

April 4, 2011

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

Humboldt Bay Rowing Association – Non-Seasonal Dock and Gangway  
WDID No. 1B11009WNHU

Humboldt County

On January 20, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Jerome Simone (applicant) representing the Humboldt Bay Rowing Association (HBRA), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with installation of a year-round dock and gangway for the HBRA's boating access to Humboldt Bay. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Humboldt Bay in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The HBRA is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the sport of rowing for community members of all ages and abilities. The HBRA provides members with equipment, rowing instruction, and rowing access to the bay. In coordination with the HBRA, individual and groups use the dock for kayaking, canoeing, equipment demonstrations, and special events on the bay. The facility also houses the Humboldt State University men's crew team.

The HBRA is proposing to convert the use of an existing floating dock and gangway from temporary/seasonal use to a non-seasonal/year-round structure. No additional structures or improvements are proposed. The existing dock and gangway would simply remain in place throughout the year and would no longer be subject to seasonal removal. The existing structures would remain in place until the HBRA or the City of Eureka terminates the lease of the site. Upon lease termination the HBRA will be required to remove all portions of the floating dock and gangway from Humboldt Bay.

On March 18, 2011, the City of Eureka, as lead agency, provided notice of intent to adopt a Negative Declaration for the proposed project in order to comply with CEQA. The draft negative declaration is available for public review and all interested persons are invited to comment on the draft negative declaration. Comments regarding the Negative Declaration must be submitted to the City of Eureka Community Development Department no later than April 19, 2011.

The applicant has applied (File No. 2011-0011N) for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Individual Permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required for this project.

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 proposed project will not result in any new permanent impacts to waters of the United States; however, compensatory mitigation is required for impacts to eelgrass beds that are assumed to have occurred as a result of shading by the existing gangway. The applicant is required to mitigate all

impacts to eelgrass habitat at a minimum ratio of 1.2 to1 through implementation of an Eelgrass Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.

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.