



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
333 MARKET ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111

September 9, 1999

Executive Office

SUBJECT: This is in reference to the letter, dated August 30, 1999, which I received from the RRWC – Ad Hoc Assembly.

Russian River Watershed Council Members,

The Russian River Watershed Restoration and Protection Study, sponsored by the State of California Resources Agency and the Corps of Engineers, provides the opportunity for the diverse interests in the Russian River watershed to take a proactive role in the development of the study. Citizen involvement has resulted in the formation of the Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC). The Project Study Plan (PSP) was written with the direct involvement of representatives now sitting as members of the RRWC and under a tight schedule in order to meet Federal funding critical dates. Every effort has been made to craft a community based, locally led study plan with to the RRWC membership.

Currently, the RRWC and interested citizens in the Russian River Watershed are providing the leadership in forming work groups to evaluate the issues and actions of the study plan and the watershed. In addition, a Steering Committee representing the diversity in the RRWC and in the watershed is setting the RRWC meeting agendas and taking information developed by the work groups to finalize the study funding for the next fiscal year, as requested by the Resources Agency.

The Ad Hoc Assembly letter, dated August 30, 1999, expressed concerns over the Corps misrepresenting the mission and goals of the RRWC, specifically in the Corps' Public Notice 23751N, dated August 5, 1999. The reference to the RRWC in the Public Notice was intended as a supportive statement. The Corps appreciates the concerns of the RRWC members in the use of the RRWC's name and we will abide by the RRWC's decision in the use of the RRWC name and process to secure such approval (reference items 1 through 4, page 2, of the Ad Hoc letter). In addition, the Corps will make every effort to inform the RRWC of our activities in the Russian River watershed.

The Corps and the State want to provide the resources necessary for the RRWC to build the community-based process for the development of scientifically based information in order to protect, restore, and enhance the watershed, including the possibility of best management practices for bank stabilization. I am proud of the progress we have been able to achieve and will continue to support the involvement of the citizens in the Russian River watershed to help redefine the future of the watershed and its communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter T. Grass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter T. Grass
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Background Information

ATTACHMENT NUMBER	DATE	ITEM
A	August 5, 1999	Public Notice No. 23751N Vino Farms Bank Stabilization Project (see pages 3 and 4).
B	August 14, 1999	Brian Hines' (Sustainable Sonoma County) email to Brain Wirtz (USACE Regulatory Branch) expressing concern over the use of the RRWC's name in relationship with Vino Farms Bank Stabilization Project.
C	August 19, 1999	Brian Wirtz's response to Brian Hines' email, forwarded to the Steering Committee by Karen Rippey (USACE Planning Branch).
D	August 26, 1999	Letter from Rod Chisholm, Chief of Planning, to Calvin Fong, Chief of Regulatory, requesting Public Notice No. 23751N undergo additional analysis to evaluate the cumulative impacts of the project.
E	August 26, 1999	Letter handed out at the Steering Committee meeting from Brenda Adelman, Chair of Russian River Watershed Protection Committee, to Colonel Peter Grass requesting a response to stated concerns.
F	August 27, 1999	Email handed out at the Steering Committee meeting from Rusty Klassen to Joan Vilms suggesting changes to a letter being written by members of RRWC.
G	August 27, 1999	Letter handed out at the Steering Committee meeting from members of RRWC to Colonel Peter Grass requesting a response to stated concerns.
H	August 30, 1999	Letter faxed from RRWC – Ad Hoc Assembly to Colonel Grass requesting a response to stated concerns.



SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps
of Engineers.

Regulatory Branch
333 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

Vino Farms Bank Stabilization Project

NUMBER: 23751N

DATE: August 5, 1999

RESPONSE REQUIRED BY: August 26, 1999

PROJECT MANAGER: Brian Wirtz TELEPHONE: (415) 977-8438 Email: Bwirtz@smtp.spd.usace.army.mil

1. Introduction: Vino Farms, Inc., through their agent Atterbury and Associates (contact: Thomas W. Atterbury at 707-433-0134), has applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a permit to place fill in and along the Russian River for bank stabilization at 11115 Eastside Road in Healdsburg, Sonoma County, California (Figures 1 through 5). This application is being processed pursuant to provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

2. Project Description: As shown in the attached drawings, the applicant plans to stabilize 1,120 feet of the east bank of the Russian River using riprap and riparian vegetation. This would result in the placement of approximately 2.65 cubic yards (c.y.) of engineered riprap per linear foot within Corps jurisdiction for the 1,200-foot reach. Use of a Nationwide Permit is not appropriate in this instance due to the size of this project (total length and total volume of material used). The complete project description is as follows:

The 18-foot high, vertical bank would be sloped back. Approximately 3,770 c.y. of gravel would be used for backfill, and would come from the gravel bar on the opposite side of the river. A keyway, 6 feet deep and 8 feet wide, would be constructed along the base of the bank (1,990 c.y.), and riprap would be placed four feet thick along the bank (3,980 c.y.). Topsoil and gravel would be mixed and placed on the upper portion of the bank (1,660 c.y.), and riparian species would be planted. Of this material, a total of 2.65 cubic yards (c.y.) of engineered riprap will be placed per linear foot within Corps jurisdiction.

A subsurface barrier would be constructed at the upstream end of the project. This barrier (shown in Figures 2 and 5) will be 100 feet long and use 740 cubic yards of riprap. Approximately 2 to 3 cubic yards of the keyway will be within Corps jurisdiction.

During construction, the Russian River would be diverted away from the construction site. A temporary channel would be excavated through the gravel bar on the opposite side of the river. This channel, shown on Figure 2 and the upper half of Figure 4, would be approximately 1,250 feet long, 30 feet wide at the bottom, and 3 feet deep. The material excavated (approx. 3,950 c.y.) would be sidecast on the gravel bar for the duration of the project. Approximately 400 c.y. of this gravel would be used as a plug to divert the river to the temporary channel (see Figure 2 and bottom half of Figure 4). Excavation of this channel, as proposed, would result in more than incidental fallback, and as a result, all work related to the diversion is subject to Corps jurisdiction.

In order to minimize effects to endangered species, the applicant is proposing to use a team of qualified biologists to remove fish species from the work area to suitable locations up- or downstream of the project site.

Purpose and Need: The applicant states that the purpose of this project is to stabilize an 18-foot high bank which has eroded a substantial portion of the owner's land and is currently threatening a vineyard.

3. State Approvals: State water quality certification or waiver is a prerequisite for the issuance of a USACE permit to conduct any activity which may result in a fill or pollutant discharge into waters of the United States, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341). The applicant requested a State water quality certification on September 29, 1997. No USACE permit will be granted until the applicant obtains the required certification or waiver. A waiver should be explicit or it may be presumed if the State fails or refuses to act on a valid request for certification within 60 days of receipt, unless the District Engineer determines a shorter or longer period is reasonable for the State to act. Water quality issues should be directed to the Executive Officer,

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, 555 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, 95403, by the close of the comment period.

The project is not subject to the jurisdictional purview of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission or the California Coastal Commission.

4. Preliminary Environmental Effects: The USACE has assessed the environmental effects of the action proposed in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and USACE Regulations at 33 CFR 230 and 325. Unless otherwise stated, this preliminary assessment describes only the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects which would result from regulated activities within the jurisdiction of the USACE.

This assessment resulted in the following findings:

Effects on the Physical Environment:

a. Substrate: The proposed project would result in the permanent placement of 2.65 c.y. of engineered riprap per linear foot within Corps jurisdiction for a distance of 1,200 feet. The substrate of the Russian River would be temporarily dewatered for a distance of 1,250 feet.

Short-term effects would be temporary, adverse, but minor in magnitude, and would cease upon project completion. The project is expected to have no long-term effects on the substrate.

b. Erosion and Sedimentation: Earth movement associated with construction and use of the temporary diversion will mobilize fine sediment and will cause a temporary downstream increase in turbidity and sedimentation. This increase should lessen over time, as fine materials are washed away. A second event will occur as the river is returned to its natural channel upon project completion. Once the project is completed, storm events will no longer erode the bank and contribute massive amounts of sediment to the watershed.

