

June 14, 2010

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

Redway Community Services District –
Water System Improvements Project
WDID No. 1B10045WNHU

Humboldt County

On April 26, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Redway Community Services District (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with installation of a culvert on an ephemeral stream channel that crosses through the Applicant's Rusk Avenue water storage site. The proposed project will cause disturbance to waters of the United States associated with an unnamed ephemeral tributary to the South Fork Eel River in the Benbow Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.32.

The Applicant supplies water to the community of Redway and their existing water treatment and storage system facilities are in need of improvement. The proposed project includes replacement of several components of the water treatment plant that have reached the end of the useful life and require the installation of a new water storage tank. Factors that are driving the need for the proposed project include: an outdated storage tank that does not meet current seismic requirements; insufficient water storage capacity; and abandonment of a spring-fed well, which previously supplied a majority of the community's water, has placed a greater importance on increased water storage capacity.

To recover the capacity that was lost when the spring water source was abandoned, the Applicant is proposing improvements to increase the capacity and improve performance of the existing surface water treatment plant. All of the proposed water treatment plant improvements are located within the existing fenced treatment plant yard located on Barnes Lane in Redway. In addition, a new 52-foot diameter water storage tank with a 460,000 gallon capacity will be installed at the Applicant's existing Rusk Avenue water storage tank yard.

Approximately 20 cubic yards of the hillside will be excavated in order for the tank yard site to accommodate the new storage tank. A retaining wall will be installed between the new tank and excavated hillside to stabilize the slope. Soil will be excavated from beneath the new tank pad site for placement of subgrade and engineered fill, and for installation of a structural concrete foundation with grade beams supported on a series of drilled concrete piers. Storm water runoff from the tank site will be routed to a new 63-foot long and 18-inch diameter culvert that will be installed in a portion of an existing ephemeral drainage channel that crosses through the tank yard site.

The ephemeral drainage channel enters the site from the northeast through a steep, eroded channel, and continues west along the southeast edge of the site before

entering an existing 18-inch diameter culvert that passes under the driveway to tank yard. A section of the existing channel will be filled where the new storage tank will be placed and a new culvert will route flows around the storage tank pad and back to the existing channel approximately 15 feet upstream of the inlet to the existing culvert. Installation of the new culvert will result in permanent impacts to 126 square feet (0.003 acre) and 63 linear feet of ephemeral drainage channel. Proposed compensatory mitigation consists of stream channel enhancement along the ephemeral channel upstream of the proposed new culvert. Proposed enhancement activities include removal of non-native blackberry shrubs along a 25 linear foot stretch of the channel and replanting a 625 square foot (0.014 acre) area along the channel with native riparian species.

The applicant has received authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 18 (File No. 2009-00293N), pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has also applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. On April 22, 2010, the Redway Community Services District approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2010022047) 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.

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. 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.