

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

Trinity County Department of Transportation
County Bridge 5C-100 Repair Project, Carr Creek
WDID No. 1A05104WNTR

Trinity County

On July 19, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Trinity County Department of Transportation requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the County Bridge (5C-100) repair project located northeast of the community of Hayfork, in Trinity County. Regional Water Board staff deemed the application complete on August 19, 2005. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Carr Creek in the Hayfork Hydrologic Subarea No. 106.25.

The purpose of the proposed project is to reinforce and prevent scour damage to the western abutment of the County Bridge (5C-100), which crosses Carr Creek on Wildwood Road (County Road 302). The applicant proposes to place three to six rocks, approximately 3 to 6 cubic yards, at the base of the western abutment of Carr Creek. An existing gated access road, controlled by the adjacent property owner, located on the west side of the creek provides access to the project site. Vegetation will not be removed to access the proposed project site. One willow shrub at the base of the abutment may need to be removed, or the rock will be placed around the plant. The applicant proposes to use a backhoe on the west bank to position the large native rocks. The equipment will operate on the top of the west bank; no equipment will operate in the stream. The rock will be placed above the low flow channel but within the ordinary high water channel. No work will be conducted in the wetted channel. The proposed project will take approximately one day to complete, and will be conducted sometime between August 29 and October 15, 2005.

The proposed project will not involve grading or vegetation removal, with the possible exception of a willow bush, which may be removed. Equipment will not be operated in the wetted channel and material will not be removed from the stream system. Although the project site vicinity is known to have Pacific Fishers, staff of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) have determined that foraging areas and dens would not be disturbed. Other terrestrial wildlife, including the Northern spotted Owl, Coopers hawk, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler and willow flycatcher may find suitable habitat in the riparian area. Since trees will not be removed and project activity is scheduled to occur after July 10 in order to avoid impacts, DFG staff determined that the project would not affect terrestrial wildlife in the vicinity. The proposed project activity will occur outside the active channel during low flow season, therefore DFG staff concluded that Spring Chinook salmon, steelhead and rainbow trout, yellow-legged frog and northwestern pond turtle, which are potentially present, would not be affected. Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include implementation of Best Management Practices for sediment and erosion control. The applicant proposes to use an oil-absorbing boom downstream of the work area.

The proposed project is authorized under the United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 18 for Minor Discharges, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344). Trinity County Department of Transportation, as the lead California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class 1, Section 15301) for existing facilities. The applicant has a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game.

Regional Water Board staff propose 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 Diana Henriouille at (707) 576-2350 or email DHenriouille-Henry@waterboards.ca.gov or Catherine Woody at (707) 576-6723 or email Cwoody@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.