Short-term project effects on erosion and sedimentation are expected to be adverse, short-term in nature, and moderate in magnitude. Long-term effects will be beneficial, as the streambank will no longer erode, and

minor in magnitude.

c. Streamflow and Drainage Patterns: Streamflow will be altered in the project area (diversion), although there would be no changes to flow volume or timing. Effects to drainage streamflow is considered to be minor in magnitude.

The possibility exists that construction of an erosion-resistant streambank of this magnitude in this location may affect stream dynamics and bank stability below the project site. The potential for this effect is unknown at this point.

e. Water Quality: Water quality may be impacted from the filling activity. Effects may include increased turbidity and would be short-term in nature as discussed in **Section b. Erosion and Sedimentation**, above. It is unknown if any water quality standards would be affected by this activity.

f. Air Quality: Based on the size of the proposed project and limited to an evaluation of air quality effects only within USACE jurisdictional areas, the total direct and non-direct project emissions would not exceed the de minimis threshold levels of 40 CFR 93.153. Therefore, the proposed project would conform to the State Air Quality Implementation Plan (SIP) for California. The project effects on air quality would be short-term in nature and minor in magnitude.

g. Noise Conditions: Construction of the project would involve the use of heavy equipment and would increase activity in these areas. Adverse effects from noise due to construction activities would be short-term in nature, and minor in magnitude.

Effects to the Biological Environment:

a. Pool and Riffle Areas (Special Aquatic Site): The project will be conducted in a reach of the Russian River which is mostly riffle habitat. These riffles will be impacted by heavy equipment during construction, but will quickly return to normal after the project has been completed and the river adjusts.

b. Riparian Vegetation: The applicant proposes to plant riparian vegetation along the upper half of the bank. The project would increase the total riparian canopy in the project area.

Overall effects to riparian vegetation as a result of this project are beneficial in nature.

g. Endangered Species: This reach of the Russian River contains two federally-listed species, the Coho salmon and the steelhead trout, and construction activities may affect these species if they are in the project area during construction. The most likely impact would result from dewatering the Russian River, and could result in possible mortality. The applicant proposes to mitigate this possible impact by having a team of qualified biologists on site during construction activities to remove any fish trapped in the dewatered section and move them to pre-selected sites up- and downstream of the project site.

Consultation has been ongoing on an informal basis with the National Marine Fisheries Service as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for close to one year to resolve these issues. In addition, NMFS has made several recommendations regarding project design which would create habitat for these species. Formal consultation has commenced, and a biological opinion is forthcoming from NMFS.

Should new information demonstrate that other listed species may be affected by the project, USACE will consult with either U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or NMFS as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

h. Habitat for Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms, and Wildlife: Dewatering the Russian River in the project site will result in temporary impacts to the aquatic habitat. It is expected that most species will be able to avoid these impacts by moving up- or downstream.

Environmental effects on wildlife and other aquatic organisms are presumed to be adverse and short-term in nature and minor in magnitude.

Effects To The Social And Economic Environment:

a. Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands: This project will be to protect a vineyard from further erosional pressure. No prime or unique agricultural lands are located on the actual project site.

Effects to the Historic and Cultural Environment:

a. Archaeological Resources: The project is located in an area which has been extensively disturbed by previous activities, including levee building, grading and land leveling, agricultural activity, and erosion by the Russian River. If cultural resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are identified during construction activities, the USACE will coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Officer to take into account any project effects on such properties.

Summary of Cumulative Effects: This project would increase the total number of feet of armored bank of the Russian River. The total number of feet of armored bank is not known at this time, but has increased over the past several years.

Cumulative impact is defined at 40 CFR 1508.7 as, in part, "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions."

Past activities, including gravel mining, water use, urbanization have adversely affected the equilibrium of the Russian River, causing downcutting and streambank erosion. This problem is evident in the project area, and the applicant is attempting to halt these types of erosional problems in the project area.

The Russian River has been the subject of extensive interest and concern of late. The Corps is currently a partner in the Russian River Watershed Council. This council's mission is develop a watershed restoration management plan with recommendations and designs, that will evaluate natural and structural to problems endangering the Russian River from past land management actions and water use. The Council's goals will be to:

- Reduce the threat of flooding in the Russian River
- Adjust the operations of Coyote and Warm Springs dams to mimic the basin's natural systems
- Reduce channel degradation and erosion caused by gravel mining and channel constraint
- Improve the Russian River's water quality
- Eliminate barriers to fish migration

The development of the watershed restoration management plan will be a community-based effort, with the support of the Corps, the State of California, and other federal, state and local agencies and organizations and interested parties. For more information on the Russian River Ecosystem Restoration Study, visit the Corps website at <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/russian/>

The proposed action would not result in a net loss of acreage of waters of the United States, but may affect channel stability above and below the project site.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Based on an analysis of the above identified effects, a preliminary determination has been made that it will not be necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the subject permit application. The Environmental Assessment for the proposed action has, however, not yet been finalized and this preliminary determination may be reconsidered if additional information is developed.

5. Alternatives Analysis: Projects involving fill discharged into waters of the United States must comply with the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(b)). An evaluation pursuant to the guidelines indicates the project is not dependent on location in, or proximity to waters of the United States to achieve the basic project purpose. This conclusion raises the rebuttable presumption that there is a practicable alternative to the project which would have less adverse effect to the aquatic ecosystem. This project is considered water-dependent.

The applicant developed three alternatives during the planning process. Early designs included a similar amount of riprap and similar project length. One alternative evaluated included the addition of barbs, which would have created fish habitat in the project area. This alternative was rejected by the applicant, due to concerns that this would have increased erosional pressure on the riprap.

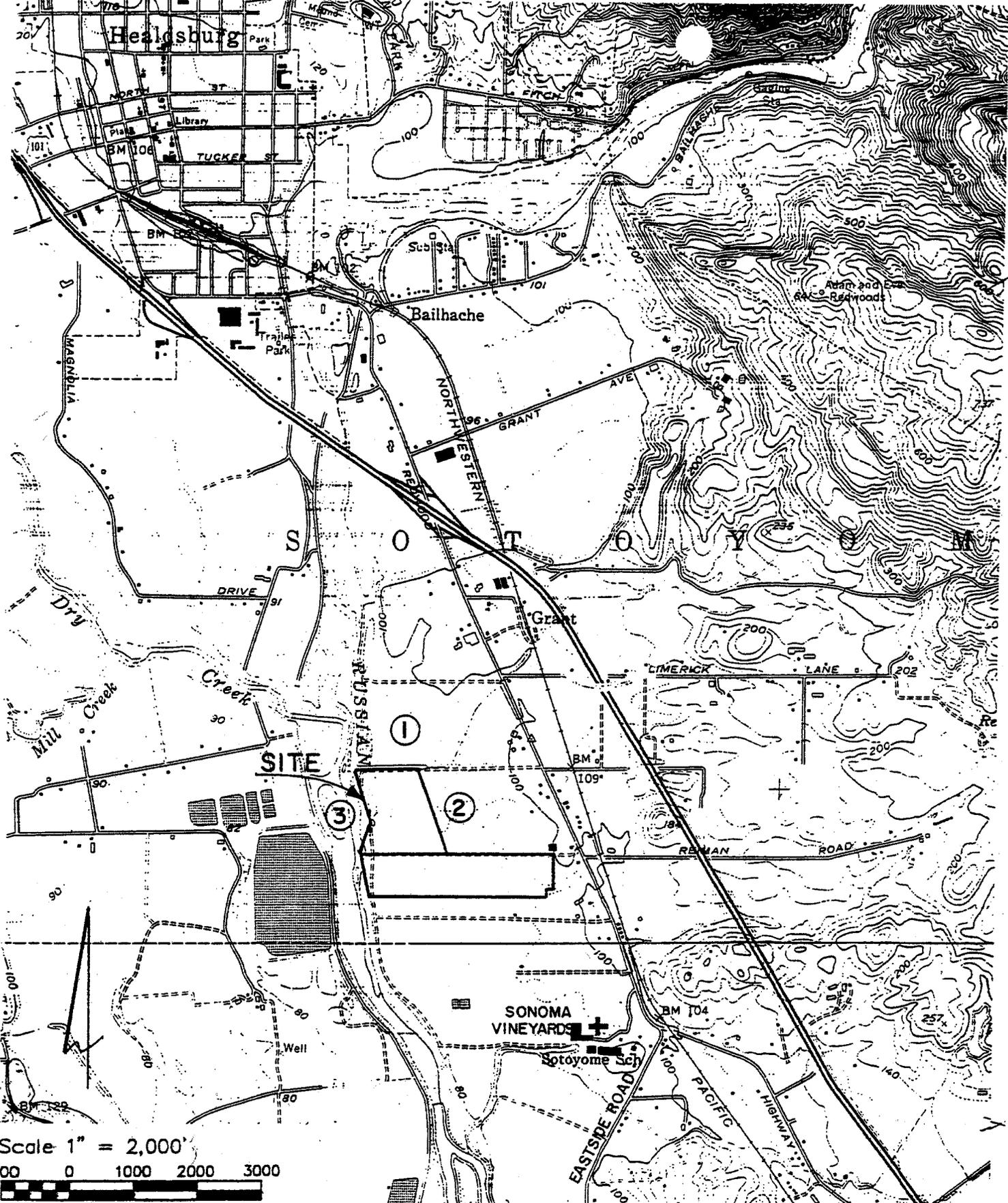
6. Public Interest Evaluation: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable effects, including cumulative effects, of the

proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable effects which the proposed activity may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Those factors include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

7. Consideration of Comments: The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the effects of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess effects on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. To make this decision, comments are used to assess effect on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, and the other environmental factors which are addressed in a final Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Effect Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

8. Submitting Comments: During the specified comment period, interested parties may submit written comments to the San Francisco District, Regulatory Branch, North Section, citing the applicant's name and public notice number in the letter. Comments may include a request for a public hearing on the project prior to a determination on

the application; such requests shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. All comments will be forwarded to the applicant for resolution or rebuttal. Details on any changes of a minor nature which are made in the final permit action will be provided on request. Other information may be obtained from the applicant of by contacting Mr. Brian Wirtz of our office at telephone 415-977-8438 or by email at Bwirtz@smtp.spd.usace.army.mil



PURPOSE: PREVENT EROSION AND
LOSS OF INCOME PROPERTY

DATUM: ASSUMED TBM

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

- 1 FOPPIANO
- 2 PONZO
- 3 SYAR INDUSTRIES, INC.

LOCATION MAP

SITE ADDRESS:
11115 EASTSIDE ROAD
HEALDSBURG, CA

PROPOSED BANK PROTECTION

IN: RUSSIAN RIVER
AT: HEALDSBURG
COUNTY OF: SONOMA STATE: CA
APPLICATION BY: VINO FARMS, INC.

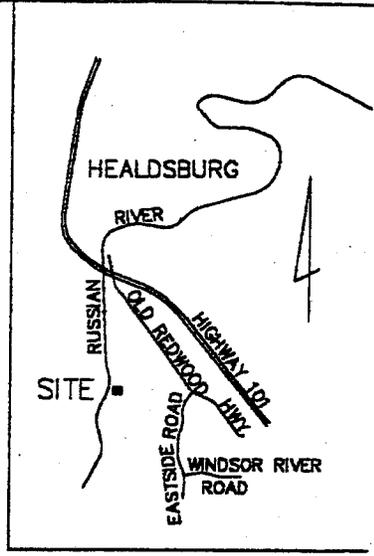
SHEET 1 OF 5 DATE: 5/5/98

Figure 1

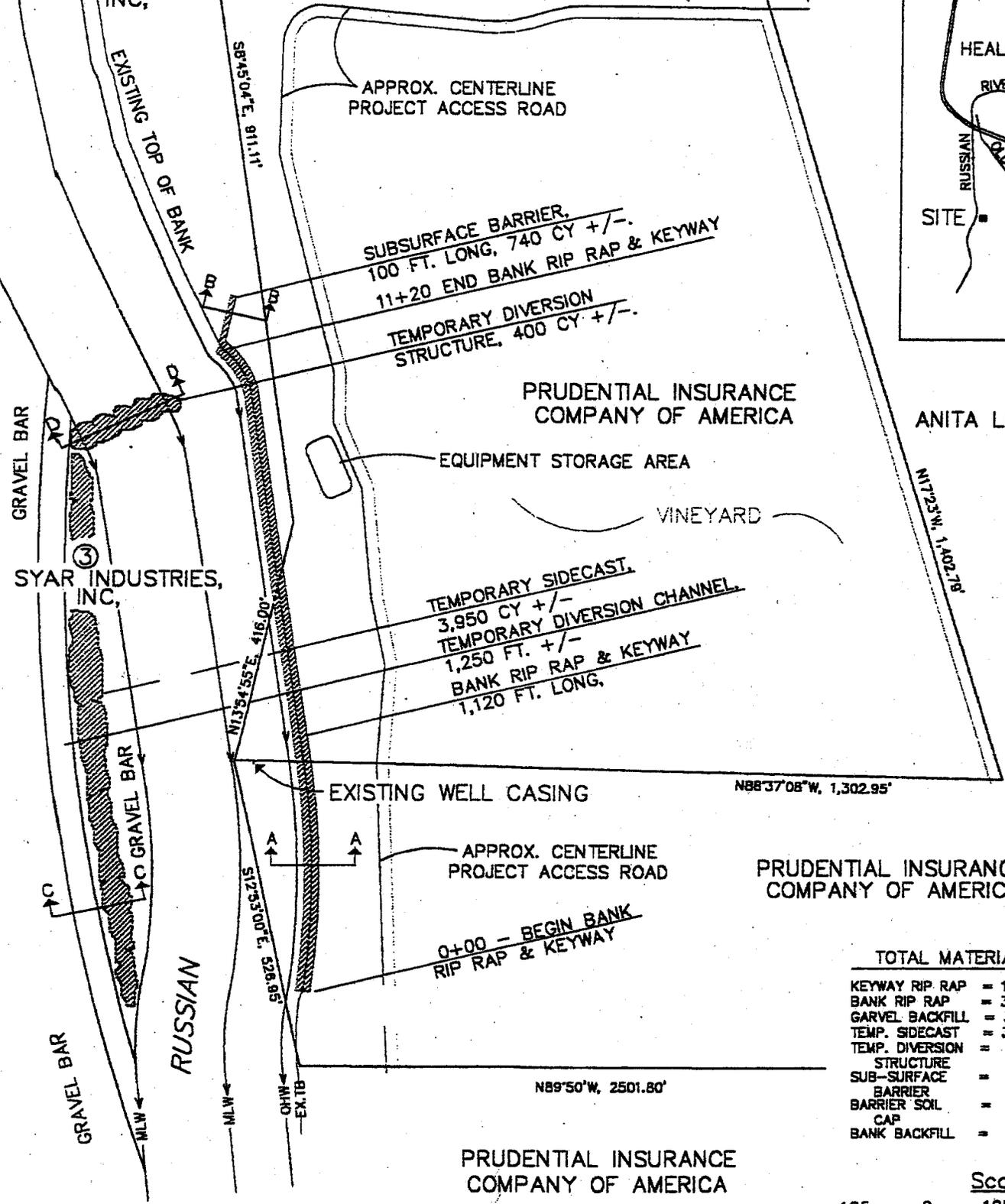
③ SYAR INDUSTRIES, INC.

① LOU, J. FOPPIANO RANCHES, INC.

S89°48'W, 922.51' 50' RIGHT OF WAY



② ANITA LOUISE PONZO

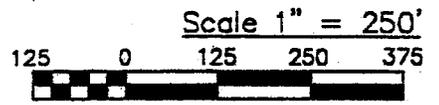


PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

TOTAL MATERIALS

KEYWAY RIP RAP	= 1,990 CY
BANK RIP RAP	= 3,980 CY
GRAVEL BACKFILL	= 3,770 CY
TEMP. SIDECAST	= 3,950 CY
TEMP. DIVERSION STRUCTURE	= 400 CY
SUB-SURFACE BARRIER	= 740 CY
BARRIER SOIL CAP	= 60 CY
BANK BACKFILL	= 1,660 CY



PURPOSE: PREVENT EROSION AND LOSS OF INCOME PROPERTY

DATUM: ASSUMED TBM

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

- ① FOPPIANO
- ② PONZO
- ③ SYAR INDUSTRIES, INC.

