



Enforcement News

Work Halted on Saggio Hills Development In Healdsburg for Storm Water Violations

Feb. 21, 2019

Contact: Claudia Villacorta (707) 576-2069

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has halted construction activities on the Saggio Hills Development, a large residential construction project on a 258.5-acre parcel located in the City of Healdsburg, due to violations of the Clean Water Act and the development's storm water permit.

The notice to cease construction activities was sent to the [Saggio Hills developer, Sonoma Luxury Resort, LLC](#), in response to its failure to correct poor storm water management practices that resulted in releases of sediment to Foss Creek and other waterways, tributary to the Russian River. Unpermitted releases from the project constitute violations of the Clean Water Act and the development's storm water permit.

"Active construction sites that are not properly prepared to control runoff during rainfall pose a significant threat to water quality by causing exposed soil and unsecured slopes to erode and pollute waterways," said Regional Water Board Executive Officer Matt St. John. "The Regional Water Board takes these violations seriously and has made enforcement of violations of storm water permits a priority in the North Coast Region."

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board previously identified deficiencies with the site controls in November 2018 and temporarily suspended work on the site to ensure that the developer directed resources to installing adequate storm water management practices. A Notice of Violation and Investigative Order was subsequently issued to Sonoma Luxury Resort, LLC, on Dec. 28, 2018.

The Notice of Violation directs the developer to come into compliance with existing permit requirements and prevent further discharges of mud and sediment to waterways. The Investigative Order requires the developer to conduct monitoring of waterways, and report on efforts to mitigate releases of sediment from the site.

Site inspection reports and water sampling results gathered since issuance of the December 2018 Notice of Violation and Investigative Order show continued damage to the waterways due to sediment impacts and insufficient protective measures on the site to control sediment. Creek samples collected by Regional Water Board staff to measure turbidity or cloudiness in the waterway due to site runoff significantly exceeded permit standards. Abnormally high levels





of sediment in stormwater runoff can smother aquatic animals and habitats; alter or obstruct flows resulting in flooding; and reduce water clarity, which makes it difficult for organisms to breathe, find food and refuge, and reproduce.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's mission is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implement plans that will best protect the region's waters while recognizing our local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology. For more information about the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's enforcement efforts, visit: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/enforcement/#actions

###