

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

USFS – Trinity Mountain Road Rehabilitation
WDID No. 1A05071WNTR

Trinity County

On May 27, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service (hereinafter applicant), requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) to make roadway and drainage system improvements to Trinity Mountain Road near the northern end of Trinity Lake (a.k.a. Clair Engle Lake) in Trinity County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Trinity Lake in the Upper Trinity River Hydrologic Area No. 106.40

The purpose of the proposed project is to rehabilitate Trinity Mountain Road (a.k.a. California Forest Highway 116, County Road 106, and East Side Road) to extend the life of the road and to improve user safety. The proposed project includes replacement of pavement, replacement of culverts, installation of culverts in new areas, installation of underdrains, installation of rocked rundowns, and pavement of the roadside ditch. The roadway profile will be raised and lowered in certain areas to achieve the required roadway width. Several roadbed fill failures will be repaired. The asphalt roadway will be pulverized and mixed with additional coarse material to prepare a compacted road base that will be overlaid with new pavement. Underdrains will be installed at twelve locations where near-surface groundwater is present. The proposed project will include work at twenty-five culvert locations. Twelve of the culvert locations that require work are located on streams that are considered jurisdictional waters of the United States. Nine existing culverts will be removed and replaced, three existing culverts will be extended, two existing culverts will be lined with plastic liners, and one culvert will be repaired by lining the bottom with concrete. In addition, eight new drop inlets will be installed and one culvert will be cleaned. To minimize erosion at the culvert outlets, rock riprap aprons will be installed at the outlets of all new, replaced, extended and lined culverts. A new riprap apron will also be placed at the outlet of one culvert that does not require any other repair work.

Squirrel Gulch and an unnamed tributary to the East Fork Trinity River are the only two perennial streams affected by the project. Culvert work at these locations will require installation of temporary sandbag cofferdams. Impounded water will be pumped over the roadway work area or through a temporary pipe suspended in the culvert. Culvert work will be conducted during the low flow period in late summer and early fall. The remainder of the culvert repair work will be on ephemeral or intermittent streams and will be conducted when the streams are dry. The proposed project will result in new permanent impacts to 0.07 acre of jurisdictional waters of the United States.

The applicant has applied for authorization to perform the project under Nationwide Permits 3, 14, and 33 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. Trinity County, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, determined that this project will not have a significant impact on the environment and is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class 1, Section 15301(c) and filed a Notice of Exemption on

April 14, 2005. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Agreement) from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required for federal projects on federal lands. The applicant is required to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

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 received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Regional Water Board staff member Dean Prat by phone at (707) 576-2801, or e-mail dprat@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.