

June 13, 2007

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

French's Camp/Dimmick Ranch - Seasonal Bridge Installation, So. Fork Eel River  
WDID No. 1B07085WNHU

Humboldt County

On May 3, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Tom Dimmick (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for proposed activities related to the installation and removal of temporary bridges over the South Fork Eel River for the annual reggae music festival at Cooks Valley, Humboldt County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the South Fork Eel River in the Benbow Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.32.

The proposed project is located on the east side of Highway 101, near the intersection of Highway 271 and Highway 101. Camping and other activities associated with the annual reggae music event will occur on both sides of the South Fork Eel River on properties known as French's Campground and the Dimmick Ranch. The applicant proposes to install temporary bridges at two locations that have been used during the previous music events. One single-lane bridge (Bridge "A") will be installed for use as an emergency access/egress route between French's Camp to Highway 101 and one four-lane bridge (Bridge "B") will be installed between the Dimmick Ranch and French's Campground. Bridge "A" will consist of one 90-foot long by 9-foot wide flatcar bridge placed on concrete block and gravel fill abutments. Bridge "B" will consist of four 90-foot long by 9-foot wide flatcar bridges placed on concrete block and gravel fill abutments.

The abutments for both bridges will be made by placing a row of pre-fabricated interlocking concrete blocks near the water's edge to form bulkheads on both sides of the river. Native gravel bar material will be excavated from 0.1 acre areas surrounding each of the bridge approaches and the aggregate material will be placed behind the concrete blocks to build the approach ramps to the height of the bridge span. The flatcar bridges will then be placed on the abutments. The flatcar bridges and concrete blocks will be removed from the river each year and the gravel used for the approach ramps will be spread to the natural contour of the gravel bar where the material originated. Annual bridge installation activities will temporarily impact 0.4 acre of streambed and dry gravel bar. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Noncompensatory mitigation for the proposed project includes the use of Best Management Practices for heavy equipment use near a waterway. Bridge installation and removal activities are scheduled to occur between June 1 and October 15 each year.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 14, 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. The Humboldt County Planning Commission, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has prepared an Environmental Impact Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 1992033035) for the annual music event.

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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