

February 27, 2015

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

**Freshwater Nature Trail System Project
WDID No. 1B13038WNHU**

Humboldt County

On March 20, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) first received an application from the Northcoast Regional Land Trust (NRLT), Lindsay Green (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Freshwater Nature Trail System Project (Project). This initial application was deemed incomplete. On February 17, 2015, the Regional Water Board received information to complete the application. The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with Wood Creek, Freshwater Creek, Freshwater Slough, and wetlands within the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00. The Project is located near the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and Felt Road, Eureka, Humboldt County, at latitude 40.782°N, and longitude 124.089°W.

The primary purpose of the Project is to upgrade existing facilities associated with the historical recreational use of Freshwater Farms Reserve and the adjacent waterway; including existing trails, parking, and boat launch areas. Trail upgrades would include an elevated boardwalk, signage, trail safety features, and a primitive boat ramp.

Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. and state include approximately 0.001 acres of wetlands. This Project is part of the larger Freshwater Farms Reserve Project which restored 35.1 acres of brackish marsh wetlands at this site.

The Project is planned to begin on June 1, 2015, and continue until October 31, 2016. Work will likely be completed between June and October of 2015, but may require additional time between June and October of 2016 to complete the Project.

The Applicant has obtained Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Nationwide Permit (NWP 18 No. 2011-0000-14N). The Applicant has obtained a Streambed Alteration Agreement (# 1600-2011-0163-R1) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On December 18, 2014, Humboldt County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, produced an Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2008082028), 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. 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 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 Jake Shannon at (707) 576-2673 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.