

May 4, 2010

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

City of Yreka – Barham Storm Drain Replacement
WDID No. 1A10029WNSI

Siskiyou County

On March 26, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Yreka (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with replacing an existing storm water collection system. The proposed project is part of a larger effort by the City of Yreka to attenuate peak storm water runoff and reduce flooding impacts throughout the City. The proposed project will cause disturbance to waters of the United States associated with an unnamed ephemeral drainage tributary to Yreka Creek in the Shasta Valley Hydrologic Area No. 105.50.

The proposed project involves replacement of approximately 3,250 feet of existing storm water collection system piping that extends from the Barham detention basin, which is being constructed as another component to the City's Storm Water Attenuation and Floodplain Management Project, to the existing outlet on the Yreka Creek floodplain. The majority of the proposed project is located within paved streets including Sherman Street, Knapp Street, North Oregon Street, and Blake Street. The existing 10 to 18-inch diameter storm drain pipes will be removed and replaced with 36-inch diameter pipes.

The existing storm drain outlet is an open pipe at the east end of Blake Street that discharges to the floodplain along Yreka Creek, approximately 75 linear feet from the Yreka Creek channel. The new storm drain outlet will be installed at the same location as the existing outlet. The proposed project includes installation of an approximately 40-foot wide rock riprap apron around the new outlet and extending approximately 40 feet towards the Yreka Creek channel. The flow line of the unnamed ephemeral drainage that originates at the storm drain outlet will also be armored, primarily with cobble, and vegetated to slow the velocity of storm water runoff before it enters Yreka Creek. No work is proposed below the ordinary high water mark of Yreka Creek.

The proposed project will result in permanent impacts to 0.4 acre of Yreka Creek floodplain and 79-linear feet of unnamed ephemeral drainage. The proposed project will not result in any temporary impacts. Compensatory mitigation is not required. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of BMPs for sediment and erosion control including mulched ground cover and seeding exposed soils. The proposed project is scheduled to begin spring 2010 and is expected to take up to 60 days to complete.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 43, 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. On March 18,

2010, the City of Yreka approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2010022018) for the 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.

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.

050410_DLP_yreka_barham_pubnot.doc