

August 23, 2010

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

City of Fort Bragg- Otis R. Johnson Wilderness Park Enhancement Project
WDID No. 1B10085WNME

Mendocino County

On June 21, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Fort Bragg, requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the proposed Fort Bragg – Otis R. Johnson Wilderness Park Enhancement Park (project). The proposed project has temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the United States (U.S.) and Waters of the State associated with two unnamed tributaries that merge and flow into Pudding Creek located within the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit 113.

The purpose of the proposed project is to re-establish and improve native habitat and improve water quality by: restoring stream connectivity; upgrading one culvert to a bridge; replacing one collapsed footbridge; installing native material revetment where a debris jam has forced a stream into a mountainside trail; removing invasive plant populations from riparian areas and replacing them with native plant communities propagated from local native plant populations; realigning the trail network to reduce surface erosion; replacing two retaining walls; and installing four interpretive panels. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has funded the restoration components of this project as a means of achieving compensatory off-site mitigation for impacts to wetlands and waters associated with the Ten Mile River Bridge Replacement project.

Based on the mapped areas of the proposed project, total estimated area of disturbance within Jurisdictional Wetlands is 525 sq. ft. and 450 sq. ft. within Waters of the U.S. The City of Fort Bragg proposes to minimize the temporary impacts to waters of the U.S and State by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to provide erosion control and pollution prevention throughout the project area during construction. The two unnamed tributaries will be improved by: 1) installing a foot bridge along the trail to reduce foot traffic across the stream to prevent hikers from disturbing the adjacent vegetation that occurs along the banks; and 2) replacing an undersized culvert with a footbridge. Both stream restoration actions and the projects minimization measures will reduce sediment runoff.

The proposed project will be conducted from August 2010 to March 2012 with instream work limited to summer/fall. If flows are present during the proposed work window, stream diversions may be necessary to isolate the work site. The diversion methods may include installing a coffer dam or clear water stream diversion. The coffer dam would be composed of wet straw flakes and/or bales and plastic sheeting and/or spawnable gravel 1-4" in diameter. Diverted waters would enter a pipe or hose with

streamflow water being returned to the native watercourse downstream of the worksite. Any dewatered aquatic organisms (most likely salamanders) will be relocated in clear waters beyond the worksite in the same stream. Either the coffer dam or the clear water diversion will be installed upstream of the work site. The completed temporary water diversion will be installed prior to the onset of construction and removed once construction is complete.

Construction activities that take place within jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and State will also require a California Department of Fish and Game 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, and a non-reporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nation Wide Permit No. 27 (Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities); Nation Wide Permit No. 14 (Linear Transportation Projects); Nation Wide Permit No. 3 (Maintenance) and; Nation Wide Permit 13 (Bank Stabilization). The City of Fort Bragg has determined that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction), 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), and 15333 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects) and has submitted a Notice of Exemption (NOE) to the; State Clearing House (Number 2009108156).. In addition, Regional Water Board staff also determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 33 Small Habitat Restoration Project Categorical Exemption) and anticipates filing a NOE.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA (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 letter 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 Jeremiah Puget at (707) 576-2835 or jpuget@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 road construction activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The related documents and 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.