

July 18, 2008

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

United States Coast Guard – Dismantling Motor Life Boat Pier Project
WDID No. 1B08084WNHU

Humboldt County

On May 9, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Amanda Velasquez, representing the United States Coast Guard (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for proposed demolition, removal, and disposal of the Motor Life Boat pier, located at the south end of New Navy Base Road (40.766667N/124.216667W) in the community of Samoa, Humboldt County. The purpose of the proposed project is to prevent potential public, navigational and safety risks from damaged pilings and pier. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The property is located at the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Station, Humboldt Bay (APN 401-151-010). Work associated with the proposed dismantling project will be conducted from a floating barge. Work hours will be planned around tides to prevent contact between the barge and the bottom of the Bay. Activities associated with the proposed project include removal of approximately 50 timber piles at the mud line, using a hydro-saw. A debris boom will be placed so as to collect material that falls into the water; accumulated material will be disposed of at an approved upland site. The total area of impact is 0.18 acres. The proposed project will not involve pile driving, fill or dredge activities.

The proposed project does not require compensatory mitigation. Noncompensatory mitigation for the project includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion control. The applicant proposes to use a floating boom to prevent any debris from entering the intertidal zone during demolition and to remove any debris captured by the floating boom at the end of each workday. The project will occur between August 1 and September 15, 2008, with an estimated duration of 5 weeks.

The applicant has applied for a Letter of Permission (File No. 2008-00195N) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. section 403). The applicant has requested an informal consultation from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. On April 30, 2008, the United States Coast Guard adopted a Categorical Exclusion for the project to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document and anticipates filing a Categorical Exemption 15301 for Existing Facilities to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed demolition 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 propose 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 Diana Henriouille at (707) 576-2350 or email DHenriouille@waterboards.ca.gov or Catherine Woody at (707) 576-6723 or email Cwoody@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.