

June 19, 2015

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

**Rohner Creek Flood Control, Habitat and Seismic Improvement Project
WDID No. 1B15018WNHU**

Humboldt County

February 23, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Fortuna (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Rohner Creek Flood Control, Habitat and Seismic Improvement Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with Rohner Creek, Hillside creek and wetlands within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.11. The Project is located along Rohner and Hillside Creeks in Fortuna, Humboldt County, at latitude 40.597919°N, and longitude 124.150036°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 1.4 acres of wetlands, and 1.15 acres of Riparian habitat. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 1.25 acres of wetlands and 585 linear feet of creek channel.

The primary objectives of the Project consist of flood control, seismic and habitat improvements throughout the channel and floodplain of Rohner and Hillside Creeks. The proposed Project would include channel widening and stabilization, a floodplain swale (high flow bypass) for flow exceeding the 10-year storm, retrofitting the 12th street culvert to improve fish passage, placement of fill to raise the ground elevation and replacement of three culverts and there bridges. Improvements achieve a 100-year flood capacity for Rohner and Hillside Creeks. Additionally, this project includes initiation of a long-term stream corridor monitoring and maintenance process.

The proposed Project includes a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan as well as a Stream Corridor Management Plan that describe proposed mitigation, maintenance and monitoring. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

Compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to wetlands, creek channels and Riparian are required for this project. The applicant proposes onsite in-kind mitigation that would establish and re-establish approximately 0.90 acres of riverine wetlands, establish approximately 1.45 acres of emergent wetlands, and establish and re-establish approximately 4.55 acres of Riparian. Temporary impacts are proposed to be restored to pre-project condition within one year of project completion.

Project phases 1 - 4 are planned to begin in the summer of 2015 through fall of 2018 with construction work planned to last approximately 120 days. Following phases 1 - 4 the applicant may propose in-stream maintenance activities annually through the permit cycle.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

On August 4, 2014, the City of Fortuna, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, filed a Notice of Determination for Mitigated Negative Declaration with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2014062010), 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.