

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

Vance Dairy Wetland Enhancement Project  
WDID No. 1B05002WNHU

Humboldt County

On January 10, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Marty McClelland with Oscar Larson and Associates, representing the property owner, RDHC LLC (applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Vance Dairy Wetland Enhancement Project near Beatrice, Humboldt County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Salmon Creek and Hookton Slough in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The proposed project is located along the west side of Salmon Creek and the north side of Hookton Road. The project is on a ninety-acre portion of the applicant's 290-acre dairy property. The land affected by the proposed project is wetlands on diked former tidelands. The primary component of the proposed project is excavation of two shallow wetland ponds to create seasonal habitat for waterfowl, primarily Aleutian Canada Geese, and to improve the property for cattle grazing. The proposed ponds will be excavated with bulldozers. The topsoil will be stripped from the pond areas and temporarily stockpiled. Both ponds will be excavated to an average depth of one foot. The previously stripped topsoil will be placed back on the slopes and bottom of the pond excavations to replace the fertile soil and seed bank. Water elevation control structures and associated piping will be installed in each pond. The ponds will be located and designed to avoid prime soils. Excess soil generated by the pond excavations will be hauled offsite.

Well water may be supplied to the wetland ponds to maintain water levels. Rainwater will supplement the ponds during the wet season. Seven acres of existing wetlands will be enhanced by this project. If well water is not supplied to the ponds at some point in the future, the pond areas are expected to retain their existing wetland characteristics.

The proposed project also involves a breach in the levee along Salmon Creek that was repaired by the applicant in October 2004. The repair work was authorized by Department of the Army Nationwide Permit 13 and an emergency permit by the California Coastal Commission. Additional work on the repaired section of levee is required to repair the effects of high flows in Salmon Creek during January 2005. The additional levee work consists primarily of replanting vegetation on the repaired section of levee.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for heavy equipment use. All construction will be conducted according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's specifications for erosion control and soil compaction. The applicant has applied for authorization to perform the proposed restoration project from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. The County of Humboldt, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration on February 7, 2005.

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. 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](mailto:dprat@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

April 22, 2005

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