

June 8, 2006

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

CDOT – Elgar Road Drainage System Revision Project
WDID No. 1B06046WNHU

Humboldt County

On April 21, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Elgar Road Drainage System Revision project located in the vicinity of Route 299, Post Mile R6.1 (S19, T6N, R2E) Blue Lake, Humboldt County. Regional Water Board staff deemed the application complete on June 2, 2006. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Blue Lake Hydrologic Area No. 109.10.

The purpose of the proposed project is to revise and replace a temporary culvert that was installed to prevent erosion when a landslide caused the original culvert to fail. The original failed culvert is a steel corrugated pipe, 18 inches in diameter and 250 feet long. The new culvert will be 24 inches in diameter and 324 feet long and includes a 24-inch 58-foot long down drain that directs the flow into a rock energy dissipater (RED). The RED consists of 8 cubic yards of 75 to 100 pound native rock that will be placed to form a RED approximately 12x6x3 feet, which will reduce erosion and sedimentation. The area of permanent impact is approximately 0.002 acres of streambed. The original culvert drained to a seasonal stream that is only wet during the rainy season. The applicant proposes to excavate approximately 70 cubic yards of material; the excess material will be disposed of at an approved site.

The applicant proposes to use dump trucks, backhoes, and an excavator to complete the project. The project is estimated to take 10 to 15 days and will be completed during the dry season. Equipment staging will be on adjacent county roads. There are no known sensitive or listed species in the project area. The project will require the removal of less than 10 small shrubs for the placement of the culvert and RED. Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include implementation of Best Management Practices for sediment/ erosion control and equipment. The applicant proposes to use silt fences, straw bales, fiber blankets and/or fiber rolls to control sediment and prevent erosion. All areas with bare soil will be reseeded and mulched.

The proposed project is authorized under the United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 33 for Temporary Construction and Nationwide Permit 3 for

Maintenance, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. Section 403). The California Department of Transportation, as lead agency has determined the project to be categorically exempt in accordance with Article 19, section 15301 (Existing Facilities) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. The applicant has applied for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (1602) with 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.

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