

July 14, 2017

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)

**Humboldt County
Eureka Dock Limited Piling Replacement Project
40.794760, -124.187656¹
ECM PIN CW-834509, WDID No. 1B170389WNHU**

Humboldt County

On March 24, 2017, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Sierra Pacific Industries (Applicant), requesting federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Eureka Dock Limited Piling Replacement Project (Project) in the city of Eureka, Humboldt County.

Project Description

The Applicant operates a 14-acre wood chip stockpile and shipment industrial facility adjacent Humboldt Bay at West 14th street and Railroad Avenue in the City of Eureka (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Project Location

¹ WGS84 datum

The facility includes an approximately 33,900 square-foot wooden dock extending west from the facility approximately 150 feet into Humboldt Bay (Figure 2). The dock is used by the Applicant during periods of active barge loading. The purpose of the Project is to maintain the dock functionality and safety by replacing deteriorated timber fender pilings and installing eight structural reinforcing piles, as described below.



Figure 2: SPI Facility and Dock

Western Dock Boundary Pile Replacement

Up to 40 deteriorated 12-inch to 18-inch-diameter creosote or pressure-treated fender wooden pilings would be replaced along the western dock boundary with eight 12-inch steel pilings. Each set of two new steel pilings would support a single length of steel I-beam between them, for a total of four lengths of I-beam.

Structural Reinforcing Pile Installation

A chip conveyor structure made of steel is positioned at the central portion of the dock and is used to transfer wood chips from the wood chip stockpiles to docked barges. Up to eight 12-inch-diameter structural steel pipe pilings would be installed under the existing chip conveyor to reinforce the four existing 12- and 18-inch-diameter wooden structural pilings.

Future Pile Replacement

The Applicant has also proposed ongoing maintenance replacement of up to five structural and/or fender pilings per year, as needed based on piling conditions, for up to ten years. The Regional Water Board typically issues certifications with expiration dates five years from certification issuance. The Regional Water Board will consider an expiration date ten years from certification issuance if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issues a ten-year permit for

the Project that incorporates ongoing pile replacement. Replacement of pilings in subsequent years would require certification amendments, evaluations of potential impacts to aquatic habitat, such as eelgrass impacts, and compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Pile Removal

Wooden piles would be removed using a Vibratory Driver Extractor equipped with a timber clamp. The Applicant has estimated each pile would take five minutes to remove.

Pile Installation

Piles would be installed using a Vibratory Driver Extractor equipped with a duncie clamp.

All piling activities would be performed using a mounted crane and vibratory hammer staged from either the dock or a barge. A tug boat would be used to position the barge.

Receiving Waters

The proposed Project would disturb Humboldt Bay within the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit (Basin Planning Area No. 110.00).

Construction Timing

Project construction is proposed to occur annually between August 1, and September 1, starting in 2017.

Impacts

The proposed Project would result in a net decrease in fill to the bay due to replacing forty 12 to 18-inch diameter piles with eight 12-inch piles. Eelgrass may be present at pile replacement and installation locations.

Mitigation

Because the Project would result in a net decrease of fill in Humboldt Bay, mitigation for the new pilings would not be required. Any mitigation for impacts to eelgrass will be determined after the Corps completes consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Other Agency Permits and Actions

The Applicant has applied to the Corps for an Individual Permit, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act and section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The Corps initiated consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service on June 22, 2017.

CEQA

The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District, as CEQA lead agency, issued a categorical exemption for the Project, pursuant to section 15301, *Existing Facilities*, of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Public Comments

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Brendan Thompson at (707) 576-2699 or Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's Project file includes the application for certification and additional details of the proposed Project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.