

March 19, 2015

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

**Foster Avenue Extension and Rail with Trail Phase 1 Project  
WDID No. 1B15019WNHU**

**Humboldt County**

On February 9, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Arcata, Public Works Department (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Foster Avenue Extension and Rail with Trail Phase 1 Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with wetlands within the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00. The Project is located between Sunset and Foster Avenue, and between Alliance and L Street, Arcata, Humboldt County, at approximately latitude 40.878780°N, and longitude 124.090660°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 0.1521 acres of wetlands. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 0.0226 acres of wetlands.

The primary purpose of the Project is to extend Foster Avenue to the intersection of J Street and build Phase 1 of a recreation trail adjacent to the existing railway line. The proposed Project would include clearing vegetation, cut and fill, grading, paving and surfacing. Additionally, the Project will include creating a storm water treatment swale and on-site wetland mitigation. During construction of the road and trail approximately 0.1521 acres of riparian wetlands will be permanently impacted. Additionally, temporary impacts to 0.0226 acres of wetlands along the trail are proposed and will be restored to pre-project condition within one year.

The proposed Project includes a wetland mitigation and monitoring plan to offset permanent impacts and includes a minimum of 5 years of maintenance and monitoring. To meet compensatory mitigation requirements for the project impacts the Applicant proposes to establish 0.2286 acres of wetlands at the project site. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Project is planned to begin in the spring and summer of 2015 with construction work planned to last approximately 5 months.

The Applicant has obtained authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 under Nationwide Permit 17 *Linear Transportation*

*Projects.* The Applicant has determined that a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is not necessary for the project.

On March 24, 2014, the City of Arcata, 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. 2013032008), 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 Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.