PLAN VIEW

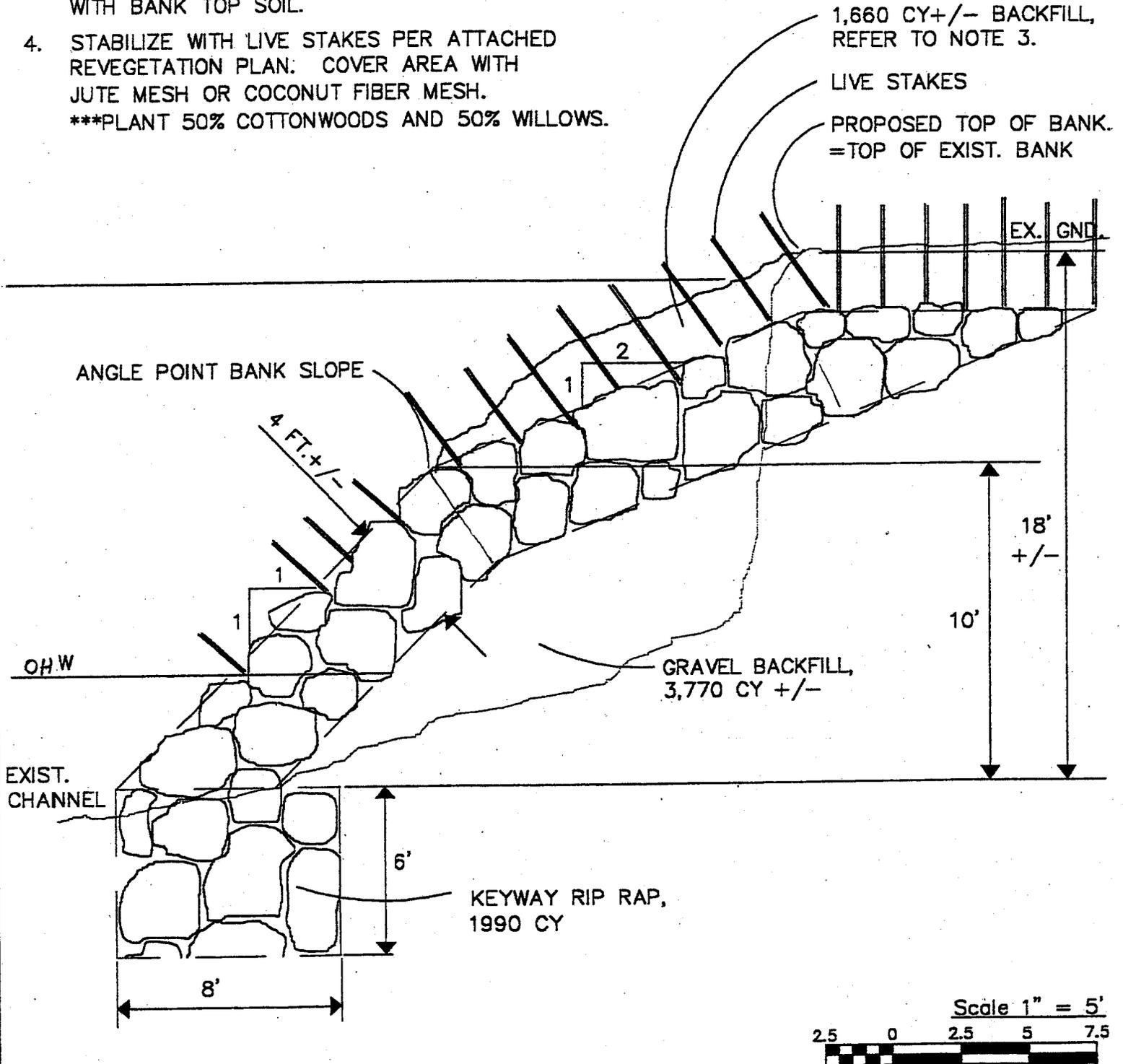
SITE ADDRESS:
11115 EASTSIDE ROAD
HEALDSBURG, CA

PROPOSED BANK PROTECTION

IN: RUSSIAN RIVER
AT: HEALDSBURG
COUNTY OF: SONOMA STATE: CA
APPLICATION BY: VINO FARMS, INC.

(REVISED 4/16/99)
SHEET 2 OF 5 DATE: 6/1/98

1. WOVEN FILTER FABRIC OVER GRAVEL BACKFILL.
BANK RIP RAP, 1/2 TO 1 TON ROCKS, 3,980 CY.
2. BACKFILL RIP RAP VOIDS WITH RIVER RUN SANDS AND GRAVELS.
3. MIX TOP 2 FT. OF BACKFILL GRAVELS WITH BANK TOP SOIL.
4. STABILIZE WITH LIVE STAKES PER ATTACHED REVEGETATION PLAN: COVER AREA WITH JUTE MESH OR COCONUT FIBER MESH.
***PLANT 50% COTTONWOODS AND 50% WILLOWS.



PURPOSE: PREVENT EROSION AND LOSS OF INCOME PROPERTY
 DATUM: ASSUMED TBM
 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:
 1 FOPPIANO
 2 PONZO
 3 SYAR INDUSTRIES, INC.

SECTION A--A
 CROSS-SECTION
 BANK RIP RAP

SITE ADDRESS:
 11115 EASTSIDE ROAD
 HEALDSBURG, CA

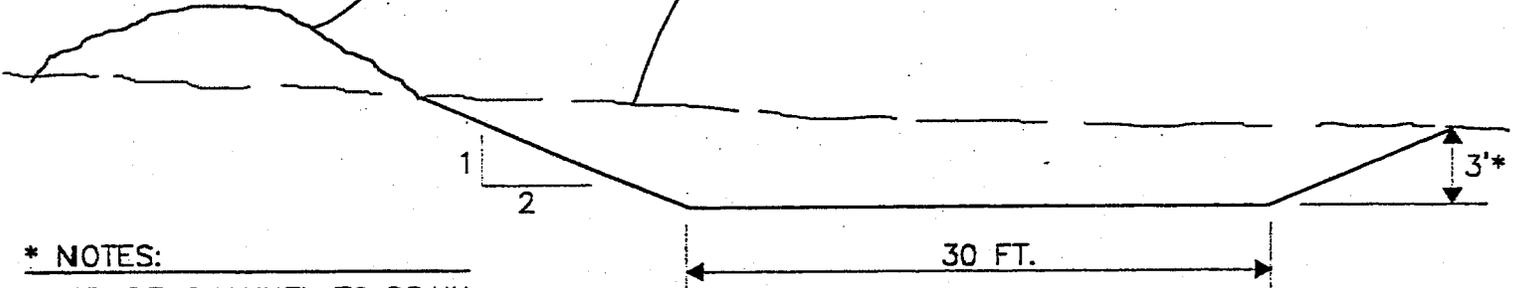
PROPOSED BANK PROTECTION

IN: RUSSIAN RIVER
 AT: HEALDSBURG
 COUNTY OF: SONOMA STATE: CA
 APPLICATION BY: VINO FARMS, INC.
 (REVISED 4/16/99)
 SHEET 3 OF 5 DATE: 6/1/98

Figure 3

TEMPORARY SIDECAST,
3,950 CY +/-
SEE NOTE BELOW.

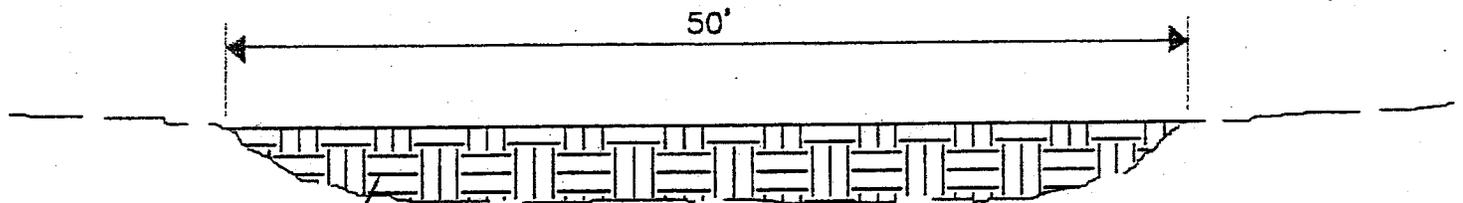
EXISTING GRAVEL BAR



*** NOTES:**

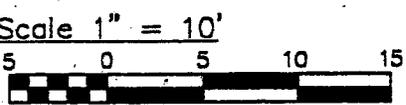
1. GRADE CHANNEL TO DRAIN.
2. ACTUAL DEPTH MAY VARY,
DEPENDING ON DEPTH OF
GRAVEL BAR.

