

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

Trinity County Department of Transportation
County Bridge 5C-037 Repair Project, Butter Creek
WDID No. 1A05103WNTR

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-037) repair project east of Waldorff Flat, 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 Butter Creek in the Hyampom Hydrologic Subarea No. 106.22.

The purpose of the proposed project is to reinforce and prevent scour damage to the northern abutment of the County Bridge (5C-037), which crosses Butter Creek on Saint John Loop Road (County Road 316). The applicant proposes to place three to six rocks, approximately 27 cubic feet total volume, at the base of the northern abutment, on the north bank of Butter Creek. Butter Creek crossing is approximately 500 feet upstream of Butter Creek's confluence with the South Fork Trinity River. The project site is not visible from the South Fork Trinity River. An existing access road on the north side of the creek is located on the downstream side of the northern abutment and will provide access to the project site. Using a backhoe or an excavator bucket, the applicant will reposition large native rocks in the project area. Alternatively if the access site is under water, the applicant may drop rocks into place from the upstream side of the bridge and then place the rock using heavy equipment. The rock will be placed on a bar within the ordinary high water channel. The work will be conducted during the low flow period, not in the wetted channel. Equipment will gain access to the bar via the existing access road, and will be used to relocate rocks from the bar either by pushing the rock or by lifting and placing individual rocks into place at the upstream end of the abutment. The applicant indicates that the proposed project will take approximately two days to complete, and that work will be conducted sometime between August 29 and October 15, 2005.

The proposed project will not involve grading or vegetation removal. 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 have determined that foraging areas and dens will not be disturbed. Other terrestrial wildlife, including the Northern spotted Owl, Cooper's hawk, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler and willow flycatcher may find suitable habitat in the riparian area. Since the project will not involve any tree removal, and project activity is scheduled to occur after July 10 to avoid impacts, DFG staff determined that the project would not affect terrestrial wildlife in the vicinity. The project activity will occur outside the active channel during low flow season, therefore the DFG staff concluded that Coho, Chinook salmon, steelhead 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.