

July 14, 2009

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

Crescent City Harbor District – Riprap/Breakwater Repair at Various Locations
WDID No. 1A09009WNDN

Del Norte County

On January 28, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Crescent City Harbor District (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with repairing a breakwater and damaged rock slope protection (RSP) at several locations around the Crescent City Harbor. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Pacific Ocean in the Smith River Plain Hydrologic Subarea No. 103.11.

The proposed project involves repairing and reinforcing RSP on the inner boat basin breakwater and other locations within the harbor that were damaged during the severe December 2005 and January 2006 storm event. High tides, storm surges, and high winds caused overtopping and damage to the L-shaped breakwater that protects the inner harbor from wave action. The inside, outside, and top of the breakwater were damaged to the extent that the breakwater's integrity was jeopardized, putting harbor residents, watercraft, and docks at risk from potential future storms. RSP consisting of 500 to 4,000 pound rocks were eroded from the breakwater and the top portion of the breakwater lost up to 3 feet in height. Large holes and gaps, several measuring larger than 2 feet in diameter, were formed at four locations along the breakwater. The damaged breakwater will be repaired by removing existing RSP to expose the core of the breakwater and to allow for installation of a concrete diaphragm in the breakwater's core for a length of 770 feet. Holes in the breakwater will be repaired with heavy RSP and engineered fill. The existing RSP that was removed for construction of the diaphragm will be replaced and additional rock and engineered fill will be placed on both sides of the breakwater to restore the slopes and top.

The proposed project also involves similar RSP repair activities on the harbor side of Whaler Island and areas across from the breakwater on the south side of the entrance to the inner boat basin (Citizen's Dock). Repairs near Whaler Island include installation of a concrete key between the edge of the pavement and RSP, and placement of 1-ton and 2-ton RSP along the damaged shoreline slope. Repairs to the damaged RSP areas on the south side of the entrance to the inner boat basin involve placement of aggregate base, 1-ton RSP, and concrete slope protection.

The proposed RSP and breakwater repair project will result in a total of 1,646 linear feet of permanent impacts to waters of the United States. Permanent impacts are associated with repairing eroded areas to restore the footprint of existing structures. The proposed project will not result in any temporary impacts to waters of the United States. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project.

Noncompensatory mitigation includes implementation of Best Management Practices for erosion control. The proposed project is expected to take one year to complete.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has also applied for a Coastal Development Permit. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required. Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1, Section 15301 – existing facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project. The proposed project is scheduled for construction beginning in 2009 and is expected to take one year to complete.

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.