

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 17, 2012

Public Notice for Consideration of Approval of Nutrient Offset Projects at the Pepperwood Preserve in Sonoma County

Sonoma County

On June 28, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a proposal from the City of Santa Rosa, requesting consideration and approval of a project to install structural best management practices (BMPs) at the Pepperwood Preserve (Project), a 117-acre nature preserve located in the headwaters of Mark West Creek Watershed, approximately 10 miles northeast of Santa Rosa, California. The City proposes to fund the project and obtain nutrient reduction credits to offset the annual discharge of nutrients from its wastewater treatment facility to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, in accordance with Resolution No. R1-2008-0061 Approving the Nutrient Offset Program for the Santa Rosa Subregional Water Reclamation System.

The Project consists of the installation of recommended BMPs to repair stream crossings that are currently eroding or threatening to erode within the Pepperwood Preserve. Site specific erosion control treatments for eroding stream crossings would include installing critical dips to prevent stream diversions; cleaning, installing, and replacing culverts at stream crossings; decommissioning crossings; installing rock armor to prevent erosion; excavating soil at fill slopes and crossings; installing wet crossings with armor; and installing road drains, relief culverts, culvert downspouts, outlopes, and rolling dips. Details of each site are provided in Attachment A of the proposal, *Pacific Watershed Associates 2008 Soil Erosion Assessment Report*.

The proposed nutrient credits and eligibility periods are as follows:

| Proposed Crediting Options | Annual Credits (lbs TP/yr) | Annual Credits (lbs TN/yr) | Proposed BMP Eligibility Period |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BMP Type No. 1: Repair 26 currently eroding stream crossings | 178 | 2,008 | 4 years |

| Proposed Crediting Options | Annual Credits (lbs TP/yr) | Annual Credits (lbs TN/yr) | Proposed BMP Eligibility Period |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BMP Type No. 2: Stabilize 8 additional stream crossings to reduce future sediment load delivery | 7 | 81 | 4 years |
| BMP Type No. 3: Repair 2.3 mi. of currently eroding road surface and ditches | 341 | 9,652 | 30 years |

On June 8, 2008, the City of Santa Rosa certified the Discharge Compliance Project Environmental Impact Report (DCP EIR) that evaluated the potential impact of manure management and agricultural management projects, like the project specified in the proposal, which could be undertaken by the City for nutrient offset credits. The Regional Water Board intends to rely on the DCP EIR and make a determination that there are no potentially significant impacts associated with the Project. However, where proposed activities require subsequent local, state, or federal permitting, additional independent approvals for these individual activities may be required.

Regional Water Board staff has reviewed the Project proposal for consistency with the Nutrient Offset Program and believe that the Project is eligible as a nutrient offset project and has recommended to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer that the Project be approved, as proposed.

If approved, the Project is scheduled to start in 2013. The Project Proposal will be available for public review for 21 days beginning on **September 17, 2012**, and ending on **October 9, 2012**. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Charles Reed at (707) 576-2752 or by email at charles.reed@waterboards.ca.gov.