

August 20, 2007

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

City of Yreka – Floodwater Detention Basins Project
WDID No. 1A07072WNSI

Siskiyou County

On May 10, 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 Floodwater Detention Basins Project in the City of Yreka. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Humbug Gulch and unnamed tributaries to Yreka Creek in the Shasta Valley Hydrologic Area No. 105.50.

The proposed project includes construction of three detention basins on the west side of Yreka that are designed to attenuate peak storm water runoff from the 100-year rain event in an effort to lessen flooding effects on downtown Yreka along Yreka Creek. The proposed project implements the detention basin element of the storm drainage improvements that are recommended in the City of Yreka's Master Plan of Drainage that was adopted in 2005.

The proposed detention basins are referred to as the Barham Basin, Humbug Basin, and Shasta Basin. The Barham Basin site is located west of Sherman Street, between Knapp Street and West Lennox Street. This basin will cover approximately 2.5 acres when full and will provide approximately 6 acre-feet of storm water storage. The Humbug Basin site is located south of the intersection of Lane Street and South Dewitt Way. This basin will cover approximately 5-7 acres and will provide approximately 18 acre-feet of storm water storage. The Shasta Basin site is located southeast of the intersection of Shasta Avenue and French Street. This basin will cover approximately 2.5 acres and will provide approximately 8 acre-feet of storm water storage. All the detention basins are designed as dry basins that will only hold water during and immediately following storm events. The basins are not designed to retain water for extended periods.

The proposed detention basins will be created by constructing earthen berms at the downstream extent of the basin site. Culverts will be installed through the base of the berms to allow runoff from small storm events to pass through the basins and to control the flow of water out of the basins during and following large storm events. The berms for the Humbug Basin and Shasta Basin will be constructed using cut and fill techniques to minimize the need for imported fill materials. Approximately 2,500 cubic yards of native soil material from adjacent upland areas will be used to create the berms for these basins. Approximately 5,500 cubic yards of imported fill material will be needed to construct the berms for the Barham Basin.

The proposed basin projects will permanently impact 0.15 acre of wetlands including 0.13 acre of wet meadow at the Shasta Basin site and 0.02 acre of riparian wetland at the Humbug Basin site. Compensatory mitigation is required for permanent wetland impacts from the proposed project. Proposed compensatory mitigation involves creation of 0.31 acre of wet meadow wetlands adjacent to existing wet meadow wetlands at the Shasta Basin site and creation of 0.05 acre of riparian wetland habitat adjacent to the impacted riparian wetland habitat at the Humbug Basin. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes use of Best Management Practices for erosion control and for the use of heavy equipment near wetlands. The proposed basin projects are scheduled to begin as soon as possible after all the necessary permits are obtained and are expected to take approximately six months to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 43, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The applicant has applied to CDF&G for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. On June 13, 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 information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the proposed activities for the Yreka Floodwater Detention Basins 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.