

January 21, 2010

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

U.S. Coast Guard – Replacement of Periphery Fence at U.S. Coast Guard Station
Humboldt Bay
WDID No. 1B09146WNHU

Humboldt County

On December 14, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the U.S. Coast Guard (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with replacing the existing security fence surrounding the U.S. Coast Guard Station Humboldt Bay located on the Samoa Peninsula. The proposed project will cause disturbance to waters of the United States associated with Humboldt Bay the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The existing peripheral security fence at U.S. Coast Guard Station Humboldt Bay is damaged, rusted and deteriorated, and sections of the fence are leaning. The proposed project involves replacing the existing security fence with similar materials in the same configuration as the existing fence. The proposed project is necessary to provide physical security to the facility. Approximately 200 linear feet of the north shore area fence line is located along the beach and extends to the riprap area along the shoreline. Approximately 60 linear feet of this section is located within the intertidal zone.

The proposed project involves removing the existing concrete support foundations and installing new foundations for the new fence posts. Several abandoned concrete support foundations from a previous fence will also be removed as part of this project. The proposed project activities will be conducted during low tide.

The proposed concrete support footings for the new fence will result in permanent impacts to 12.5 square feet of intertidal beach area with no vegetation. Removal of old concrete support footings will restore approximately 28 square feet of the beach in the same area. The proposed project will not result in any additional permanent impacts to waters of the United States. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. The proposed project is scheduled for implementation in February or March 2010. The project is expected to take three days 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. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish is not required. Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 2, Section 15302 – replacement or reconstruction) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

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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