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 B
WDID No. 1B12053WNHU

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 B, is part of the fourth phase of the Mad River Pipeline Rehabilitation Project. Phase 4, Project B is located near the intersection of Frank Avenue and Glenwood Street in the Myrtletown area east of Eureka. 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 B pipeline alignment begins on APN 016-61-027, crosses Oak Ridge Terrace Lane, proceeds up an unnamed drainage channel across APNs 016-061-020, 016-061- 026, and 016-061-029, and continues within the right-of-way of Ardview Lane and Frank Avenue where the project ends. Phase 4, Project A is a separate but related project located in the City of Arcata. Phase 4, Projects A and B have independent function and utility, and are being considered separate projects with regards to permitting.

Project B 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 northeast end a blow off valve will be installed in a concrete vault. At the west end there will be two air release valves and a blow off valve in a concrete vault. The Project B alignment is approximately 800-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 70 linear feet of trench will be excavated across wetlands in diked former tidelands. The construction corridor and pipeline also follows and crosses an unnamed intermittent stream channel. The Applicant anticipates that the entire 30-foot wide construction corridor will potentially be disturbed. Proposed activities will result in

approximately 11,640 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 B activities will result in 0.27 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 B 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. The Applicant has also applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. 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.