

October 30, 2006

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

PacifiCorp – Yreka to Weed Transmission Upgrade Project
WDID No. 1A06119WNSI

Siskiyou County

On August 21, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Leslie Wagner, representing SWCA Environmental Consultants, requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification on behalf of PacifiCorp (applicant), for activities related to upgrading the electric transmission line between Yreka and Weed in Siskiyou County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and waters of the State including Garrick Creek, Willow Creek, Shasta River, and wetlands in the Shasta Valley Hydrologic Area No. 105.50.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the reliability of electric service between the Yreka and Weed Junction substations by increasing transmission capacity in order to continue safe and reliable service to customers and to meet contractual obligations. The proposed project involves upgrading the existing Line 1 from a 69 kilovolt transmission line to a 115 kilovolt line. Approximately 17 miles of existing wood poles would be removed and replaced with new wood poles that have slightly larger diameters and are an average of nine feet taller. In addition to upgrading Line 1, approximately 1.4 miles of new 115 kilovolt transmission line will be installed within a new right-of-way between the Weed Tap and Weed Junction Substations, and the existing substations at Yreka, Lucerne, and Weed Junction will be modified.

The proposed project would permanently impact approximately 0.00105 acre of jurisdictional wetlands (waters of the United States) and 0.00086 acre of isolated wetlands (waters of the State). The proposed project would also temporarily impact 0.22-acre of waters of the United States and 0.34-acre of isolated wetlands. Permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands are associated with the replacement of four power poles that have a larger diameter than the existing poles. Permanent impacts to isolated wetlands are associated with the replacement of nine existing poles with larger diameter poles. Temporary impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States are associated with removal of existing power poles, excavation for installation of new poles, and placement of geotextile mats to allow access to some of the pole locations.

Compensatory mitigation is not proposed for the permanent impact to 0.00105 acre of jurisdictional wetlands. 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 Number 12 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The applicant has applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game. The California Public Utilities Commission, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, submitted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH#2006092006) for the proposed project to the State Clearinghouse on September

1, 2006. Certification of the Mitigated Negative Declaration by the lead agency is required prior to issuance of Water Quality Certification.

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.