

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Matthew Graul)
MEETING DATE: September 10, 2008

ITEM: **6 B**

SUBJECT: **City of Martinez**, Martinez, Contra Costa County - Issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Alhambra Creek Sediment Removal Project

CHRONOLOGY: The Board has not considered this item before.

DISCUSSION: This item would issue Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) to the City of Martinez to excavate approximately 4,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the Alhambra Creek floodplain (hereinafter Project) to restore the flood control project area to originally-permitted design elevations. The sediment removal activities on the floodplain will result in temporal impacts to 1.2 acres of seasonal wetlands along Alhambra Creek.

In 1998 and 1999, the reach of Alhambra Creek between Marina Vista and the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge in downtown Martinez was modified to improve flood conveyance and the habitat quality of the reach. Large rain events in December 2005 and January 2006 deposited approximately 4,000 cubic yards of sediment over the floodplain, reducing the capacity of creek to convey runoff during heavy storms and impacting the value of the floodplain habitat. As part of the Project, this accumulated sediment will be removed from the floodplain and original design elevations will be restored. After sediment removal is complete, the Project area will be replanted with appropriate wetland vegetation species to enhance the recovery of habitat on the floodplain.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the seasonal wetlands are not waters of the United States, but, as waters of the State, the seasonal wetlands remain subject to the Board's Water Code jurisdiction. To mitigate for the Project's temporal impacts to 1.2 acres of waters of the State, the City of Martinez will construct approximately 0.275 acres of wetlands adjacent to the Martinez Regional Shoreline Salt Marsh Enhancement Project during the summer of 2009. This is a one time mitigation to compensate for the temporal impacts of maintenance dredging in a six-year cycle.

Staff has not received any written comments on the Tentative Order (Appendix A), and we expect it to remain uncontested.

RECOMMEN-
ATION: Adoption of the Tentative Order
APPENDIX: A - Tentative Order

FILE Nos. 2118.03 (MG); Site No. 02-07-C0882