

March 2, 2015

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

**California Department of Parks and Recreation
Big River Watershed Restoration M2 Road
WDID 1B14139WNME**

Mendocino County

On December 22, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino State Parks, Renee Pasquinelli (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 Big River Watershed Restoration M2 Road Project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the state associated with unnamed tributaries to Big River (113.30). The project is located at in Mendocino Headlands State Park-Big River, at latitude 39.30505°N and longitude 123.7648°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 1.04 acres.

The purpose of the project is to decommission 7 failing watercourse crossings on the M2 road. This project is a part of a larger watershed restoration effort to correct erosion and sedimentation problems, improve stream crossings along roads, remove logging roads that contribute sediment to Big River and tributaries, convert roads to trails, restore pre-disturbance hydrologic processes, delineate parking areas, construct a restroom building, and improve public information within the Big River unit of Mendocino Headlands State Park. The project will include removal of existing culverts, road fill, and any upslope excess sediment within the stream channel. Historical channel width, depth, alignment, and gradient will be restored. As needed, rock will be placed within the newly aligned channels to prevent erosion.

No compensatory mitigation is required, as the purpose of the project is restoration. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The project is expected to occur in the summer of 2015.

The applicant has applied for Clean Water Act Section 404 authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Nationwide Permit 13: Bank Stabilization. The applicant has also applied for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On August 19, 2014, the California Department of Parks and Recreation approved a supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH 2006072012) for the project in order to

comply with CEQA. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document, BMPs, and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

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.