

June 9, 2016

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

**Fortuna Community Health Center
40.5817, -124.1333¹
ECM PIN CW-824428; WDID No. 1B16390WNHU**

Humboldt County

On May 5, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Open Door Community Health Centers (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Fortuna Community Health Center Project (Project).

Project Description

The purpose of the Project is to construct a new health center in the City of Fortuna. The Applicant is proposing to construct a new two-story, approximately 30,000 square foot medical facility on a vacant 5.25-acre lot within the city limits of Fortuna. Site work would include a roadway, driveways, parking, sidewalks, widening the city-maintained drainage ditch that runs westerly along the northern property boundary, a storm water detention basin and raingardens, walking trails, landscaping, a community garden and wetland mitigation area.

The proposed Project would cause disturbances to jurisdictional wetlands within the Ferndale Hydrologic Sub Area (Basin Planning Area No. 111.11), within the Eel River watershed. The Project area drains into Strongs Creek after first passing through a drainage ditch that borders the northern Project boundary, and then through an approximately 800-foot-long culvert drainage system beneath St. Joseph's Drive and Redwood Way. Jameson Creek is approximately 500 feet to the south and Strongs Creek is approximately 1,000 feet to the northwest. The two creeks join together approximately 1,450 feet west of the site.

Construction Timing

The Project is expected to be completed in two construction seasons, between June 27, 2016, and October 18, 2017.

Impacts

Approximately 0.04 acres (1,740 square feet) of jurisdictional isolated palustrine emergent wetland would be permanently impacts as a result of Project implementation.

Approximately 0.05 acres (1,186 linear feet) of state waters would be temporarily impacted as a result of widening a drainage ditch along the northern site boundary.

¹ WGS84 datum

Mitigation for Project Impacts

The Applicant is proposing to create no less than 0.08 acres of seasonal palustrine emergent wetland within the Project limits. The existing jurisdictional drainage ditch would be widened from 0.05 to 0.11 acres.

Post-Construction Storm Water Treatment

Project implementation would result in a 2.56-acre increase in impervious area. To address storm water pollutants from the added impervious area, the Applicant proposes to utilize low-impact development (LID) landscape features. To address changes to the receiving water hydrograph, the Applicant is proposing to utilize LID features and construct a detention basin that would infiltrate storm water runoff from impervious surfaces produced from the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event.

Total Maximum Daily Load

The Eel River is identified as impaired for sediment and temperature under Clean Water Act Section 303(d).

Other Agency Permits

The Applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit No. 39, *Commercial and Institutional Developments*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

CEQA

As lead agency, the City of Fortuna certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2016012033), pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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 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.