

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

Eureka Forest Products-Maintenance Dredging Project, Sierra Pacific Dock
WDID No. 1B05028WNHU

Humboldt County

On March 14, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Rick Borges, representing Eureka Forest Products, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Maintenance Dredging Project-Sierra Pacific Dock located along the eastern shoreline of the North Bay Channel at 1206 West 14th Street in Eureka, Humboldt County. Sierra Pacific Industries has leased the dock from Eureka Forest Products since 1993. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Humboldt Bay in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.

The proposed project requires dredging to remove sediment that has accumulated at the end of the dock since the dock was last dredged in 1989. The purpose of the dredging project is to restore and maintain adequate berthing depth to allow for continued safe mooring and product movement by Sierra Pacific Industries. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sediment will be dredged annually. An area of approximately 1.25 acres will be dredged using a clamshell dredge. The dredged area extends 70 feet from the northwest corner of the dock to 130 feet southwest from the north end of the dock, including an area of approximately 600 feet parallel to the dock. A crane with a clamshell dredge will be located on the dock and will deposit dredged material into dump trucks to be transported to an on site retention basin located in the northwest corner of upland property adjacent to the dock. The spoil retention basin will be used to decant water from the sediment using percolation. The proposed basin site is sloped away from the bay to prevent incidental surface run-off from flowing into the bay. The proposed basin will be approximately 75 feet by 50 feet with a three-foot high perimeter berm. The spoils will be spread to a thickness of 3 feet, to facilitate evaporation and drainage. Following completion of the dewatering process, dredge spoils will be transported to an offsite permitted location.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control. The annual dredging activities will be conducted during the winter (November to March) when bay waters are more naturally turbid. The applicant has applied for authorization to perform the proposed dredging project from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is pending. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required for this project.

Regional Water Board staff is 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. Regional Water Board staff intends to issue a 5-year Water Quality Certification authorizing annual maintenance dredging. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801, or at dprat@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

April 11, 2005