

March 9, 2009

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

California Department of Parks and Recreation, Jug Handle Creek Footbridge
Replacement Project
WDID No. 1B08099WNME

Mendocino County

On June 12, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. William Maslach, Environmental Scientist, on behalf of The Mendocino District of California State Parks, California Department of Parks and Recreation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification (certification) for proposed activities related to removal of an old footbridge over Jug Handle Creek and its replacement with a new footbridge.

The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the State and United States associated with Jug Handle Creek, tributaries to the Pacific Ocean, in the Noyo River Hydrologic Area 113.20, Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No. 113.00. The project is located on Jug Handle Creek approximately 260 yards upstream from its confluence with the Pacific Ocean. Latitude is 39.3765°N, and longitude is 123.8149°W.

The proposed project will result in permanent and temporary impacts to approximately 320 square feet of stream bank and wetland vegetation/riparian area. In January 2006, the existing footbridge on Jug Handle Creek experienced a heavy flooding event that undermined an abutment under the end of the footbridge, which rendered it unsafe for public use. The proposed project will remove and restore the area of the old footbridge and trail, and replace it with a new footbridge and connecting trail, in a location of greater bank stability and with less erosion potential. Compensatory mitigation consists of revegetation of old trail segment and stabilization of eroding creek bank with native plants. Restored/revegetated area will be of a greater area than the impacted areas. Native dead plant material/duff will be spread over restored areas to reduce erosion. Work will be done by the California Conservation Corps and will be overseen by a State Park Environmental Scientist. Survival of at least 90% of all plantings will determine success. Plants will be flagged and counted. Failed plants will be replaced with healthy ferns and willows. All work will be done by hand, with no work occurring within the wetted stream channel.

Non-compensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices for erosion control near a stream channel. The proposed project is scheduled to commence in the dry season of 2009.

Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game and the US Army Corps of Engineers for their respective permits.

California State Parks, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Sections 15301 – Existing Facilities, 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, and 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land, and 15333 – Small Habitat Restoration Projects), and have filed a Notice of Exemption for this project on June 20, 2008.

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 Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this project; all 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.

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