

December 9, 2013

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

Noyo Harbor Mooring Basin Tsunami Repair Project
WDID 1B13102WNME

Mendocino County

On August 2, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Noyo Harbor District (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (dredge/fill projects) for activities associated with the Noyo Harbor Mooring Basin Tsunami Repair Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with the tidal river basin of the Noyo River in the Mendocino Coast hydrologic unit, Noyo River hydrologic area 113.20. The project is located at 19101 S. Harbor Drive, Fort Bragg, CA at latitude 39.423858°N, and longitude 123.801396°W. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and state would be approximately .0002 acres and 108 linear feet to the tidal harbor.

The purpose of the project is to repair damage to the marina caused by the 2011 Tsunami event, state disaster number 2011-02, and restore the marina to the original configuration. The project includes removing all pilings, docks, and fingers that were damaged in the tsunami and replacing them with new pilings, docks, and fingers. The new construction would utilize pre-fabricated concrete pilings, decking, and wrapped flotation structures. The new installation will replace the footprint in the mooring basin that existed prior to the tsunami. The pilings will be removed with a vibratory hammer to break the sediment bond and minimize the likelihood of breakage during extraction. They will be removed slowly to allow sediment to slough off at or near the mud line. Extracted pilings, docks, and fingers will be staged, prior to re-use or disposal, on an asphalt deck with wattles and sand bags to prevent the discharge of sediment or debris.

An eelgrass survey will be conducted for all areas within 50 meters of the project location. The survey is scheduled to be completed in May 2014. The *Southern California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy*, referenced in the National Marine Fisheries Service's programmatic consultation, has been included in the file to identify what measures would be taken to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate for impacts to eelgrass should eelgrass be found during the survey.

Temporary impacts from the project to waters of the state include .0002 acres, encompassing the footprints of the new pilings. The project is expected to begin in June 2014, and is estimated to last 35-40 working days.

The applicant has applied for Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (File Number 2013-00291N). Additionally, the

applicant has submitted a draft Streambed Alteration Notification to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The North Coast Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15269: Emergency Projects, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

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 project including maps and photos. 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. 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 notice and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.