SECTION C-C
TEMPORARY DIVERSION CHANNEL



GRAVEL DIVERSION,
400 CY +/-

SECTION D-D
TEMPORARY DIVERSION STRUCTURE

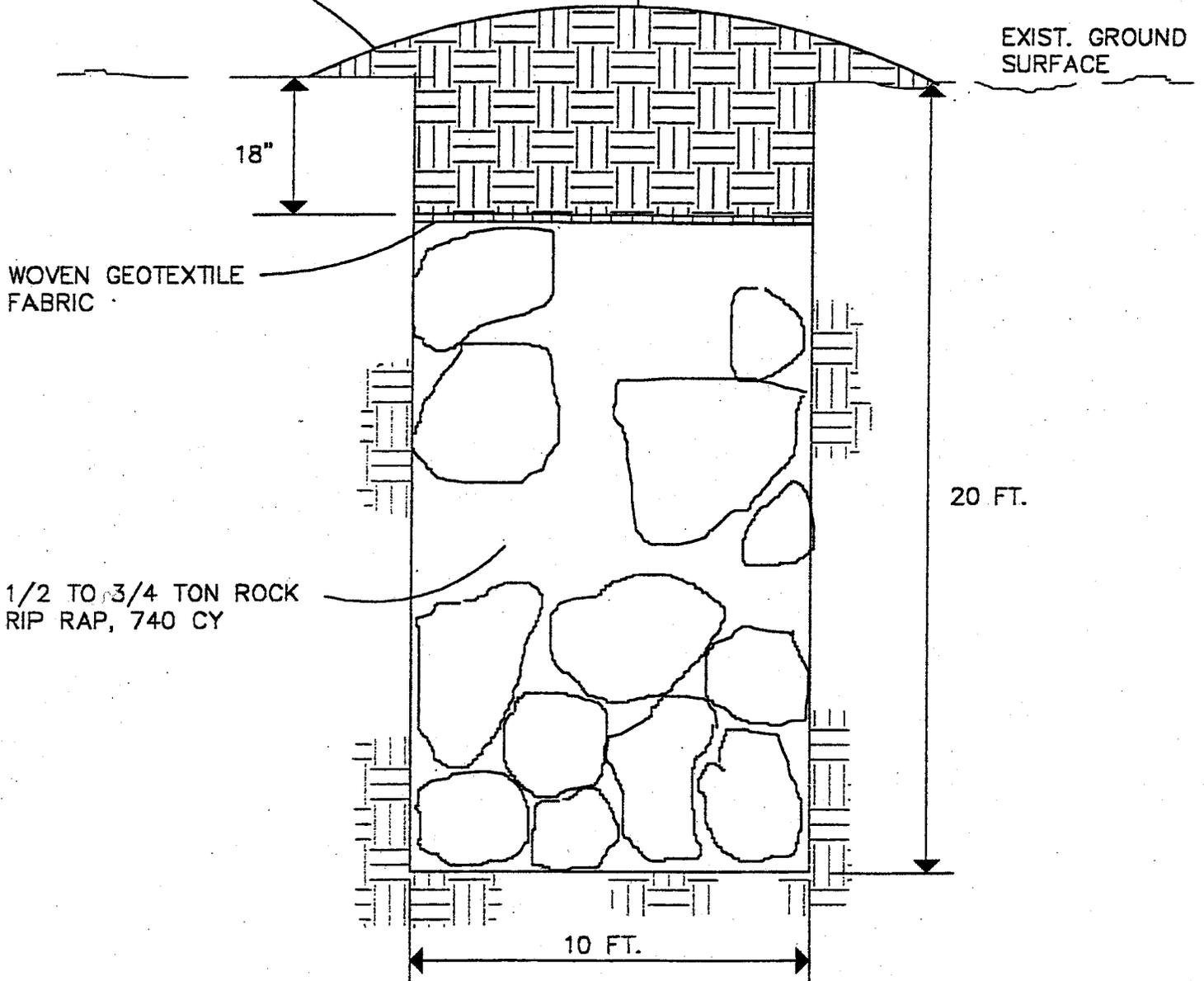


<p>PURPOSE: PREVENT EROSION AND LOSS OF INCOME PROPERTY</p> <p>DATUM: ASSUMED TBM</p> <p>ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:</p> <p>1 FOPPIANO</p> <p>2 PONZO</p> <p>3 SYAR INDUSTRIES, INC.</p>	<p>SECTION C-C & D-D CROSS-SECTION TEMPORARY DIVERSION CHANNEL STRUCTURE</p> <p>SITE ADDRESS: 11115 EASTSIDE ROAD HEALDSBURG, CA</p>	<p>PROPOSED BANK PROTECTION</p> <p>IN: RUSSIAN RIVER AT: HEALDSBURG COUNTY OF: SONOMA STATE: CA APPLICATION BY: VINO FARMS, INC.</p> <p>SHEET 4 OF 5 DATE: 6/1/98</p>
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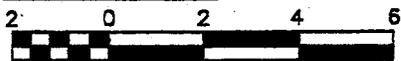
BACKFILL WITH NATIVE TOPSOIL
MOUND 18" AT CENTERLINE &
FEATHER EDGES BEYOND TRENCH,
60 CY

SEED DISTURBED GND. & SPREAD
STRAW 3" TO 4" OVER DISTURBED
AREAS.

NOTE: ACTUAL TRENCH
DEPTH MAY VARY DUE
TO SITE CONSTRAINTS
EXPERIENCED DURING
CONSTRUCTION.



Scale 1" = 4'



PURPOSE: PREVENT EROSION AND
LOSS OF INCOME PROPERTY

DATUM: ASSUMED TBM

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

- 1 FOPPIANO
- 2 PONZO
- 3 SYAR INDUSTRIES, INC.

SECTION B-B
CROSS-SECTION
SUB-SURFACE BARRIER

SITE ADDRESS:
11115 EASTSIDE ROAD
HEALDSBURG, CA

PROPOSED BANK PROTECTION

IN: RUSSIAN RIVER
AT: HEALDSBURG
COUNTY OF: SONOMA STATE: CA
APPLICATION BY: VINO FARMS, INC.

SHEET 5 OF 5 DATE: 6/1/98

Figure 5

ATTACHMENT A

Rippey, Karen E SPN

From: Brian Hines [brian@ncsr.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 1999 10:18 AM
To: bwirtz@spdmail01.spd.usace.army.mil
Cc: Karen Rippey
Subject: Public Notice re: 1120 feet of riprap

Brian Wirtz, USACE:

Please send me a copy of the Public Notice re: Vino Farms, 11115 Eastside Road, 1120 feet of riprap project.

I think you can safely assume that if this project is approved by the Corp., the Russian River Watershed Council is over.

Sustainable Sonoma County will certainly be dropping out and urging everyone else on the Environmental and Public Groups to do likewise.

There is certainly few things as stupidly unsustainable as riprapping 1120 feet of river bank 18 feet high inevitably creating the need downstream for more riprap destroying more threatened species habitat in a dangerous positive feedback loop. If the Corp. is going to approve this kind of habitat destruction, rather requiring an erosion control technique

that enhances habitat, while hiding behind the PR facade of a Russian River Watershed Council, the party is over and the Corp. better make arrangements to return the funding they have received so far under false pretenses to the taxpayers.

If the Corp. does the right thing and denies this application and Russian River Watershed Council survives, one "Indicator of Watershed Health" that should be tracked by the Council is number of feet of armored bank in the watershed including the tributaries. Any increase in the number from year to year should be considered a failure of the Council to be having any positive effect on the watershed's ecosystem and abandonment of its stated mission to "protect, restore and enhance the biological health of the Russian River and its watershed".

