

February 24, 2009

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

College of the Redwoods – Culvert Replacement and Storm Water Detention Facility  
WDID No. 1B08171WNHU

Humboldt County

On December 1, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Tim Flanagan, representing College of the Redwoods (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with removal and replacement of an existing culvert and installation of a storm water detention basin. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with an unnamed tributary to Hookton Slough in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The proposed project is associated with demolition of an existing student union building and construction of a new student union building, an administration/student services/theater building and an academic building at College of the Redwoods. The proposed project includes excavation for building pads, new roads, sidewalks, and drainage facilities. Most of the storm water runoff from the project area drains to an existing storm water collection system on the south side of the project area that discharges to an unnamed jurisdictional stream channel on the east side of main parking lot area.

The proposed project includes placing two tons of rock riprap around the outlet of the existing culvert that is also the upstream extent of the unnamed stream. The proposed project also includes replacement of an existing 24-inch diameter culvert and outlet located on the left bank of the stream channel. The existing culvert will be replaced in-kind and will not result in any additional permanent impacts to the streambank or channel.

A 160-foot long by 25-foot wide storm water detention basin will be constructed in an upland area located on the west side of the jurisdictional stream channel. The detention basin will parallel the right streambank and will be separated from the channel by a 3-foot wide earthen berm. An approximately 18-inch diameter and 8-foot long redwood log will be anchored within the stream channel to direct water through an inlet to the detention basin. Storm water runoff will be detained in the basin and will be released back to the stream channel through an outlet weir that will be installed at the downstream end of the basin.

The project also involves rehabilitation of a ten-acre parking lot that includes new lights, trenching, sidewalks, irrigation line, repaving, reconstruction of the main entrance road, and replacing an existing undersized storm drain culvert. This activity area does not include any additional areas of impervious surface. The existing 8-inch storm drain on the south end of the parking lot is undersized and is in a bad location. The proposed project includes replacing the existing 8-inch diameter storm drain pipe with an 18-inch

diameter storm drain pipe and new outfall. The 18-inch diameter pipe will convey the parking lot runoff without ponding and will be much easier to clean and maintain. Most activities will be within upland areas with the exception of the removal of 1.5 cubic yards of material along the bank of the unnamed stream channel in order to install the new storm drain outlet. The invert of the 2.5-foot wide flared end section on the new storm drain outlet will match the existing flowline.

The addition of rock riprap around the existing culvert outlet at the upstream end of the project will result in an additional 8 linear feet and 16 square feet of new permanent impacts to the stream channel. Installation of a log in the streambed to deflect flows into the new basin will result in 8 linear feet and 12 square feet of new permanent impacts, and 18 square feet of temporary impacts to the stream channel. The inlet to the detention basin will result in 10 linear feet of permanent impacts and 2 linear feet of temporary impacts to the streambank. Installation of the outlet weir from the detention basin will result in 8.5 linear feet of permanent impacts and 3.5 linear feet of temporary impacts to the streambank. Removal and replacement of the existing 24-inch diameter culvert on the left bank will result in 2 linear feet and 6 square feet of temporary impacts to the stream channel. Activities to replace the undersized 8-inch diameter storm drain with an 18-inch diameter storm drain and the 2.5-foot wide flared end outlet will result in 2.5 linear feet and 7.5 square feet of permanent impacts to the stream bank.

Compensatory mitigation for the proposed project includes replanting impacted vegetation at a one-to-one ratio. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and for operation of heavy equipment near a stream channel.

The applicant has obtained authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 39 (File No. 2008-00386N), pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has obtained a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. The Redwoods Community College District has prepared a mitigated negative declaration (SCH No. 2007072022) for the proposed 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 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.

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