

June 24, 2008

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

**Albion Field Station Boat Docking Facility Project  
Mendocino County (WDID# 1B06047WNME)**

On April 21, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Gilbert Muth of Pacific Union College requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Albion Field Station Boat Docking Facility Project in Mendocino County. The proposed project will disturb waters of the State associated with the Albion River and the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No.113.40.

The proposed project is located at 34100 Albion Street in Albion, APN 123-06-07. The purpose of the project is to replace an outdated boat docking facility on the Albion River with a new one, removal and replacement of a dilapidated boat barn, removal of an illegally placed culvert and construction of a bridge in its place, as well as removal of wetland fill and other site improvements.

The proposed boat docking facility will be "T-shaped," consisting of a raised walkway set on pilings extending from the shore to permanently floating dock sections that are perpendicular to the walkway. The raised walkway will extend in a northerly direction adjacent to an unnamed creek that is tributary to the Albion River. It will extend approximately 100 feet to within 15 feet of the floating dock sections, at which point a "down ramp," hinged at the top and with wheels at the bottom will attach the raised walkway to the floating dock.

Thirty 12-inch diameter steel-cased cement pilings will be used to support the raised walkway and as anchors for the floating dock. The pilings will be driven into the river bed using a pile driver operated from an existing gravel patch on shore, and then filled with cement. No heavy equipment will be operated from within the river or wetlands. Collars will be placed around the pilings during cement filling to ensure that no cement enter the water. Of the thirty pilings, eight would be located in an upland area, two would be located in a salt marsh, and twenty would be installed in the river. The raised walkway will be constructed from six-foot wide, pre-fabricated galvanized steel mesh, which will be welded to the piling caps. A mechanism to catch all construction debris, including metal filings and welding slag will be installed. All captured debris must be disposed of at an appropriate disposal facility. The floating dock will be constructed from six aluminum sections, measuring six by thirty feet. Freshwater, a sewer dump, and electricity will be piped out to the dock. The sewer will run back into a 5000 gallon septic tank that is already installed at the field station.

The floating dock has been sited according to the following criteria: a minimum of five-feet of water is necessary to accommodate ocean going vessels, placement needs to be such that it minimizes the shading of eel grass, and the dock needs to be placed as close to shore as possible to allow for vessels to pass upriver.

Prior to construction of the boat docking facility, the Applicant will initiate work on the new bridge. The bridge will span an unnamed creek, and is necessary to provide

access to the east side of the property. The bridge will consist of three pilings driven on each side of the creek with a steel beam (cap) welded to each of the pilings. Then, a pre-constructed bridge deck will be set on top of the pilings and steel beams by a crane and then welded into place. Containment will be installed around the pilings when welding occurs such that no welding slag or metal fines enter waters of the State. Following installation of the bridge deck the approaches to the bridge will be graded with gravel, and road base material.

An illegally installed culvert will be removed from a wetland area, and the area will be returned to natural drainage patterns. The applicant will also remove a concrete boat from a wetland area on site. The existing boat barn is being removed from its present position in a wetland area. All materials associated with the boat barn shall be removed and disposed of properly. The new boat barn will be constructed in an upland area currently used for boat and overflow vehicle parking.

All wetland areas will be re-contoured and vegetated with native wetland species. Plantings will be monitored to ensure native plant survival.

The total area of waters of the State to be impacted is 24 square feet.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will be attained through on-site improvements that will increase the Waters of the State. The removal of the concrete boat and the old boat barn will reduce existing impacts on site by approximately 3,900 square feet, or 0.09 acres.

The project is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b). The project meets the exemption criteria under title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15301 for Existing Facilities, and section 15303 for New Construction. The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15062 after issuance of this order.

The project is scheduled to begin in April 2009 and completed in July 2009. Staff is 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 received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or at [sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.