Thank you.

Brian Hines
Sustainable Sonoma County
1468 Funston Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
(707) 575 3999
(707) 575 3525 fax

Rippey, Karen E SPN

From: Rippey, Karen E SPN
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 1999 12:52 PM
To: 'Jay Halcomb (E-mail)'; 'Kathy Reese (E-mail)'; 'Linda Bailey (E-mail)'; 'Nikki Barratt (E-mail)'; 'Rusty Klassen (E-mail)'; 'Tim Derry (E-mail)'; 'John Calaprice (E-mail)'; 'Al Beltrami (E-mail)'
Subject: FW: Public Notice re. 1120 feet of riprap

Good Afternoon

Brian responded to Brain Hines email with the following message, hoping to ease everyone's concerns over his reference to the RRWC in the Public Notice. I talked to Brian this morning and I can assure you that his intentions were the best. I am sorry that his reference to the RRWC has caused so much concern.

I believe that the project in question (riprap on the banks of the main stem) is the type of project that the RRWC can change by putting in place best management practices BMPs. We need to look at this project as an opportunity for change and take this opportunity to provide alternatives that will be acceptable to regional interests. The diversity of interests represented on the RRWC can establish these policies and foster local support.

Let me know what else I can do.

Thanks, Karen

-----Original Message-----

From: Wirtz, Brian R SPN
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 1999 11:11
To: 'brian@ncsr.com'
Cc: Rippey, Karen E SPN
Subject: Public Notice re. 1120 feet of riprap

I have received your email you sent late last week regarding the Public Notice (PN) which we issued for a proposed project on the Russian River. I will attempt to explain why the Russian River Watershed Council's (Council) name was mentioned in the Public Notice, and, hopefully ease your concerns about using the Council as a cover while continuing "business as usual".

The Public Notice is the Corps first stab at generating public comments for a proposed project. We are required to issue a Public Notice for a proposed project within a set timeframe of receipt of the application. The public, government agencies, etc. then get to comment on it. The San Francisco District also includes in the PN a preliminary look at potential environmental impacts which could result from the proposed project. We are the only District in the nation who does this.

In this preliminary environmental analysis, we discuss the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed project. Since I do not have the resources to conduct a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis, I instead mentioned the work the Council was doing. In no way did I intend to suggest that the Council endorsed this type of project- I only included a reference to the Council as a source of expertise and information on current conditions in the Russian River. I understand that you (and the Council) do not advocate placement of that amount of riprap on a streambank. I am also aware that there are many other more "environmentally friendly" methods out there. I cannot, however, require an applicant to adopt those measures, since I am bound by the regulations which implement the regulatory program.

One idea which has been discussed internally which could steer people in the right direction is the creation of a Regional Permit for streambank stabilization in that area. This permit could be crafted in cooperation with the Council and others, and could include Council-adopted BMPs and other protective measures. Then those who want to work in the river will be allowed to do so without going through a laborious and time-consuming individual permit, as long as they abide by the BMPs and other conditions of the regional permit. If this is something the Council would like to pursue, I recommend starting as soon as possible, as creation of a Regional Permit is also time-consuming.

If you would like to discuss this further, please call me or send me an email. Karen Rippey has also discussed this with me briefly.

Thanks,

Brian Wirtz, Regulatory Branch
San Francisco District Corps of Engineers
333 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94518
415-977-8438
415-977-8343 Fax
bwirtz@smtp.spd.usace.army.mil (email)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
333 MARKET ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111

CESPN-PE-P

26 August 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR Calvin Fong, Chief of Regulatory
THRU District Engineer

SUBJECT: Planning Branch Response to Public Notice No. 23751N (Vino Farms Bank Stabilization Project)

1. References:

- a. San Francisco District Public Notice, Vino Farms Bank Stabilization Project, No. 23751N, dated 5 Aug 1999.
- b. Russian River Watershed Management and Protection Study, Project Study Plan, August 1999

2. As you may know, the San Francisco District and the State of California are currently developing a comprehensive Russian River watershed feasibility study. A 77 member Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC), representing a broad cross-section of interests in the Russian River watershed, was formally adopted in May 1999. One of the intended outcomes of the watershed study is the development of restoration measures for the watershed including the development of best management practices for bank stabilization. The intent is to provide the watershed community, including the involved regulatory agencies, with a community based management plan for the river.

Issuance of PN 23751N has caused great alarm within the RRWC, that action on this permit at this time will significantly impact the trust and process of the Corps' feasibility study. Therefore, it is requested that the permit action referred to in PN 23751N undergo additional analysis to evaluate the cumulative impacts of the project on the watershed, the impact on watershed community as represented by the RRWC and the impact on the Corps' Russian River Watershed Feasibility Study.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roderick A. Chisholm, II".

Roderick A Chisholm, II
Deputy, Chief of Planning
Engineering and Technical Services Division
USAED, San Francisco

RRWPC

Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

Post Office R.
Guerneville, CA
(707) 861

Aug. 26, 1999

Lt. Colonel Peter T. Grass
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
333 Market St. 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

Dear Lt. Colonel Grass:

The Board of Directors of Russian River Watershed Protection Committee (RRWPC) would like to express our concern about the evolution of the Russian River Watershed Council's working relationship with your organization. I am the representative for our group which is part of the Public sector of the Council. Our group represents the views of about 2000 citizens living, working and recreating in the lower Russian River.

While we understand that the needs of your Agency dictate that you must fulfill certain schedules and requirements as a result of your accountability to the Congress of the United States, nevertheless, that accountability, based on national goals, has created certain problems for our own local functioning. Things have evolved to the point where we believe that *our own* goals and objectives for the Russian River are not being met because of your agency's duties and responsibilities to the Congress.

We would appreciate your response to the following:

- The Council must be allowed prior meaningful input and veto power over all documents, proposals and activities which are characterized as coming from and approved by the Council. Examples where this was NOT the case included parts of the "1998 Project Study Proposal (PSP)" In the future, Council members need adequate time to study, discuss, and recommend changes for any document and/or project bearing an actual or implied Council endorsement. (ie. 45 days would be acceptable)
- We are also concerned that your Agency is using the Council to improve your environmentally impaired public image. We have been informed that a riprap project in the Middle Reach of the Russian River is receiving Corps support. Apparently the Corp's public notice gave the false impression that the cumulative environmental impacts of the project would be overseen by the Watershed Council. Yet the Council had been told nothing of this project.

The Council should be allowed to give full scrutiny to any Corps approved project in our watershed that even hints at having a blessing from the Council. *Only* the Council should be authorized to determine what it supports and what it does not.

- The Council should be given full and immediate access to all information produced by the ACOE on any Russian River project, including flows and dam release data.

If the Russian River Watershed Council is going to succeed, it requires your respect. We must be given meaningful authority in this process or we will only be able to conclude that it is a waste of our time. Please respond to our concerns rapidly and directly.

Sincerely,



Brenda Adelman: Chair of RRWPC

X-Sender: exito@popd.ix.netcom.com
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Fri, 27 Aug 1999 09:06:26 -0700
To: jv@monitor.net
From: Rusty <exito@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: controversy/remedy:

Joan,

Thank you for your call last evening. Here's what I would say. I struck all the pejorative preamble. This isn't a trial and we're not posing as lawyers. We have a simple complaint, we propose a straightforward solution, enough already. Leave recounting the history of misery to Heroditus. If it is absolutely mandatory in order to satisfy some of the parties involved add the strum and drang as a post script with Attachment I, Exhibit A. Keep it simple is sometimes a great notion.

With regards,
Rusty Klassen

Lt. Colonel Peter T. Grass
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
333 Market Street, 8th Fl
San Francisco, CA 94105
Dear Lt. Colonel Grass:

The Corps has, in our view essentially misrepresented the RRWC by linking it through implication as a mitigating factor to a proposed project on the Russian River (see Attachment 1, Exhibit A).

We believe that by accident of process or deliberate design the Army Corps of Engineers has improperly used the good will of the Russian River Watershed Council by suggesting, through association, a tacit approval or "stakeholder consensus" of the aforementioned Corps' project in the Russian River watershed.

