

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

Ancient Redwoods Resort RV Park
WDID No. 1B06019WNHU

Humboldt County

On February 24, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Brandy Stier of Whitchurch Engineering, representing the Last Redwood Corporation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to construction of the Ancient Redwoods Resort RV Park (RV Park), a proposed recreational vehicle park near the town of Redcrest, Humboldt County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Chadd Creek in the Scotia Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.12.

The proposed project is located at 28101 Avenue of the Giants, near the confluence of Chadd Creek and the Eel River. The applicant received a Special Permit from Humboldt County to construct the RV Park and associated improvements within the County's Streamside Management Area (SMA). The Special Permit allows for a reduction of the Streamside Management Area from 100 feet wide to a variable width of 50 to 75 feet wide. The RV Park would be allowed to operate annually from May 1st to October 30th. Activities related to construction of the RV Park include grading and paving, trenching to install drainage features and utilities, installation of a septic system, installation of a new well and water supply system, and removal and replacement of an existing bridge. The proposed project also includes activities related to implementation of a variety of in-stream fish habitat and riparian vegetation enhancements to mitigate for the area within the SMA that will be lost as a result of the proposed project.

Mitigation measures include planting a variety of native tree species in a mitigation reserve area along Chadd Creek, placing large woody material and boulder structures in Chadd Creek to improve habitat complexity for salmonids, and grading approximately 1500 feet of an existing road to direct runoff away from Chadd Creek. The mitigation plan proposes planting approximately 3,500 tree seedlings in a mitigation reserve area, including 2,227 coast redwood, 432 big leaf maple, 490 red alder, 223 willow, and 158 black cottonwoods. The applicant began planting the mitigation reserve area a few years ago. Many of the older seedlings have grown to approximately three to four feet tall. A fence was also installed to keep cattle away from Chadd Creek and out of the mitigation reserve area.

Proposed in-stream habitat enhancement activities include placing large wood and rock structures in Chadd Creek. California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) biologists have conducted site reviews in order to recommend design criteria that will maximize the habitat enhancement efforts. Based on the site reviews, the desired conditions for the project stream reach were defined as having 2.5 pieces of large wood per 100 feet of stream. The actual design and implementation of the proposed in-stream enhancement structures will be based on the California Stream Habitat Restoration Manual and site-specific habitat conditions. Some of the in-stream habitat structures will be anchored using root wads, boulders and other natural means rather than cables. Some of the large wood structures will be keyed into the banks by burying at least one-third of the structure in a trench that is excavated into the bank. Temporary cofferdams

may be installed around work areas where necessary to allow stream flows to bypass the work area and to prevent soil from entering the stream. Soil will be compacted around the added log structures and cobbles will be placed over disturbed areas to minimize soil erosion. Heavy equipment will be used to access the banks for installation of the habitat structures. Any areas of soil disturbance will be mulched with native materials to restore the soil cover. The large logs and root wads that will be used for in-stream habitat are located in an existing stockpile. No additional trees will be felled to provide large wood for enhancement structures.

Less than ten small diameter (less than 15-inch diameter at breast height) deciduous trees may be felled for the purpose of relocating an existing bridge. The footings of the existing bridge consist of rotten logs that are sitting on the banks of Chadd Creek. The 8-foot wide flatcar bridge will be removed and placed in a temporary crossing location while new bridge footings are constructed approximately 100 feet upstream of the existing location. The new bridge footings will be located at least six feet away from the banks of Chadd Creek and will raise the bridge approximately two feet. No piers or other bridge structures will be placed in the stream channel.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control. The applicant has received authorization (File No. 265180N) to implement the proposed project under Nationwide Permit No. 27 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The applicant has also applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game. Humboldt County Community Development Services, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, 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 written comments submitted during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.