North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 11, 2022

City of Santa Rosa
Attn: Steve Brady
69 Stony Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
sbrady@srcity.org

Dear Mr. Brady:

Subject: Notice of Applicability, Delta Pond Diffuser Improvements Project subject to Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Categories of Low Threat Discharge, Order R1-2017-0039

File: Delta Pond Diffuser Improvements Project; ECM PIN CW-878618; WDID 1B22001WNSO

On January 4, 2022, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a dredge and fill application for the Delta Pond Diffuser Improvements Project (project) from the City of Santa Rosa (Permittee). Supplemental information was submitted on June 23, 2022. The application was deemed complete on July 5, 2022. The project is located on Santa Rosa Creek near Willowside Road, adjacent to Delta Pond, at approximately latitude 38.4503 and longitude 122.8335.

Based on technical review of the application, staff has determined that the proposed discharge qualifies as "Minor Dredging and Fill Operations," under Regional Water Board Order R1-2017-0039, *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Categories of Low Threat Discharge* (Conditional Waiver) and that the project is consistent with the North Coast Region's Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan). This letter hereby informs you of coverage under the Waiver.

The purpose of the project is to remove the accumulated sediments around the diffuser ports for Delta Pond's discharge system. The Delta Diffuser is the primary mechanism for managing all discharges from Delta Pond and is the primary discharge location for the City of Santa Rosa's discharge permit (NPDES #CA0022764). The Diffuser consists of eleven discharge ports outfitted with duckbill check valves that prevent creek water from entering into the discharge system when not in operation. The duckbill check valves fail to discharge to their design capacity when covered by sediment.

Approximately 300 cubic yards of material will be removed from the 50-foot by 50-foot dredging impact area surrounding the diffuser. The substrate to be removed consists of

gravel and sand with no silt or clays. The goal is to fully expose the diffuser array and sediment removed will be the minimum necessary for rehabilitation of the diffuser.

Two concentrically nested sediment curtains will be installed to contain and limit the amount of sediment that moves downstream to the greatest extent feasible. CDFW approved biologists will relocate aquatic organisms from the wet work area. Material will be removed using two types of dredging – mechanical and hydraulic.

Mechanical: An excavator will be positioned on the southern bank of Santa Rosa Creek and utilize a clamshell type bucket to load wet material into a dump truck. The dump truck will decant the load by tilting the bed up without removing the door to allow the load to drain into a nuisance water handling area. Once excess water is decanted, dredging spoils will be off-hauled. A temporary access route will be created to maintain a dry path of travel for vehicles to the handling area. If the two sediment curtains fail to control turbidity, a screened pump would be used to create negative pressure in the work area. Pumped water would be pumped through a geotube and allowed to return to the creek downstream of the project area, similar to a bypass setup.

Hydraulic: To protect the Diffuser, hydraulic dredging will be used for the area 5 feet upstream and 8 feet downstream from the center line of the diffuser. Divers will be deployed to vacuum pump the material using a 6-inch dredge pump located onshore. The divers will manage the suction line from the dredge pump with a debris screen to methodically remove the sediment as directed by the engineer onshore. Discharge from the dredge pump will be directed into geotubes placed within a designated upland area to allow water to decant. Once decanting is complete, the geotube will be cut open and sediment will be excavated from the bags and loaded into haul trucks to be taken offsite.

The soil handling area for decanting from trucks and geotubes will be managed with a silt fence keyed into the soil on the stream side of the area to prevent sediment laden water from escaping the containment area. A sprinkler array system will be utilized when larger amounts of water are being handled and will be moved periodically to prevent over saturation or ponding. Locations of temporary access routes, the soil handling area, and the spray field have been identified on project maps.

Temporary impacts in Santa Rosa Creek total approximately 0.0574 acre. Temporary impacts to the riparian area adjacent to the work area total approximately 0.03 acre. The project will require the removal of 25 native trees. 18 are arroyo willows that will be cut and allowed to resprout after the project is completed. The other 7 are native trees that were installed as part of the 2010 Delta Diffuser Construction Project (1B09108WNSO). All trees will be replaced at a 3:1 ratio at the City-owned Brown Farm along Gravenstein Creek, a tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. This is preferred to restoration on Santa Rosa Creek because of the high level of existing canopy on-site.

The permittee shall comply with the *Water Quality Monitoring Plan* submitted on June 23, 2022. Monitoring will include taking hourly measurements during active dredging, upstream and downstream of the work area to ensure that turbidity remains no more

than 20% above naturally occurring background levels. Also, mitigation tree plantings shall be monitored for a minimum of 5 years until there is at least 80% survival with at least 2 years with no irrigation. Annual reports can be sent to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

A fee of $3,802, (Category E, Low Impact Discharges), was received for the Project on January 12, 2022. The complete project fee is $2,417. The overpayment of $1,385 will be applied to future annual fees. This Waiver will be subject to annual billing while the project is constructed and monitored, per the fee schedule that is current at the time of annual billing. Currently the annual fee is $323; the annual fee is expected to increase every year. The fee calculator may be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/docs/dredgefillcalculator.xlsm
Annual fees will be automatically invoiced to the Applicant. **The applicant must notify the Regional Water Board at project and/or monitoring completion with a final report in order to request to terminate annual billing. Notification should be sent to the staff listed at the bottom of this Order and to Northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov.** Regional Water Board staff will verify that conditions of the Waiver have been met and may request a site visit at that time to confirm status of Project and compliance with this Waiver.

