

December 21, 2011

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

USDI Bureau of Reclamation – Clear Lake Boat Launch Maintenance Project
WDID No. 1A11186WNMO

Modoc County

On October 31, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with maintenance of an existing boat launch facility on Clear Lake Reservoir. The proposed boat launch maintenance project is located at the south end of Clear Lake Dam off Kowolowski Road. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Clear Lake Reservoir in the Clear Lake Hydrologic Subarea No. 105.93.

The proposed project involves routine maintenance of the existing boat launch surface to ensure reliable access to the lake in all types of weather conditions. The boat launch facility is currently in need of additional crushed gravel to improve the driving surface for all-weather boat launching. All-weather access to the lake is necessary for the applicant to perform various activities related to the operation and maintenance of the Klamath Project.

Proposed maintenance activities will involve the placement of approximately 70-75 cubic yards of clean crushed gravel over a layer of geotextile fabric. Heavy equipment will be used to spread the gravel to provide an approximately 6-inch deep layer of gravel material over the 16-foot wide and 250-foot long boat launch surface. The proposed project will result in permanent impacts to 1,600 square feet of lakebed and shoreline below the elevation of Ordinary High Water. Permanent impacts will only occur along the existing boat launch alignment. Proposed activities will occur during the early winter when surface water elevations in the lake are low in order to minimize the area of open water where the additional fabric and rock will be placed.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control, and for the use of heavy equipment in a waterway. The proposed project is scheduled to begin as soon as all necessary permits are obtained by the applicant. The proposed project is expected to take up to four days to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 23 pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required for this federally funded project on federal lands. Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1, Section 15301 – existing facilities) 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.