

December 3, 2015

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

**Elk Valley Rancheria, Humboldt Road Safety Improvement Project  
WDID No. 1B14022WNDN**

**Del Norte County**

On March 7, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from GHD Inc., on behalf of the Elk Valley Rancheria (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Humboldt Road Safety Improvement Project (Project) conducted on Del Norte County owned, or under easement, land (non-tribal property). Activities associated with this project that occur on land owned by the Elk Valley Rancheria are subject to approval and 401 water quality certification issued by United States EPA. The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the wetlands within the Smith River Plain Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 103.11. The Project is located at Humboldt Road at the intersection of Humboldt Road and Sandmine Avenue, Crescent City, Del Norte County. The Project site is located at latitude 41.74°N, and longitude 124.156389°W. The proposed Project will cause permanent impacts to wetlands, waters of the U.S. There are no temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. or the State proposed.

The purpose of the Project is to improve vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic safety and efficiency along Humboldt Road. Project objectives are to redesign the roadway to meet or exceed American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards. The project will provide a pedestrian-oriented transportation facility separated from the roadway for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrian use. Project activities include: resurfacing and/or reconstructing the road structural pavement, construction of a roundabout with sidewalks and crosswalks, construction of 4-foot wide shoulder, and construction of separate pedestrian-oriented trail.

The proposed Project will permanently impact approximately 0.04 Acres of wetlands, waters of the U.S. The proposed Project is not anticipated to result in any temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. or State. The Applicant proposes compensatory mitigation including establishment of approximately 1.38 acres of wetlands and 0.48 acres of Riparian habitat at the Martin Ranch in Crescent City. The compensatory mitigation site will include offset for impacts related to fill of wetlands on County as well as Rancheria property. Best Management Practices for sediment and erosion control are proposed to avoid and minimize temporary impacts.

The Applicant proposes to conduct the proposed activities between May 15 and October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, for the duration of five months.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has received authorization from the California Coastal Commission, Coastal Development Permit A-1DNC-12-021.

Del Norte County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has produced a Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2011122072), 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 letter 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.