Whether by omission or commission this action constitutes a trespass on faith that has caused a breach of confidence among many Council participants in the hard won and still fragile trust being constructed as part of the RRWC process. Many parties to this process have deliberately set aside historical distrusts and uneasiness in order to participate. Now this. Members from every group involved are now reasonably asserting a demand for tangible assurances that this current fiasco is nothing more than the trespass of accident that will not be permitted to recur in future. This reassurance must issue from decision makers who can be trusted to speak with enabling authority rather than local liaisons who do not have the power to commit the corps to future actions.

We the undersigned cannot in good conscience continue to participate in the RRWC unless all state and federal agencies participating in the RRWC process, including the Corps, willingly agree to the following procedural safeguards:

- 1) No agency shall represent any action as a function, project or recipient of endorsement of the Russian River Watershed Council unless that action has been approved by a roll-call vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the RRWC.
- 2) No document produced by an agency participating in the RRWC process shall reference the RRWC without the approval of the Council.

ATTACHMENT F

3) Documents referencing the Council shall not be submitted or released to the public prior to approval by the Council. Drafts of such documents shall be submitted to Council members no less than 45 days prior to a vote.

4) No agency shall misrepresent the mission or activities of the RRWC, on pain of expulsion from the RRWC process. The existence or activities of the RRWC shall at no time be characterized as an argument for reduced or benign environmental impact of an action by a public or private entity in the Russian River watershed, without approval of such characterization by a roll-call vote of the Council at a regularly scheduled meeting, or by approval by a body duly authorized by the Council to take such action.

In short, we want to be informed, we want to have enough time to make informed decisions about programs, projects and budgets, and we want not to have our names affixed to goals, activities and statements which we have had little or no part in creating.

We feel that these are exceedingly reasonable requirements for further good-faith participation in a stakeholder process by any regulatory agency. If the Corps is unwilling to agree in writing to these operating principles in the next thirty days we will interpret that as an unwillingness to make a commitment to act in the open handed spirit of cooperation to which the "new Corps" has itself claimed to be a subscriber.

This is at base a simple request. Mollify our discomfort through tangible means. Show us proof of good will and allow us to come away reassured that our investment of trust remains well placed. If this solution is beyond your means then the process itself is in mortal jeopardy and we will either abandon it or reform without the Corps at our nucleus. We seek the good offices of your help in resolving this dilemma.

Sincerely,

August 27, 1999

Lt. Colonel Peter T. Grass
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
333 Market Street, 8th Fl
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Lt. Colonel Grass:

We the undersigned members of the Russian River Watershed Council have had repeated experiences involving the Army Corps of Engineers' participation in the Council which undermine our confidence in the RRWC process. As citizen volunteers, we have contributed hundreds of hours of uncompensated time and energy to this effort, and we are increasingly convinced that we are being taken for a ride on the Corps' behalf.

Specifically, we find:

- That documents, proposals and activities produced by the Corps have repeatedly been represented as being products, proposals or activities of the RRWC, when the Council has had little or no input into these. Examples include the Project Study Proposal ("PSP") for 1998, which supposedly identified RRWC activities but which was actually written entirely by Corps staff and which served, rather than funding RRWC activities, to provide funding for Corps staff and activities. Although the Project Study Proposal has been represented by the Corps as a document produced by and for the RRWC, the Corps has in fact written the PSP and its budget both in 1998 and 1999.
- That the Council has been provided access to key documents and has been expected to approve them only when so little time has remained before submission deadlines that informed and substantive review, discussion, and amendment has been impossible. Examples include the 1998 PSP and the Council budget.
- That on many occasions and despite repeated requests for information, we have been kept in the dark regarding activities which the Corps has represented as actions approved by the Council, but which have in fact been unilateral actions of the Corps. Prominently, these include the programs and projects described in the 1998 Project Study Proposal, which were entirely a product of the Corps. The Corps has refused to respond to requests by Council members for information about the Corps' activities in the watershed, such as dam release flow regimes.
- That the Corps has misrepresented the goals of the RRWC in a manner which falsely describes RRWC goals as closely echoing Corps responsibilities (compare Attachment 1, "Project Description," Exhibit A, and Attachment 2, "Mission Statement approved by RRWC," which contains no mention of flood control, gravel mining, dam operations, erosion or fish migration, all of which are listed in the Corps' characterization of the RRWC's goals).
- That the Corps has in essence misrepresented the RRWC as a mitigation for project impacts to the Russian River (see Attachment 1, Exhibit B).

We believe that the Army Corps of Engineers has used the Russian River Watershed Council process to apply a "stakeholder consensus" veneer to unchanged continuation of the Corps' practices in the Russian River watershed. We cannot in good conscience continue to

participate in the RRWC unless the Corps and all state and federal agencies participating in the RRWC process will agree to the following:

- 1) No agency shall represent any action as a function, project or recipient of endorsement of the Russian River Watershed Council unless that action has been approved, after appropriate pre-notification, by a roll-call vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the RRWC.
- 2) No document produced by an agency participating in the RRWC process shall reference the RRWC without the approval of the Council.
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In short, we want to be informed, we want to have enough time to make informed decisions about programs, projects and budgets, and we want not to have our names affixed to goals, activities and statements which we have had little or no part in creating.

We feel that these are reasonable requirements for good-faith participation in a stakeholder process by a regulatory agency. If the Corps is unwilling to agree in writing to these operating principles by September 15, we will only be made comfortable with the Russian River Watershed Council process if the Army Corps of Engineers leaves it.

Otherwise, we will have no choice but to leave the Council ourselves.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and anticipate your reply.

Sincerely,

Mark Green, Son Co Conservation Action
Bev Wasson
Bob Clemens, Sequoia Paddling Club
Brian Hines, Sustainable So. Co.
Chuck Vaughn
David Berman, Westm. Woods Env. Educ.
Denny O'Brien, FOER
Ellen Drell, Willits Env. Ctr.
Greg Zuckert, RRAUL
Jay Halcomb, RRAUL
Joanne Dranginis, Madrone Audubon Soc.
Joan Vilms, FORR
John Hammond, WCA
Kay McCabe

Krista Rector
Laurel Marcus
Linda Bailey, Ukiah Creek Coalition
Ludwig Martinson, Six Rivers Guides
Nikki Barratt
Pamela Netzow, RR Env. Forum
Pat Schuch, CNPS
Paul Jensen
Park Steiner
Peggy Maddock
Peter Ashcroft, Sierra Club
Tim Derry, So Co Conservation Council
Tom Meldau
Will McAfee, Sierra Club

(Other RRWC members pending)

cc: Mary Nichols, CA Secretary of Resources
Karen Rippey, Brian Wirtz, US Army Corps of Engineers
Cathy Bleier, CA Resources Agency
Representative Lynn Woolsey,
Representative Mike Thompson,
Senator Wes Chesbro,
Assemblywoman Virginia Strom-Martin,
Assemblywoman Pat Wiggins, S
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,
Environmental Protection Agency
US Dep't of the Interior
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
North Coast Water Resources Control Board
San Francisco Chronicle
Santa Rosa Press Democrat
Sonoma County Independent
Sonoma West Times and News
Russian River News
Cloverdale Reveille
Healdsburg Tribune/Windsor Times
Rohnert Park Community News
Russian River Times
Bodega Bay Navigator
Independent Coast Observer
Anderson Valley Advertiser
Pacific Sun
Ukiah Daily Journal

RRWC - Ad Hoc Assembly • c/o Environmental Center of Sonoma County • POB 4346 • Santa Rosa CA 95402

August 30, 1999

Lt. Colonel Peter T. Grass
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
333 Market Street, 8th Fl
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Lt. Colonel Grass:

We, the undersigned members of the Russian River Watershed Council, have had repeated experiences involving the Army Corps of Engineers' participation in the Council which undermine our confidence in the RRWC process. As citizen volunteers, we have contributed hundreds of hours of uncompensated time and energy to this effort, and we are increasingly convinced that we are being taken for a ride on the Corps' behalf.

