

July 3, 2015

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

**Eel River Estuary Preserve: Failing Culvert Replacement Project
WDID No. 1B15079WNHU**

Humboldt County

On June 22, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from The Wildlands Conservancy, Dan York (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401 Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Eel River Estuary Preserve: Failing Culvert Replacement Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with Cutoff Slough and tidal wetlands within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.11. The Project is located where Cutoff Slough connects to the inner marsh of the Eel River Estuary Preserve, Ferndale, Humboldt County, at latitude 40.608459°N, and longitude 124.322769°W.

The primary purpose of the Project is to replace the existing failing culvert with a 48" double-walled plastic culvert to provide access to part of the Reserve. The proposed Project would include installation of fish exclusionary fencing on either side of the culvert, installation of sediment curtains, installation of a temporary coffer dam and removal and replacement of the failing culvert. Additionally, ¾" Class-2 Aggregate base and plantings will be used to stabilize the banks and culvert. During construction, work will be conducted at minus tides to minimize turbidity issues. No permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State are proposed. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State include approximately 40 linear feet of slough channel as a result of culvert removal and replacement.

The proposed Project includes a plan to revegetate disturbed areas. The Applicant proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Project is planned to begin in the summer of 2015, with construction work planned to last approximately one day.

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.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction, and will file a Notice of Exemption with

the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, 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 gil.falcone@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2830, or Stephen Bargsten stephen.bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.