

**February 19, 2016**

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

**City of Eureka  
Eureka Waterfront Trail Project  
Various Locations ~40.802, -124.178<sup>1</sup>  
WDID No. 1B15156WNHU, ECM PIN CW-820074**

**Humboldt County**

On December 8, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Eureka (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Eureka Waterfront Trail Project.

**Project Description**

The purpose of the Project is to increase non-motorized public access to Humboldt Bay by constructing a Class 1 multi-use trail along the Humboldt Bay waterfront (Project). The trail would be 3.75 miles long, have an eight to ten-foot-wide paved mainline with unpaved, two-foot-wide shoulders, and extend along the waterfront between Truesdale Street to the south and Tydd Street to the northeast. Other Project elements include construction of six bridges, trailheads, playgrounds, parking reconfiguration, interpretive signage, landscaping, drainage improvements, and fencing.

Project construction is expected to commence in 2016 and take approximately three years to be completed. Project construction would be broken into three phases, from south to north:

- Phase A—1.2 miles of trail construction between Truesdale and Del Norte Streets;
- Phase B—1.38 miles of trail construction along Waterfront Drive and Railroad Avenue between C Street and W. Del Norte Street;
- Phase C—1.17 miles of trail construction between Tydd and Front Streets, including a 559-foot-long boardwalk, and mitigation construction.

The Project also involves demolishing existing concrete structures and establishing a facility to process the concrete for trail sub-base.

**Impacts**

The proposed Project would result in approximately 0.32 acres of permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and 0.04 acres of willow shrubland alliance as a result of fill placement for trail construction and mitigation construction. The proposed Project would

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<sup>1</sup> WGS84 datum

also result in approximately 0.353 acres of temporary impacts to jurisdictional wetlands as a result of boardwalk construction access.

### **Avoidance and Minimization for Aquatic Species**

According to the Applicant, permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetland have been avoided by: lengthening bridges to bring abutments outside of jurisdictional areas; raising bridges and the boardwalk to avoid shade impacts; and using 2" helical piers in-lieu of larger and impact-driven piers.

### **Mitigation for Project Impacts**

The Applicant proposes to restore 1.28 acres of previously filled estuarine salt marsh to compensate for permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands.

### **Other Agency Permits**

The Applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for coverage under Nationwide Permit No. 14, *Linear Transportation Projects*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

### **CEQA**

As lead agency, the City of Eureka prepared Mitigated Negative Declarations for the three Project phases (SCH nos. 2012052053, 2014022050, 2014092033). The Applicant signed Notices of Determination adopting the Mitigated Negative Declarations on June 20, 2012, March 28, 2014, and October 22, 2014, in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

### **Public Comments**

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 phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within 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 or comments, please contact staff member Brendan Thompson at (707) 576-2699 or [Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's Project file includes the application for certification and additional details of the proposed Project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.