

February 26, 2009

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

City of Eureka – Martin Slough Sewer Interceptor Pipeline Project, Phase 1
WDID No. 1B09001WNHU

Humboldt County

On January 2, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Eureka (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with installation of a new pipeline to improve the City's sanitary sewer collection system. The proposed pipeline route follows Martin Slough from the Eureka Municipal Golf Course to approximately the south end of J Street. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with wetlands and unnamed tributaries to Martin Slough in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) have occurred at the City's O Street lift station due to excessive inflow and infiltration into the sewer collection system during significant wet weather events. The City has been under pressure from the Regional Water Board to eliminate the SSO problems and the City has been fined for past SSOs. The proposed project involves construction of an interceptor pipeline that will transport excess wastewater from the O Street lift station to the Golf Course lift station. The proposed pipeline will be constructed as Phase 1 of the Martin Slough Interceptor Project (Project), a larger project that has been determined to be the best solution for eliminating potential SSOs for the entire Martin Slough basin. The City is in the process of preparing designs for Phase 2 that will include a new pump station and a new force main extending from the new pump station to the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

Phase 1 has been designed to facilitate completion of future phases of the Project but it is being implemented as an independent project in order to expedite elimination of the existing SSO problems at the O Street Lift Station. Completion of Phase 1 will provide capacity within the new pipeline for temporary containment of excess wastewater from the O Street lift station. Wastewater contained within the new pipeline will be pumped into the Golf Course lift station for conveyance to the WWTP. Completion of Phase 2 will allow for wastewater in the new interceptor pipeline to be transported directly into a new pump station and then to the WWTP through a new force main. The existing Golf Course lift station will not be needed once Phase 2 is completed.

A new 600-foot long collector pipeline will also be installed along Campton Road during Phase 1. The collector pipeline will begin near the north end of Campton Road and will join the interceptor pipeline near Martin Slough. The new collector pipeline will not be a functional component of Phase 1 but it is being installed during Phase 1 in order to minimize disturbance to adjacent property owners. The new collector pipeline will be constructed with 8-inch diameter PVC pipe. The proposed interceptor pipeline is approximately 7,800 feet long with pipe diameters that will range from 18 inches in the

upper reach to 42 inches in the lower reach. The interceptor pipeline design allows for the use of several pipe materials including polyvinyl chloride (PVC), high density polyethylene, fiber reinforced plastic, or reinforced concrete pipe.

The new pipelines will mostly be constructed by placing the pipe in an excavated trench. At both Fairway Drive locations and the Campton Road crossing the pipeline will be installed by guided auger boring rather than trenching. Trench excavation, pipe staging areas, and excavated material stockpiling activities will be conducted within a 60-foot wide construction corridor that includes a 30-foot wide permanent easement and 15-foot wide temporary construction easements on both sides of the permanent easement. Trench widths will range from 3.5 feet to 12 feet depending on the size of the pipe and soil conditions. Trench depths will range from 7 to 24 feet below the ground surface depending on the required pipe elevations and existing topography.

Trench excavation activities will begin with the separate stockpiling of the upper 6 to 12 inches of topsoil material followed by excavation to the required depth. Stockpiled topsoil will be used to restore the surface of the trench corridor after the pipeline has been installed. At locations where the material in the bottom of the trench is not suitable for pipeline stability, the unsuitable material will be removed and replaced with appropriate stabilization materials that will consist of cement slurry or a variety of potential rock materials. The pipeline will be placed on 6 to 12 inches of rock bedding that will be placed on the trench bottom or the trench stabilization materials. Additional rock backfill will then be placed around and over the pipe to a thickness of approximately 12 inches above the top of the pipe. The pipeline and trench backfill will be installed in a manner that is designed to prevent movement of groundwater along the pipeline corridor. Transverse baffles will be installed in areas of the trench that have the potential to act as a preferential groundwater flow pathway in order to prevent groundwater drainage through the backfill material.

The pipeline and associated excavation activities will cross four stream channels including Martin Slough and unnamed tributaries. At each crossing the top 6 to 12 inches of excavated material will be stockpiled separately and kept moist to preserve the root masses, rhizomes, seeds, and accumulated organic material. After the pipeline has been installed across the stream channel, native material will be replaced in the trench, the original streambank contours will be restored, appropriately sized washed gravel will be placed over the disturbed streambed area, and the streambanks will be revegetated using native riparian and wetland plants.

The proposed pipeline alignment is located primarily in wetlands that are adjacent to Martin Slough. Proposed access roads and pipeline construction activities will result in 9.76 acres of temporary impacts to existing wetlands. Mitigation for temporary wetland impacts involves replacement of the upper 6 to 12 inches of topsoil to restore the wetland surface and existing vegetation. Permanent access roads will also be installed to facilitate maintenance and repair of the new pipeline and 17 new manholes will be installed along the pipeline. New manholes and permanent access roads will result in permanent impacts to 0.38 acre of wetlands.

Compensatory mitigation is required for the permanent impacts to wetlands. The City currently has 2 acres of wetland mitigation credit available at the Fay Slough Wildlife Area. Proposed compensatory mitigation involves the use of 0.38 acre of that mitigation credit. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and for operation of heavy equipment in wetlands and stream channels. Implementation of Phase 1 is scheduled to begin in May 2009 and is expected to be completed by October 31, 2009. Stream crossing activities will be implemented between June 15 and October 15 in order to avoid potential impacts to aquatic life.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 12 (File No. 2002-27200), pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has also applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. The City of Eureka prepared an Environmental Impact Report (SCH No. 2002082043) 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.