

February 28, 2011

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

California Department of Boats and Waterways

Sonoma Coast State Beach

Jenner Visitor Center Boat Ramp Improvements

WDID No. 110118WNSO

Sonoma County

On November 22, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Terri Ely, California Department of Boating and Waterways (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with the Jenner Visitor Center Boat Ramp Improvements, Sonoma Coast State Beach (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to approximately 0.073 acres of waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with the Russian River within the Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.11, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00

The proposed project is located at the Jenner Visitor Center, directly off of Highway 1, near the town of Jenner, latitude 38.449444°N, longitude 123.115556°W, in Sonoma County.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to replace the failing boat ramp, and update an existing dirt parking area. The project consists of replacing an existing boat ramp, stabilizing the right side of the river bank with riprap, installing a concrete barrier curb around the existing parking facility, and replacing the existing dirt parking lot with permeable pavers. The proposed boat ramp will be 105 feet (ft) long and 20 ft wide, and be constructed of precast concrete panels. Construction of the ramp will include minor grading activities to prepare the area for placement of the base rock and concrete panels. Localized bank erosion at the boat ramp and approximately 20 ft along the adjacent upstream shoreline will be stabilized using an estimated 60 cubic yards of riprap. The existing 13,100 square foot dirt parking lot will be graded and paved (using permeable pavers) and will include curbs, and American Disabilities Act compliant sidewalks. A 200 linear foot turbidity curtain will be installed around the perimeter of the proposed boat ramp to reduce sediment, to exclude aquatic animals from entering the work area, and prevent construction debris from entering the adjacent aquatic habitats. Construction is planned for a total of 3-5 months and is tentatively expected to take place during 2011.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stormwater treatment and capture for the boat ramp construction and the parking lot replacement will consist of a combination of; using permeable pavers as the surface area for the parking lot, and bio-retention planters/swales, or equivalent low impact development (LID) elements. Non-compensatory mitigation for this project includes re-vegetation of disturbed areas, as appropriate, and the use of BMPs for sediment and turbidity control, and cement containment, to ensure that materials do not enter the waterway.

The California Department of Boats and Waterways has filed a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse for the project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (No. 2011018077). The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project pursuant to Clean Water Act section 404 and/or section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act. The applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. The applicant has applied for a permit from the California Coastal Commission.

The project is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b). The project meets the exemption criteria under title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15302 [Replacement or Reconstruction] and section 15311 [Accessory Structures]. The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15062 after issuance of the 401 Certification order.

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 activities including maps and detailed 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 Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.