

April 2, 2007

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification
and/or Waste Discharge Requirements**

Proposed Amendment of a Water Quality Certification for
Humboldt County, New Navy Base Road - Shoreline and Bank Repair
(WDID No. 1B04003WNHU)

Humboldt County

On March 22, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) issued a Water Quality Certification to the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (applicant) for a shoreline protection and bank repair project near the Samoa Boat Ramp County Park on New Navy Base Road in Humboldt County. The purpose of the project is to protect New Navy Base Road and several public utilities that are buried between the road and the eroding shoreline. The project mainly involves installation of rock slope protection (RSP) to prevent additional erosion of the shoreline bank. The project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Humboldt Bay in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.

On February 28, 2007, the Regional Water Board received a letter from the applicant stating that a portion of the previously authorized project was implemented but the project was not finished due to the nature of shoreline repairs in that area and the California Coastal Commission's request for engineered plans to address additional bank erosion at the north end of the existing RSP. The applicant requested an extension of the Water Quality Certification expiration date and authorization to install additional RSP according to the revised project plans.

The revised project includes collection and replacement of RSP material that has migrated away from the existing revetment, addition of geotextile fabric under the RSP, extension of the existing RSP approximately 40 feet to the north, and construction of a wave interrupt jetty using large rock. The proposed jetty will extend approximately 15 feet into the bay from the existing RSP revetment. The top of the jetty will extend a few feet above the high tide elevation.

Compensatory mitigation is not proposed for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices. The installation of RSP below the ordinary high tide will be done during low tide so that no work will be done directly in the water. The applicant has applied for authorization to complete the additional shoreline protection work from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1601 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required for this project. The Humboldt County Department of Public Works has determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (Section 15304 – Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes). Based on review of the project information submitted to date, Regional Water Board staff anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project, as well.

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 or comments, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21-days of the posting of this notice.

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