

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification
and/or Waste Discharge Requirements**

Silver, Carol Ruth- Summer Bridge at Myers Flat
WDID No. 1B05115WNHU

Humboldt County

On August 15, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Carol Ruth Silver (applicant) requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for installation of a summer bridge crossing over the South Fork Eel River at Meyers Flat in Humboldt County, California. The application was deemed complete on August 28, 2005; following submittal of additional documentation including a Notice of Exemption demonstrating this project has complied with the California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the South Fork Eel River in the Weott Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.31

The applicant proposes annual installation and removal of a temporary summer bridge crossing over the South Fork Eel River to allow access to the applicant's property. There is currently no way to access the applicant's property other than by crossing the river. A summer bridge has been installed at this location in the past to allow access to the property and to allow access for gravel extraction from an area known as the Stockel Bar. The proposed bridge will consist of a 50-foot long railroad flatcar placed on concrete beam and log abutments. Heavy equipment will be used to excavate river-run gravel from the adjacent gravel bar to complete the bridge abutments and to create vehicle approach ramps.

Summer bridge installation may occur as early as June 1 each year, and the bridge must be removed prior to October 15. The applicant's Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement requires that the bridge be placed at an elevation that will allow kayaks and all stream flows to pass beneath the structure, unobstructed by the structure. The project does not require removal of mature vegetation and will not affect any wetlands. Approximately 0.01 acre of gravel bar and stream channel will be temporarily impacted by the annual crossing installation and removal activities. Compensatory mitigation is not required. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices for heavy equipment use near waterways and for sediment and turbidity control.

The applicant has applied for authorization to perform the project from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Clean Water Act, Section 404. The California Department of Fish and Game, as the lead agency for CEQA, determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class 4, Section 15304). The applicant has obtained 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/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 staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801, or at pratd@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov within 21-days of the posting of this notice.