

June 8, 2012

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

City of Eureka – Mad River Pipeline Rehabilitation, Phase 4, Project A
WDID No. 1B12052WNHU

Humboldt County

On April 12, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Eureka (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with replacement of a section of the Mad River Pipeline. The proposed project, Project A, is part of the fourth phase of the Mad River Pipeline Rehabilitation Project. Phase 4, Project A is located entirely within the city limits of the City of Arcata and extends from the intersection of 7th and A Streets to the south end of Union Street. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with wetlands in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The Mad River Pipeline is the City of Eureka's primary water supply and is used to transport water from the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District facility in northern Arcata to the City of Eureka's main reservoir near Sequoia Park. The primary purpose of the Mad River Pipeline Rehabilitation Project, Phase 4, is to replace two sections of the pipeline to assure continued reliability of the primary water supply for area residents including Humboldt Community Services District customers. The Project A pipeline alignment crosses down the slope above Healthsport, crosses the Healthsport parking lot, crosses a portion of a wetland constructed for storm water treatment, crosses Community Park Way, continues along a drainage swale located on the east edge of the City of Arcata's sports fields, and finally crosses Samoa Boulevard and the southern end of Union Street near the California Highway Patrol station. The two parcels crossed by the pipeline alignment are owned by the City of Arcata. Phase 4, Project B is a separate but related project located in the Myrtle town area, east of the City of Eureka. Phase 4, Projects A and B have independent function and utility, and are being considered separate projects with regards to permitting.

Project A involves installation of new 24-inch diameter ductile iron pipe in parallel to the existing pipe alignment, offset by approximately 10 feet. The new pipe section will be interconnected with the existing pipeline at each end. At the 7th Street end an air release valve and blow off valve will be installed in concrete vaults. The Project A alignment is approximately 1,600-feet long. The new section of pipeline will be installed using conventional trenching methods. Excavated materials will be temporarily stockpiled adjacent to the 3-foot wide trench within a 30-foot wide construction corridor. Where excavated or imported materials will be stockpiled on non-paved areas, a layer of weed-free straw (or equivalent) of adequate thickness will be placed over the ground to ensure that the existing topsoil will not be disturbed when the stockpile is removed.

Approximately 860 linear feet of trench will be excavated across wetland areas including wetlands constructed for storm water treatment and a drainage swale adjacent to the

City of Arcata's sports fields. The Applicant anticipates that the entire 30-foot wide construction corridor will potentially be disturbed. Trenching activities will result in approximately 25,800 square feet of temporary impacts to wetlands. Use of a staging area within diked former tidelands at the southern end of the alignment will result in an additional 13,500 square feet of temporary impacts to wetlands. During trench excavation, the upper six inches of wetland topsoil containing the roots, rhizomes, seeds, and other organic material will be stockpiled separately and returned to the upper six inches of the trench as the trench is backfilled. Excess excavated materials will be hauled offsite for disposal at an appropriate upland site. All wetland impacts will be temporary and the ground surface will be restored to pre-project conditions at the end of construction.

Proposed Project A activities will result in 0.9 acres of temporary impacts to existing wetlands. Mitigation for temporary wetland impacts involves replacement of the upper 6 inches of topsoil to restore the wetland surface and existing vegetation. The proposed project will not result in any permanent wetland impacts. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and erosion control and for operation of heavy equipment in wetlands. Implementation of Phase 4, Project A is scheduled to begin in August 2012 and is expected to take approximately six weeks to complete.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 12 (File No. 2004-286430), pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required. The City of Eureka prepared an Environmental Impact Report (SCH No. 2001012088) for the proposed 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 including plans, maps and photos. 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.