

July 13, 2007

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

City of Yreka – Yreka Creek Floodplain Restoration Project

WDID No. 1A07052WNSI

Siskiyou County

On May 2, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Yreka (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the Yreka Creek Floodplain Restoration Project in the City of Yreka. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Yreka Creek in the Shasta Valley Hydrologic Area No. 105.50.

Yreka Creek is a perennial stream that provides habitat for anadromous fish. The purpose of the proposed project is to restore floodplain and riparian areas along Yreka Creek to reduce flooding effects on downtown Yreka and improve the quality of storm water runoff that enters the creek. The proposed project involves removing dredger tailings and fill materials from the historic floodplain to increase storm water storage adjacent to the creek channel and revegetation of the created floodplain to increase riparian habitat along the creek. The proposed project activities will be conducted in northern and southern project areas.

The northern project area is located on both sides of Yreka Creek between Oberlin Road and the creek crossing under Interstate-5 approximately 1,600 feet downstream. The northern project area is approximately five acres of City owned property that is adjacent to Yreka Creek. Proposed floodplain restoration activities in the northern project area include: (1) floodplain excavation and widening to increase storm water storage; (2) removal and disposal of garbage, concrete rip-rap, and old bridge abutments from the creek channel; (3) revegetation of the created floodplain with native plants; (4) configuration of the floodplain to enhance riparian and aquatic habitat; (5) installation of in-stream structures such as vortex rock weirs to enhance aquatic habitat; and (6) provide additional space along the creek for future construction of a recreational trail that is consistent with the Yreka Creek Master Plan. A temporary stream crossing will be used to provide access to the northern project areas.

The southern project area is located from the crossing over Yreka Creek at Sharps Road to approximately 1,470 feet downstream. Proposed floodplain restoration activities at the southern project area include: (1) floodplain excavation and widening to increase storm water storage; (2) removal and disposal of concrete and rip-rap, abandoned vehicles, and other debris from the creek; (3) clearing existing non-native invasive plant species along the creek; (4) installation of in-stream structures such as vortex rock weirs to enhance aquatic habitat; and (5) provide additional space along the

creek for future construction of a recreational trail that is consistent with the Yreka Creek Master Plan.

The proposed projects are scheduled to begin in late summer 2007 and are expected to take approximately 1 year to complete. All in-stream work will occur between during the dry season (May 1 through October 15). The proposed project will temporarily impact 0.016 acres and 40 linear feet of the stream channel. The proposed project is expected to create approximately 6.6 acres of riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat along the creek and to restore an approximately 3.5 additional acres. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. The project has been designed to avoid and minimize adverse impacts and permanent impacts to waters of the United States. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes revegetation of disturbed areas, as appropriate, and the use of Best Management Practices for heavy equipment use near a waterway.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Numbers 27 and 33, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. On June 7, 2007, the City of Yreka approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse number 2007032159) for the project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment. The applicant has applied to CDF&G for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the proposed activities for the Yreka Creek Floodplain Restoration Project. The application for Water Quality Certification and the Regional Water Board's file contain a significant amount of additional detail about the project. The application and Regional Water Board file is available for public review.

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.