

August 5, 2015

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

Noyo Harbor Mooring Basin Maintenance Dredging Project

Mendocino County

On June 30, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Noyo Harbor district (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Noyo Harbor Mooring Basin Maintenance Dredging Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with Noyo River within the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No. 113.20. The Project is located in the Noyo harbor mooring basin, Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, at latitude 39.424074°N, and longitude 123.801380°W. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State include approximately 8 acres of harbor channel dredging and removal of approximately 35,000 cubic yards of sediment.

The primary purpose of the Project is to conduct maintenance dredging of the mooring basin to design depth to provide navigational access. The proposed Project would include using a suction dredge with barge to remove approximately 35,000 cubic yards of sediment. Sediment is proposed to be placed at the 3-acre approved Noyo upland storage site for dewatering and then moved to an approved beneficial reuse or disposal site.

The proposed Project includes a plan to survey Eelgrass (60 days prior to dredging) to identify possible areas of impact that would necessitate mitigation. If mitigation is necessary the applicant proposes to mitigate as defined in the *California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy and Implementation Guidelines*. Avoidance and minimization measures are proposed to exclude areas of previously identified Eelgrass. Additionally, the applicant has proposed to conduct sediment sampling and analysis for agency review and approval prior to commencing maintenance dredging. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after dredging at the dredge and dewatering sites.

The Project is planned to begin in September of 2015 with construction work planned to last approximately 5 weeks.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 Permit (Nationwide Permit No. 35, Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins). The Applicant has applied to the California Coastal Commission to obtain regulatory approval.

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, 15304 (g) Minor Alterations to land, 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.