

July 26, 2012

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

Del Norte County - Maris Bar Gravel Extraction, Rowdy Creek
WDID No. 1A04089WNDN

Del Norte County

On June 6, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Del Norte County Road Department (applicant) requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for gravel (river-run aggregate) extraction operations at Maris Bar located on Rowdy Creek in Del Norte County. The Maris Bar gravel extraction area is composed of a series of gravel bars located downstream of the Pearl Haight Bosch Bridge on Fred Haight Drive near the town of Smith River. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Rowdy Creek in the Smith River Plain Hydrologic Subarea No. 103.11.

The applicant proposes to extract approximately 3,000 cubic yards of aggregate from this area in 2012 for use on various Del Norte County road projects. The applicant has been extracting aggregate from this location since 1952. The frequency and actual volume extracted in future years will depend on seasonal replenishment. Aggregate will be extracted from areas outside the wetted stream channel. Proposed activities include maintenance of an alcove created in 2007 to enhance fish habitat. A permanent haul road provides access to the creek channel and a culvert crossing or flatcar bridge may be installed to allow access to the extraction area. The operation will utilize an excavator, dump trucks, and a grader. Aggregate will be loaded directly into dump trucks and hauled to an offsite storage area. The grader will be used to slope the gravel bar to achieve the post extraction grading requirements that are established for this site.

The proposed project does not require removal of any large trees or other riparian vegetation. Sparse, small diameter vegetation (less than 1-inch diameter at breast height) growing on the gravel bars may require removal during the extraction process. Approximately 1 acre within the stream channel will be temporarily impacted by this project. Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for fueling activities and turbidity control. The applicant will conduct regular maintenance and inspections of heavy equipment used for this project.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Individual Permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act section 404. The applicant has applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the Department of Fish and Game. Gravel extraction operations at the Maris Bar are proposed between August 1 and October 1.

On July 5, 2000, Del Norte County approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2000042083) for the project in order to comply with CEQA. Mitigation measures to avoid significant adverse impacts to the environment have been incorporated into the project. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document including the mitigation and monitoring plan, BMPs, 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 activities, including maps and monitoring cross-sections. 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.

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