

June 23, 2005

**Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification and/or
Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Siskiyou County Department of Public Works
Front Street at Cottonwood Creek Bridge Replacement Project
WDID No. 1A05025WNSI

Siskiyou County

On March 7, 2005 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Scott Waite, representing the Siskiyou County Department of Public Works, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) to replace the existing Front Street Bridge (Bridge No. 02C-0058) over Cottonwood Creek. The proposed project will cause disturbances to the waters of the United States associated with the Hornbrook Hydrologic Subarea No. 105.36.

The proposed project is located on Front Street (Road No. 9K05) at Cottonwood Creek, east of the intersection of Front Street and Hornbrook Road in the community of Hornbrook, Siskiyou County. The existing 118-foot long, 5 span bridge was built in 1935 but has not been identified or listed as a historical resource. The existing bridge is supported with concrete piers and abutments with a walkway on the north side. The hydraulic capacity under the bridge is inadequate for flows from a 50-year or greater storm event. Approach roadways are asphalt surfaced with gravel shoulders, approximately 15 feet wide. The existing narrow, steel truss and timber superstructure bridge is functionally and structurally deficient and scour has compromised the foundations.

The applicant proposes to remove the existing bridge prior to construction of the new structure, and estimates that bridge removal will take three weeks to complete. The proposed bridge will be located in the same alignment as the existing bridge. The new bridge consists of a two-lane, two-span, concrete slab structure that is 113-feet long and 24-feet wide. The applicant will install a 4-foot wide walkway along the north side (the westbound lane) of the bridge. The applicant will address the inadequate hydraulic capacity under the bridge by increasing the elevation of the new bridge to accommodate flows from a 50-year or greater storm event. The applicant will also realign and widen approach roadways to two-lanes, and will place a 125-foot long retaining wall along the south side of the easterly approach. The applicant proposes to use spread footings founded on rock to support concrete abutments and an intermediate pier.

One support pier will be located within the creek channel. The applicant proposes to install this pier outside of the low flow channel in order to minimize impacts from the accumulation of sediment and channel constriction. The applicant proposes to add slope

protection, consisting of boulders or rocks imported from offsite, at the east abutment, outside the ordinary high water line of Cottonwood Creek. The applicant will use air tools to perform all excavation; blasting is not permitted. The applicant may divert the creek around the work area, and will dewater excavation areas as necessary, depending on the amount of water present. Dewatering may require pumping, and sediment will be removed using settling basins and percolation. The applicant will confine bridge removal and construction activities to the period between June 15 and October 31 to minimize and/or avoid potential effects to salmonids. Exclusionary fencing will be installed along the creek to minimize impacts to riparian vegetation. The applicant will limit activities conducted after October 31st to installation and maintenance of erosion control devices, deck work on the new bridge, and clean up. The applicant estimates that the project will take one construction season to complete (May through November).

The applicant prepared a delineation of jurisdictional waters of the United States, which was verified by ACOE on November 20, 2003 (ACOE ID # 27483N). The project will impact 0.16-acre of jurisdictional waters of the United States. The project will temporarily impact approximately 0.07-acre and will permanently impact less than 0.01-acre of riparian habitat. Removed vegetation will be replanted with native species at a ratio of 3-to-1 to mitigate for the loss of shaded riparian habitat. Cottonwood Creek is designated essential habitat for Chinook and Coho salmon. A biological evaluation of the creek concluded that the proposed project would not adversely affect federally listed salmonids. Additional mitigation measures include use of Best Management Practices for heavy equipment, and sediment and turbidity control. The applicant proposes to use temporary mats for staging heavy equipment in the dewatered portion of the streambed, in order to avoid direct contact with the channel during construction.

The proposed project is authorized under the Department of the Army Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Projects, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344). Siskiyou County Department of Public Works, as lead California Environmental Quality Act agency, certified a Negative Declaration for this project on March 17, 2004. The applicant has applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. An application for Report of Waste Discharge is pending. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice. If you have any questions or comments please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801, or at dprat@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.