequate CEQA analysis and obtain permits necessary to implement the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project is currently under review by Regional Water Board staff to determine consistency with the Nutrient Offset Program and eligibility as a nutrient offset project. If approved, direct removal of phosphorus laden sediment from the Laguna de Santa Rosa may begin as early as August 2019.

The Project Proposal will be available for public review for 21 days beginning on April 19, 2019 and ending on May 10, 2019. Public comments will be accepted during the entire 21-day comment period. Please submit written comments to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

Questions regarding the Proposed Project may be directed to Lisa Bernard by phone at (707) 576-2677 or by email at Lisa.Bernard@waterboards.ca.gov.