

April 10, 2015

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

**Eureka Sand and Gravel Company – Eel River Aggregate Extraction at Hauck Bar and  
Singley Bar  
WDID No. 1B05045WNHU**

**Humboldt County**

On March 25, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a letter requesting reissuance of Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (Certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) from the Eureka Sand and Gravel Company (Applicant) to continue annual gravel (river-run aggregate) removal activities on Hauck Bar and Singley Bar of the Eel River. On June 15, 2010, the Regional Water Board issued a Water Quality Certification for the past proposed activities which expires June 15, 2015. No operational changes are being proposed and the proposed project sites for river-run aggregate removal remain unchanged. The future proposed activities will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Eel River in the Lower Eel River Hydrologic Area No. 111.10. No permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State are proposed. All proposed impacts to waters, from the extraction of river run aggregates, are considered temporary.

The Hauck Bar (40.542 N/124.156 W) is located immediately downstream of the mouth of the Van Duzen River. The total area of the Hauck Bar that is subject to potential gravel extraction activities covers approximately 180 acres. The maximum volume of aggregate authorized for annual extraction from the Hauck Bar is 150,000 cubic yards. Since 1993, the average volume of aggregate extracted annually from Hauck Bar is approximately 47,000 cubic yards. Since 2002, the primary extraction area has been a salmonid migration channel within the Van Duzen River delta. This salmonid migration enhancement project has been a cooperative effort of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Applicant's and Leland Rock's gravel extraction operations. The Singley Bar (40.615 N/124.216 W) is located about one half-mile downstream of Fernbridge and includes an area known as the Silva Estate Bar. The total area of the Singley Bar that is subject to potential gravel extraction activities covers approximately 285 acres. The maximum volume of aggregate authorized for annual extraction from the Singley Bar is 150,000 cubic yards. The actual volume removed and the specific areas of extraction vary from year-to-year but may not exceed the maximum limits authorized by the Certification. The total combined area subject to annual temporary impacts is approximately 36 acres. Gravel removal activities are expected to continue following proposal approval by other local, state, and federal permits.

River-run aggregate is removed using scrapers, dozers, excavators, loaders, and dump trucks. The permitted aggregate extraction season is typically from June 1 to October 15 or

until river conditions indicate all gravel operations shall cease prior to imminent inundation of the gravel bar, whichever comes first. Agencies may agree to grant an extension of the extraction season. Temporary crossing installation and use is typically allowed between June 30 and October 15. Temporary crossings are located to avoid potential fish spawning, holding and rearing habitat. Appropriate crossing locations are typically shallow low-velocity waters located away from riffle crests and pools. Temporary crossings will typically consist of two railroad flatcars placed on abutments. Abutments may consist of brow logs, concrete blocks, concrete K-rails, native gravel or washed rock, or other methods that provide a high level of protection from turbidity impacts. All temporary crossings must be removed no later than October 15.

Temporary stockpiling of excavated material within the limits of the extraction area is allowed through October 1. Stockpiles must be removed above Ordinary High Water on a daily basis after October 1 and disturbed gravel bar areas must be graded at the end of each day. The Applicant hauls aggregate materials to their processing facilities in Arcata (Christy Bar) and in Alton near Hauck Bar where the materials are crushed, screened, and/or washed for sale and use in asphalt and concrete products.

After the Applicant has removed the aggregate to the approved extraction design lines and grades, the extraction area is re-graded as necessary to leave no depressions or berms that may potentially trap fish or cause impacts to surrounding habitats. The Applicant's consultant will conduct a site visit at the conclusion of extraction operations and provide any additional recommendations reflecting seasonal extraction plans and reclamation plan conformity. When the final surfaces of the site are graded for seasonal reclamation, the operator may remove the summer crossings and leave the bankfull channel area to the natural reclamation process, which occurs during the high-flow events of the following winter. The Applicant will implement impact avoidance measures during the aggregate extraction processes including; maintenance and inspection of equipment, maintaining vertical and horizontal offsets from the live channel to ensure low-flow channel confinement, maintaining sufficient water depth for fish, minimizing impacts to water quality, limiting the number wet crossings, and limiting the amount of haul roads providing access to the extraction areas.

The Applicant shall obtain authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform the proposed project activities under Individual Permit (Permit No. 2015-1) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The USACE may regulate the Applicant's future aggregate extraction activities under Individual Permit, LOP 2015-1, a new LOP procedure, or by Letter of Modification. The Applicant shall obtain a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). These agencies and the County of Humboldt Extraction Review Team (CHERT) require monitoring, data gathering, reporting, site inspections, channel cross section surveys, and aerial photo review.

On January 15, 1992, the County of Humboldt County made a determination of vested right for the annual extraction of up to 10,00 cubic yards of river run material from the Silvia Estates Bar portion of the Singley Bar. On June 8, 1992, the County of Humboldt, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act agency, certified a Negative Declaration for Silvia Estates Bar and on August 5, 2009, the County certified an Addendum to the Negative Declaration (SCH No. 1992013033). On July 28, 1992, the county certified a Supplemental Environmental Report to the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report on Gravel Removal from the Lower Eel River for the Singley Bar (SEIR) specifically. On August 4, 1992, the County certified the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) on Gravel Removal from the Lower Eel River. The County certified an Addendum to the Singley Bar SEIR on August 5, 2009. On July 24, 1997, the County of Humboldt certified a SEIR (SCH No. 1996013024) for gravel removal from the Hauck Bar specifically. The State Clearinghouse Number for both the Singley Bar SEIR and the PEIR is 1992013033. State Clearing House Number 1992013033 has been assigned to many different CEQA documents that have been prepared by the County since 1992 for the various gravel projects on the Lower Eel and Lower Van Duzen Rivers. The Regional Water Board has considered these environmental documents 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 activities including site maps and cross-sections. The Applicant's 2010 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 (hard copy) and received at this office by mail or direct delivery, or by email to [NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov) 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 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.