Enclosed is a copy of the Categorical Waiver.

If you have any questions, please contact Kaete King of my staff, at Kaete.King@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2848.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Warmerdam
On Behalf Of
Water Boards
signed by Jonathan
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Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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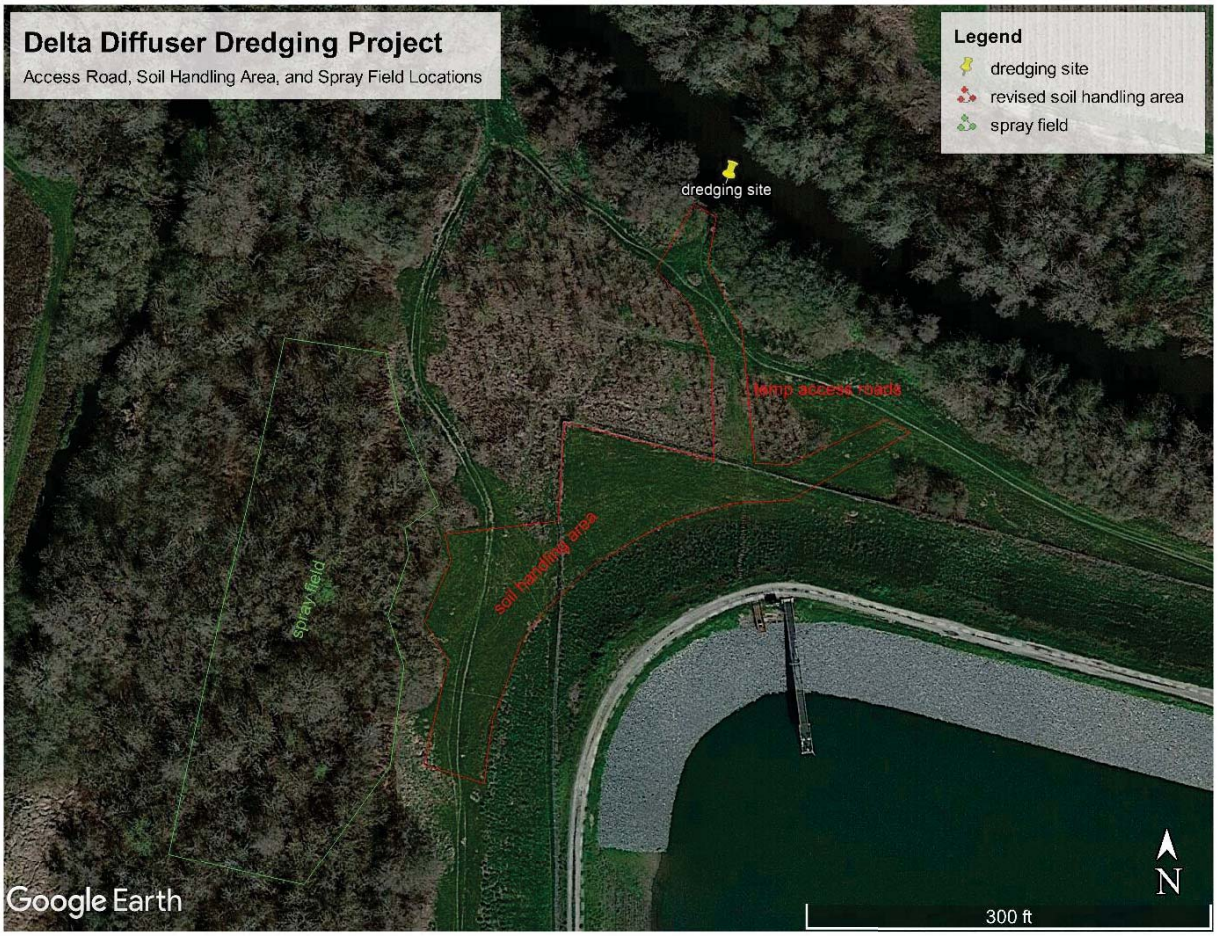
Enclosure: Regional Water Board Resolution No. R1-2017-0039

cc:
State Water Resources Control Board, Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov
Richela Maeda, City of Santa Rosa, rmaeda@srcity.org
Sean McNeil, City of Santa Rosa, smcneil@srcity.org
James Hansen, CDFW, James.Hansen@Wildlife.ca.gov


Delta Diffuser Dredging Project
Access Road, Soil Handling Area, and Spray Field Locations
Legend
dredging site
revised soil handling area
spray field
dredging site
temp access roads
soil handling area
spray field
Google Earth
N
300 ft