

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

Humboldt Waste Management Authority – In-Stream Erosion Control at Cummings Road
Landfill
WDID No. 1B06027WNHU

Humboldt County

On March 9, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Steve Salzman of Winzler and Kelly Consulting Engineers, representing the Humboldt Waste Management Authority (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the removal, installation and maintenance of in-stream sediment control measures at the Cummings Road Landfill in Eureka, Humboldt County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with an unnamed tributary to Freshwater Slough in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The Cummings Road Landfill is located at 5775 Cummings Road, approximately two miles southeast of the City of Eureka. The landfill is a canyon fill that accepted municipal solid waste between the years of 1930 and 2005. The landfill no longer accepts waste and is in the final closure process. The former creek channel and the canyon walls were buried in solid waste and soil for the past 75 years. The spring flows that originally fed the creek have been significantly reduced by a groundwater diversion trench that is located upgradient of the landfill and by capturing subsurface flows in the leachate collection system. The creek at the toe of the landfill receives runoff from the landfill cover during the winter and is typically reduced to a small trickle during the summer.

The surface of the landfill was significantly altered during the summer of 2005 for preparation of the final landfill cover system that is scheduled for installation during the summer of 2007. Approximately 45 acres of the landfill surface was disturbed and the erosion control measures were not successful in preventing significant movement of the disturbed soil. Most of the runoff from the disturbed landfill surface was routed through sedimentation basins. The toe of the landfill is below the elevation of the sedimentation basins and runoff from that area carried eroded sediments into a creek channel and the adjacent floodplain.

During November 2005, a series of emergency sediment control structures was placed in the affected creek channel. The control structures consisted of a series of check dams constructed with hay bales that were staked in place and covered with non-woven geotextile filter fabric. The filter fabric was secured with sand bags and rock. The original six sediment control structures filled with sediment within the first month of installation. Captured sediment was removed several times. The removed sediment was used to fill more sandbags and the additional sandbags were used to improve the sediment control structures. Additional work to the landfill cover and drainage system was also conducted in an effort to control additional erosion.

The proposed project involves grading work on the landfill cover to repair and modify the surface water collection system, construction of a road along the affected creek to provide access to the sediment control structures, removal of the emergency sediment control structures, and replacement of the control structures with permanent sediment traps consisting of rock check

dams covered with geotextile fabric. The proposed sediment control structures would permanently impact approximately 600 square feet of stream channel. Maintenance of the check dams and removal of sediment is anticipated to be necessary through 2010, approximately three years following the installation of the final cover on the landfill. After the landfill cover is fully vegetated and monitoring shows the cover is stable, the check dams will be removed and the creek channel will be cleaned out and allowed to vegetate.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include cleanup of captured sediment, the future removal of the sediment control structures, and revegetation of affected sections of the creek channel. Non-compensatory mitigation measures also include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control. The applicant has applied for authorization (File No. 300450N) to implement the proposed project under Nationwide Permit Numbers 3 and 33 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 Waste Management Authority, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration for closure of the landfill on January 25, 2003.

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.

DLP_humboldtmapubnot053006.doc