

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

Mateel Community Center/Reggae on the River – Seasonal Bridge Installation  
WDID No. 1B05083WNHU

Humboldt County

On June 17, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Diana Totten, representing Mateel Community Center, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the seasonal bridge at the Reggae on the River event near the town of Piercy, Humboldt County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Benbow Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.32.

The proposed project is located in the Cooks Valley area on the east side of U.S. Highway 101, approximately 0.7 mile north of the intersection of Cooks Valley Road and U.S. Highway 101, on the property known as “French’s Campground,” near the town of Piercy. The applicant proposes to construct a seasonal bridge over the South Fork Eel River. This temporary access bridge is for the event known as Reggae on the River. The 22nd annual event is a fundraising production for non-profit organizations.

The applicant proposes to construct two 50-foot long and 60-foot wide gravel approach ramps and place a 90-foot long flatcar bridge over the South Fork Eel River. The applicant proposes to install pre-fabricated interlocking 6-foot by 2-foot-by-2-foot concrete blocks near the Mean Low Water (MLW) line to form the bulkhead. The applicant will place approximately 744 cubic yards of native gravel behind the concrete blocks, in order to build bridge approaches to the desired height for the bridge span, and will place large rocks at the toe of the fill to prevent erosion. The concrete blocks will also function to prevent erosion and the introduction of sediment into the receiving waters of the South Fork of the Eel. The applicant will place a 90-foot bridge on the bulkhead and approaches, spanning the river. Bridge removal will be the reverse of installation; first, the applicant will remove the bridge span, then the native gravel approaches, and finally the concrete blocks. Following removal of the concrete blocks, the applicant will place and spread gravel to the natural configuration.

The proposed project site is located adjacent to the Eel River, and is populated by listed salmonids, Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet. Site analysis and technical consultations with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services have determined that the project does not impact any species, listed or non-listed.

The total river area temporarily impacted is approximately 60 linear feet. Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices. The proposed project will be confined to the gravel bar and will not encroach into the live streambed. The project will not involve soil disturbance, vegetation removal, or permanent fill. The anticipated installation date is June 27, 2005 and the removal will be complete by October 15, 2005.

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the proposed seasonal bridge project, pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 404. The

applicant has also applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game. Humboldt County Planning Commission, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project.

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 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.