

December 27, 2012

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

Humboldt County DPW – Bair Road at Redwood Creek, Bridge Scour Protection  
WDID No. 1B12197WNHU

Humboldt County

On December 6, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Public Works Department (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with maintenance of existing rock slope protection (RSP) along the wingwall of the bridge on Bair Road over Redwood Creek in order to prevent additional scour and protect the structure during high flows in Redwood Creek. The proposed project is located at Bair Road Post Mile 3.38 in Redwood Valley. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Redwood Creek in the Beaver Hydrologic Area No. 107.20.

The proposed project involves placement of 25 to 30 cubic yards of one-ton rock along the exposed and undermined wingwall on the right streambank to supplement existing RSP that has shifted and eroded. The supplemental RSP will fill in voids that have formed over the years of high flows in Redwood Creek. The additional RSP will not intrude any further into the channel beyond the extent of the remaining RSP.

Rocks will be stockpiled within the existing roadway and/or a nearby turnout. An excavator will be used to pick up one rock at a time and carefully place it along the wingwall. All work will be done from the bridge-deck and only a portion of the excavator bucket will enter the water to place the rock.

The proposed project will result in 30 linear feet and 200 square feet of permanent impacts to existing RSP located within waters of the United States. The proposed project will not result in any temporary impacts to waters of the United States. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include implementation during the dry season when flows are low and the use of Best Management Practices for materials staging and use of heavy equipment near a stream channel. The proposed project is scheduled to occur during the summer of 2013 and is expected to take approximately 2 days to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 3 pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The applicant has obtained a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game. Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1, Section 15301 – existing facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

The Redwood Creek watershed is listed on the Clean Water Act section 303(d) list as impaired for sediment and temperature. On December 30, 1998, the U.S. EPA established sediment total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Redwood Creek watershed. Roads

are a significant source of sediment in the watershed (directly, from surface erosion, and, indirectly, by triggering landslides. In addition, activities that impact stream bed, banks, and floodplains and reduce riparian vegetation are identified as sources contributing to increased stream temperatures. Such projects may involve removal of vegetation and/or channel alteration, and also have potential to increase sediment loads. A focus on measures to reduce sediment discharges to surface waters from roads in the watershed, and measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on riparian zones is essential for achieving TMDL, Basin Plan, and CEQA compliance. The proposed project is intended to prevent erosion along the wingwall and does not include the addition of any fine sediment to the stream channel or the removal of any riparian vegetation. Accordingly, the proposed project is consistent with, and implements portions of the Redwood Creek TMDL.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed activities including maps and photos of the project area. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

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 comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during 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, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.