Specifically, we find:

- That documents, proposals and activities produced by the Corps have repeatedly been represented as being products, proposals or activities of the RRWC, when the Council has had little or no input into these. Examples include the Project Study Proposal ("PSP") for 1998, which supposedly identified RRWC activities but which was actually written entirely by Corps staff and which served, rather than funding RRWC activities, to provide funding for Corps staff and activities. Although the Project Study Proposal has been represented by the Corps as a document produced by and for the RRWC, the Corps has in fact written the PSP and its budget both in 1998 and 1999.
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- That the Corps has misrepresented the goals of the RRWC in a manner which falsely describes RRWC goals as closely echoing Corps responsibilities (compare Attachment 1, "Project Description," Exhibit A, and Attachment 2, "Mission Statement approved by RRWC," which contains no mention of flood control, gravel mining, dam operations, erosion or fish migration, all of which are listed in the Corps' characterization of the RRWC's goals).
- That the Corps has in essence misrepresented the RRWC as a mitigation for project impacts to the Russian River (see Attachment 1, Exhibit B).

We believe that the Army Corps of Engineers has used the Russian River Watershed Council process to apply a "stakeholder consensus" veneer to unchanged continuation of the Corps' practices in the Russian River watershed. We cannot in good conscience continue to participate in the RRWC unless the Corps and all state and federal agencies participating in the RRWC process will agree to the following:

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Lt. Col Peter T. Grass
Page 2

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We feel that these are reasonable requirements for good-faith participation in a stakeholder process by a regulatory agency. If the Corps is unwilling to agree in writing to these operating principles by September 15, we will only be made comfortable with the Russian River Watershed Council process if the Army Corps of Engineers leaves it.

Otherwise, we will have no choice but to leave the Council ourselves.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and anticipate your reply.

Sincerely,

Mark Green, Sonoma County Conservation Action
Bev Wasson
Bob Clemens, Sequoia Paddling Club
Brian Hines, Sustainable Sonoma County
Chuck Vaughn
David Berman, Westminster Woods Environmental Education
Denry O'Brien, Friends of the Eel River
Ellen Drell, Willits Environmental Center
Greg Zuckert, Russian River Residents Against Unsafe Logging
Jay Halcomb, Russian River Residents Against Unsafe Logging
Joanne Dranginis, Madrone Audubon Society
Joan Vilms, Friends of the Russian River
John Hammond, West County Alliance
Kay McCabe
Krista Rector, Sierra Club
Laurel Marcus
Linda Bailey, Ukiah Creek Coalition
Ludwig Martinson, Six Rivers Guides
Nikki Barratt, Dutch Bill Crk Watershed Group

August 30, 1999
Lt. Col Peter T. Grass
Page 3

Pamela Netzow, Russian River Environmental Forum
Pat Schuch, CA Native Plant Society
Paul Jensen, Sierra Club
Park Steiner, biologist
Peggy Maddock
Peter Ashcroft, Sierra Club
Tim Derry, Chair, Sonoma County Conservation Council
Tom Meldau, Sequoia Paddling Club
Will McAfee, Sierra Club
Eric Sunswheat
Anella Dalrymple

cc: Mary Nichols, CA Secretary of Resources
Karen Rippey, Brian Wirtz, US Army Corps of Engineers
Cathy Bleier, CA Resources Agency
Representative Lynn Woolsey
Representative Mike Thompson
Senator Wes Chesbro
Assemblywoman Virginia Strom-Martin
Assemblywoman Pat Wiggins
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Mendocino Board of Supervisors
Environmental Protection Agency
US Department of the Interior
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
North Coast Regional Water Resources Control Board
National Marine Fisheries Service
San Francisco Chronicle
Santa Rosa Press Democrat
Sonoma County Independent
Sonoma West Times and News
Russian River News
Cloverdale Reveille
Healdsburg Tribune/Windsor Times
Rohnert Park Community News
Russian River Times
Bodega Bay Navigator
Independent Coast Observer
Anderson Valley Advertiser
Pacific Sun
Ukiah Daily Journal

August 30, 1999
Lt. Col Peter T. Grass
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ATTACHMENT 1

EXHIBIT A: Project Description Summary. Public Notice from the Corps, dated 8/26/99

APPLICANT:
Vino Farms, Inc., 11115 Eastside Road, Healdsburg (Prudential Insurance of America)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Riprap 1120 feet of east bank of RR. 18-foot high vertical back would be constructed with riparian vegetation planted on top. During construction RR would be diverted. "In order to minimize effects to endangered species, the applicant is proposing to use a team of qualified biologists to remove fish species from the work area to suitable locations up- or downstream of the project site."

PURPOSE & NEED:
"The applicant states that the purpose of this project is to stabilize an 18 foot high bank which has eroded a substantial portion of the owner's land and is currently threatening a vineyard."

STATE APPROVALS:
State water quality certification or waiver is a prerequisite for the issuance of a USACE permit. Said certification was requested on Sept. 29, 1997. Water quality issues should be directed to the Executive Officer, NCRWQCB, 555 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, 95403, by the close of comment period.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

a) substrate:
short-term effects would be temporary, adverse, but minor in magnitude. No long-term effects on substrate.

b) erosion & sedimentation:
short-term effects are expected to be adverse, short-term & moderate in nature. Long-term effects will be beneficial as the streambank will no longer erode & minor in magnitude.

c) streamflow & drainage:
"The possibility exists that the construction of an erosion resistant streambank of this magnitude in this location may affect stream dynamics and bank stability below the project site. The potential for this effect is unknown at this point."

(no "d")

e) water quality: effects unknown

EFFECTS TO THE BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT:

a) pool & riffle area:
"These riffles will be impacted by heavy equipment during construction, but will quickly return to normal..."

b) riparian vegetation:
Because applicant plans to plant rip. vegetation along upper half of bank, the project would increase total riparian canopy. Overall effects are deemed beneficial in nature.

c) endangered species:
Formal consultation has commenced, and a biological opinion is forthcoming from NMFS.

SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS:

August 30, 1999
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Page 5

"This project would increase the total number of feet of armored bank of the RR. The total number of feet of armored bank is not known at this time, but has increased over the past several years."

"Past activities, including gravel mining, water use, urbanization have adversely affected the equilibrium of the RR, causing downcutting and streambank erosion. This problem is evident in the project area, and the applicant is attempting to halt these types of erosional problems..."

EXHIBIT B. From the USACE Public Notice:

Summary of Cumulative Effects This project would increase the total number of feet of armored bank of the Russian River. The total number of feet of armored bank is not known at this time, but has increased over the past several years. Cumulative impact is defined at 40 CFR 1508.7 as, in part, "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past and present and reasonably foreseeable future actions." Past activities, including gravel mining, water use, urbanization have adversely affected the equilibrium of the Russian River, causing downcutting and streambank erosion. This problem is evident in the project area, and the applicant is attempting to halt these types of erosional problems in the project area. The Russian River has been the subject of extensive interest and concern of late.

The Corps is currently a partner in the Russian River Watershed Council. This council's mission is develop a watershed restoration management plan with recommendations and designs, that will evaluate natural and structural problems endangering the Russian River from past land management actions and water use. The Council's goals will be to:

- * Reduce the threat of flooding in the Russian River
- * Adjust the operations of Coyote and Warm Springs dams to mimic the basin's natural systems.
- * Reduce channel degradation and erosion caused by gravel mining and channel constraint.
- * Improve the Russian River's water quality.
- * Eliminate barriers to fish migration

The development of the watershed restoration management plan will be a community-based effort with the support of the Corps, the State of California, and other federal, state and local agencies and organizations and interested parties. For more information on the Russian River Ecosystem Restoration Study, visit the Corps web site at <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/russian>. The proposed Action would not result in a net loss of acreage of waters of the United States, but may affect channel stability above and below the project site.

ATTACHMENT 2

Mission Statement approved by RRWC

The mission of the Russian River Watershed Council is to protect, restore, and enhance the biological health of the Russian River and its watershed through a community-based process which facilitates communication and collaboration among all interested parties.

Our primary goals are:

- 1) To ensure the recovery of the Russian River and its watershed to a condition such that the native wild anadromous fishery recovers to healthy and sustainable level.
- 2) To ensure a strong, healthy and diverse economy in the Russian River region;
- 3) To promote stewardship of the Russian River and its watershed by developing an informed and engaged citizenry.