

January 22, 2008

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

Trinidad Pier Reconstruction Project
WDID No. 1B07170WNHU

Humboldt County

On November 30, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the Trinidad Pier Reconstruction Project in Trinidad. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Pacific Ocean in the Big Lagoon Hydrologic Area No. 108.10.

The Trinidad Pier is the northernmost oceanfront pier in California. The pier was built in 1946 and it has been used for commercial and recreational purposes over the past 50 years. Trinidad's economy is based on fishing and tourism and the pier is a primary facility that supports these activities. Trinidad pier and harbor currently serve a fleet of commercial fishermen. The pier also provides educational opportunities by accommodating the Humboldt State University Telonicher Marine Lab's saltwater intake pipe, and the California Center of Integrated Technology's (CICORE) water quality monitoring device.

It is difficult to maintain the safety of the pier due to excessive deterioration of the creosote-treated piles and the pressure treated decking and only minor maintenance activities have been conducted on the pier since it was built. The proposed project involves replacement of the pier structure in the same location. The primary purpose of the proposed project is to correct the structural deficiencies of the pier and improve the pier's utilities for the benefit of the public and fishermen.

The existing pier improvements are to be removed and replaced with approximately 13,500 square feet of pre-cast concrete decking, 115 cast-in-steel-shell concrete piles, 53 plastic/fiberglass fender piles, four hoists, standard lights, guardrail, and dock utility pipes including water, power, and phone. Removal of the existing pier and construction of the new pier will occur simultaneously. Reconstruction activities will begin at the south end and will progress in sections moving towards the land. All structures and utilities will be removed from the section of pier deck being reconstructed. The existing piles in the active section will be removed by vibratory extraction. Each pile will be unseated from the sediment by slowly pulling up on the pile with a crane while a vibratory hammer is vibrating the pile. Broken or damaged piles that are not successfully removed by vibration will be cut off below the mud line. Extracted piles and other structures removed from the pier will be hauled to the staging area for temporary storage. A maximum of fifteen treated piles will be stockpiled at the staging area before they are transferred to an approved upland disposal site.

Following removal of the existing pier piles, steel shell casings will be vibrated to a depth of approximately 2.5 feet above the final tip elevation. The steel shells are coated with a polymer to protect the piles from deteriorating in the saltwater environment. The half-inch thick steel shells shall extend from above the water surface to below the upper layer of sediment, which consists of sand, and into the harder sediment, which consists mostly of weathered shale and sandstone. An auger will be used to remove sediment from inside the steel shells and the shells will be left in place to support the integrity of the augured hole. Concrete is poured underwater using a tremmie to seal the augured area below the steel shell. Steel cages will be lowered into the shells prior to pouring concrete to fill the holes and form the piles. Pre-cast concrete bent caps will be installed across the top of each row of piles. Pre-cast concrete sections will be placed on the bent caps to create the decking. A layer of concrete will be poured over the pre-cast sections so that the deck surface will be sloped to the runoff collection piping.

A storm water runoff collection, treatment, and disposal system will be incorporated into the new pier design. Storm water runoff from the pier will be collected and piped to a treatment and disposal system that will be located below ground in a paved upland area. The treatment system is a passive siphon-actuated, flow-through, storm water filtration system consisting of a structure that houses rechargeable, media-filled cartridges. The system works by passing storm water through media filled cartridges that trap particulates and adsorb pollutants such as suspended solids, dissolved metals, nutrients, and hydrocarbons. Treated storm water runoff will flow into a pre-manufactured subsurface chamber designed to retain and percolate the treated storm water into the subsurface.

Installation of 115 proposed 18-inch diameter pier support piles and 53 proposed 10-inch diameter fender piles will permanently impact approximately 233 square feet of the ocean floor. Removal of 205 existing 10-inch diameter piles will remove approximately 162 square feet of the existing pier footprint on the ocean floor. The proposed project will increase the footprint of the pier on the ocean floor by approximately 71 square feet. Removal and installation of piers will result in minor temporary impacts to the sediment surrounding each pier.

Compensatory mitigation is not required. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for use of concrete and operation of heavy equipment over the ocean. A floating oil containment boom will be installed around the work area during creosote-treated pile removal to contain floating debris and any oil sheens. Oil-absorbent materials will be used if any sheen is observed.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 3, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The applicant has also applied for a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission. The City of Trinidad has prepared a mitigated negative declaration (SCH No. 2007092006) for the project in order to comply with CEQA. 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 applicant's proposed pier reconstruction activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file are 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.