

March 29, 2016

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

**Sierra Pacific Industries  
Sierra Pacific Dock Maintenance Dredging  
40.7945, -124.187<sup>1</sup>  
WDID No. 1B05028WNHU, ECM PIN CW-765538**

**Humboldt County**

On December 8, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Eureka Forest Products (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Sierra Pacific Dock Maintenance Project (Project).

**Project Description**

The purpose of the Project is to restore and maintain depth in the moorage area of the Eureka Forest Products dock at 1206 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St. in the City of Eureka. Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sediment would be removed to approximately -35 feet Mean Lower Low Water within an approximately 1.25-acre area adjacent the existing dock (extending from the dock 126 feet to the south, 100 feet to the north, and 80 feet west).

The Regional Water Board authorized similar dredging activities by issuing certification on August 10, 2006, and again on June 29, 2011. Despite the certifications, the dredging activities were not performed and the most recent certification expires June 29, 2016; the Applicant has submitted an application to maintain dredging authorization from the Regional Water Board.

The following description of operations has been provided by the Applicant as the likely procedure for dredge material removal that would be employed by the contractor. A barge-mounted crane would be fitted with a closed clamshell bucket, which would be opened and lowered until it contacts the bay floor. The clamshell would close, containing the sediment and some bay water. The crane would place dredged material directly into dump trucks positioned on the dock. A person situated on the dock would assist the crane operator in aligning the clamshell bucket with the truck bed to minimize spillage. Truck beds would be sealed or lined in an effort to minimize leakage. The crane operator would allow the bucket to drain for a short time before swinging back over the water for another scoop. Once filled, the truck would transport the dredged material to a lined basin constructed on an upland parcel. The basin would be lined to prevent percolation of bay water to groundwater. A ramp would be constructed at the basin's perimeter berm to allow the truck to be positioned such that the material can be delivered into the basin

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<sup>1</sup> WGS84 datum

without spilling. Dredge spoils will be transported to a permitted facility for permanent disposal.

If the selected contractor proposes to place the dredged material on the barge before transferring to the dump trucks, Sierra Pacific shall submit a proposal detailing the procedures and facilities to contain all water and sediment on the barge, subject to review and acceptance by Regional Water Board staff.

### **Impacts**

The proposed Project would result in approximately 1.25 acres of temporary impacts to Humboldt Bay as a result of dredging 20,000 cubic yards of sediment. Eelgrass is not currently located within the dredging footprint.

### **Dredging Timing**

The applicant has proposed to conduct dredging activities sometime between June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2024.

### **Other Agency Permits**

The Applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for an Individual Permit, pursuant to CWA, section 404. The Applicant was issued a Biological Opinion from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on August 9, 2010 (file no. 2010/02731).

### **CEQA**

As lead agency, the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project (SCH 2006052166) 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.