

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

Trinity County Department of Transportation
Browns Creek Bridge Replacement on Deerlick Springs Road
WDID No. 1B05138WNTR

Trinity County

On October 13, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Bill Taggart, representing the Trinity County Department of Transportation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification to replace a bridge on Deerlick Springs Road over Browns Creek in Trinity County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Browns Creek in the Douglas City Hydrologic Subarea No. 106.31.

The proposed bridge replacement project is located approximately 2 miles south of Highway 3 near Douglas City. The applicant has determined that the existing single-lane bridge structure is structurally deficient and is no longer adequate, due to its narrow width, insufficient hydraulic capacity, aging wood timbers, and eroded bridge footings. The proposed project involves installation of a new bridge slightly upstream of the existing bridge on a modified road alignment. The proposed bridge will have two 12-foot wide lanes, one 2-foot wide shoulder, and one 6-foot wide shoulder for bicycles and pedestrians. The modified road alignment will have wider bridge approaches and the curve on the western approach will be straightened. The new bridge will be placed on new concrete abutments and will span Browns Creek without any in-stream support pilings.

The existing bridge will be used as a traffic detour during construction of the new bridge, and its abutments, pilings, and approach fills will be removed after construction of the new bridge is complete. The stream banks in the location of the existing bridge will be graded to match the adjacent natural banks and the disturbed areas will be replanted with native riparian species in accordance with the Riparian Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.

Proposed construction activities located above ordinary high water are scheduled to begin in April 2006. Construction activities near the creek channel are proposed to be conducted between June 1 and October 30, unless the applicant receives authorization to work beyond that period from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G). The applicant anticipates completion of the project by the end of November 2006. If construction activities were not completed in that period, the project will be winterized during winter 2006-07 and project construction activities will be completed during the 2007 construction season.

Placement of the proposed bridge footings, abutments, and rock slope protection will result in approximately 0.16-acre of permanent impacts to the stream bank and riparian area. Construction access and temporary falsework will result in approximately 0.15-acre of temporary impacts to the stream bank and riparian area. Compensatory mitigation includes stream bank restoration and replanting in the area of the existing bridge. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices for heavy equipment use and use of concrete near a waterway, and for sediment and erosion control.

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project, pursuant to Clean Water Act, Section 404. The Trinity County Planning Department, as the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act compliance, determined that this project, as mitigated, will not have a significant effect on the environment and certified a Negative Declaration on November 12, 2003. The applicant has applied to CDF&G for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

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 dprat@waterboards.ca.gov within 21-days of the posting of this notice.

122105_DLP_brownsckpubnot.doc