

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Naomi Feger)
MEETING DATE: July 20, 2005**

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: HAMILTON WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT; CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY, NOVATO, MARIN COUNTY – Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification

CHRONOLOGY: August 2003 - Site Cleanup Requirements Adopted for Hamilton Army Airfield Inboard Area and Coastal Saltmarsh

DISCUSSION: The Tentative Order is for a major wetland restoration at the former Hamilton Army Airbase in Novato. The Tentative Order provides Waste Discharge Requirements for placement of sediments for use in the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project (HWRP) along with a Section 401 Water Quality Certification under the Clean Water Act.

The 630-acre HWRP property was formerly the operating airfield portion of the Hamilton Army Airbase. In 2003, title to the property was transferred from the Army to the California State Coastal Conservancy. In 2003, the Board adopted Site Cleanup Requirements requiring the completion of on-going site cleanup activities. The Army anticipates completing its cleanup/removal actions, prior to placement of sediments on the site. The HWRP was authorized by the United States Congress in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999. The Port of Oakland's 50-Foot Dredging Project was also authorized under this WRDA. The WRDA envisioned the coordination of these two projects in order to meet the goals of the Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for Placement of Dredged Material in San Francisco Bay. The LTMS emphasizes beneficial reuse of dredged material in lieu of in-bay disposal.

The Tentative Order provides Water Board authorization for the proposed wetland project and establishes discharge limits, specifications, monitoring and reporting requirements, and ensures on-site mitigation for wetland impacts.

Comments were received from four interested parties and Staff's responses to all comments are provided in Appendix C. Minor revisions to the Tentative Order were made in response to comments received. Staff did not view the changes to the Tentative Order to be significant enough to require re-circulation to all interested parties.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of the Tentative Order
File No. 2159.5008 (NLF)

Appendices: A: Tentative Order
B: Comments on the Tentative Order
C: Response to Comments on the Tentative Order

APPENDIX A

TENTATIVE ORDER

APPENDIX B

COMMENTS ON TENTATIVE ORDER

APPENDIX C

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS