

May 23, 2011

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

USFS – Bowerman and Clark Springs Boat Ramps Improvements Project  
WDID No. 1A11041WNTR

Trinity County

On April 4, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with repair and maintenance of the Bowerman and Clark Springs Boat Ramps on Trinity Lake. The primary purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and accessibility for persons with disabilities. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Trinity Lake in the Upper Trinity River Hydrologic Area No. 106.40.

Bowerman

The existing boat ramp at the Bowerman boat launch facility begins near the high water level (2,370 feet above mean sea level) and extends approximately 362-feet down the shoreline. The shoreline area around the boat ramp is generally devoid of vegetation due to water level fluctuations and inundation during periods of high water.

Approximately 100 linear feet of the lower end of the ramp is on a slight curve that will be removed during the proposed project. The existing boat ramp facility includes a 4-foot wide sidewalk with railings along the northern edge and an approximately 60-foot long turn around area along the southern edge. The fill slope along the northern side of the ramp is covered with existing rock slope protection (riprap or RSP) which extends around the lower end of the ramp. The cut slope along the south side of the ramp is also covered with existing riprap from the lower end of the ramp to the wider turn around area approximately mid-way down the ramp.

The proposed project involves removal of approximately 100 feet of the curving lower end of the existing single-lane boat ramp along with the existing sidewalk, railings, and footings. The removed section of the boat ramp will be replaced with a straight two-lane section and the entire ramp will receive a V-grooved concrete overlay. The existing sidewalk will be replaced with an 8-foot wide sidewalk. Existing RSP will be replaced along the end of the ramp and northern side of the new sidewalk, and existing RSP along the southern edge will be extended from the turn around area to the top of the ramp. The turn around area will also be extended toward the lake by approximately 30 linear feet. Removal and replacement of existing concrete and riprap will result in temporary impacts to 9,065 square feet of the shoreline. Reconfiguration of the lower end of the boat ramp and installation of additional RSP will result in permanent impacts to 4,970 square feet of the shoreline. Due to the removal of 846 square feet of existing RSP and concrete at the lower end of the boat ramp that will not be replaced the proposed project will result in an overall increase of 4,124 square feet of permanent impact to the shoreline.

Clark Springs

The existing boat ramp at the Clark Springs boat launch facility begins near the high water level (2,370 feet above mean sea level) and extends approximately 440-feet

down the shoreline. The shoreline area around the boat ramp is generally devoid of vegetation due to water level fluctuations and inundation during periods of high water. The existing boat ramp facility includes a 3-foot wide sidewalk with railings along the northern edge and two approximately 80-foot long turn around areas along the southern edge.

The proposed project involves removal of the existing sidewalk, railings, and footings. The existing sidewalk will be replaced with an 8-foot wide sidewalk along the full length of the ramp. An approximately 2-foot deep and 5-foot wide layer of RSP will be installed along the full length of the new sidewalk and around the lower end of the boat ramp. The additional RSP and wider sidewalk will result in new permanent impacts to 4,262 square feet of the shoreline.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and erosion control. The proposed project is scheduled for one day of construction from September 2011 through December 2011.

The applicant has applied for authorization (Public Notice No. 2011-00056N) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game 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.

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 Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.