

October 30, 2006

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

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection - Elk Camp Fire Station
Relocation
WDID No. 1B06117WNHU

Humboldt County

On August 18, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Bob Sleepy, representing California Department of General Services (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the construction of a new Elk Camp Fire Station north of Orick, Humboldt County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with roadside drainages tributary to Prairie Creek in the Orick Hydrologic Area No. 107.10.

The Department of General Services is proposing to construct a new Elk Camp Fire Station to replace the existing Elk Camp Fire Station that was built in 1951. The new station would provide fire protection for the Redwood National Park and Redwood State Park. The project site is bounded by Lost Man Creek to the northeast, Highway 101 to the southeast, and Prairie Creek to the northwest. The overall project involves demolition of existing structures on the new building site and construction of the facility on upland portions of the site. Impacts to waters of the United States are associated with drainage modifications to accommodate widening of Highway 101 for installation of a left turn lane and widening two existing driveways adjacent to the highway. Driveway widening activities include replacement of two 24-inch diameter culverts and installation of erosion protection at the inlets and outlets. The proposed project would permanently impact 0.13 acre of waters of the United States including 0.02 acre of seasonal wetland and 0.11 acre of roadside drainages. Impacts to roadside drainages include 0.094 acre on the southeast side of Highway 101 and 0.017 acre on the northwest side of Highway 101. Impacts to the seasonal wetland are associated with installation of erosion control fabric and hydromulch around the culvert inlet on the northernmost driveway for the new facility.

Compensatory mitigation for this project includes creation of new roadside drainage ditches that are similar in size, shape and vegetation type to the existing drainages that will be impacted by the project. A new drainage swale will also be installed along the southwest side of the new facility to convey runoff into the existing roadside ditch. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control. The applicant has applied for authorization to implement the proposed project under Nationwide Permit Numbers 3, 14, and 33 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The applicant will be notifying the California Department of Fish and Game to determine whether a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) is required for the project. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, certified a Negative Declaration for the proposed project on October 4, 2002.

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 submitted in writing and received at this office by mail 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.

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