

**June 9, 2006**

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
California Department of Transportation  
Ten Mile River Bridge Replacement Project  
Mendocino County (WDID# 1B02207WMNE)**

On June 13, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Ten Mile Bridge Replacement project located north of Fort Bragg, Post Mile 69.4/70.1 (S33, T20N, R17W) in Mendocino County. Regional Water Board staff received additional information on June 5, 2006. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Rockport Hydrologic Area No. 113.10, Ten Mile Hydrologic Subarea 113.13.

Ten Mile River Bridge (No. 10-0161) is located on State Route 1, a two-lane conventional highway, about 6.3 miles north of the Fort Bragg city limit. Built in 1954, the reinforced concrete structure is approximately 1,352-feet long and 26-feet wide, with two 12-foot lanes, 1-foot shoulders, and 9-inch raised curbs. The superstructure consists of slab T-beam girder spans, with box girder spans over the river. The bridge is supported almost entirely on timber pile and spread footing foundations. It is the only bridge that provides access across the Ten Mile River in the area.

The project is needed because an evaluation of the Ten Mile River Bridge concluded that it must be upgraded or replaced to meet current seismic standards. A seismic risk assessment performed by Caltrans' Office of Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering determined that a minimum peak ground acceleration of 0.15g is required to initiate significant liquefaction at the site. Caltrans' Office of Structure Design determined that the timber pile foundations are the controlling failure mechanism during a seismic event and that under liquefying conditions, the existing timber pile foundations cannot support the structure, making the bridge susceptible to collapse. The risk of collapse is considered high, and there is no interim retrofit work that can be done to reduce structural deficiencies of the existing structure. The purpose of the project is to provide an earthquake-resistant bridge by designing a new concrete bridge capable of resisting a maximum credible earthquake.

The proposed project would replace the existing bridge with a Cast-In-Place/Prestressed Concrete Box Girder bridge on Cast-In-Drilled-Hole (CIDH) (Abutment 1, Pier 2 and Abutment 9) and Cast-In-Place-Steel-Shell (CISS) pile foundation systems. The eight-span structure would be supported by two abutments and seven 2-column piers. Construction of temporary falsework, cofferdams, and trestles would be required for the construction of the new bridge. The proposed bridge would be constructed on an approximately parallel alignment, east of the existing structure, at a variable offset of 49 to 62-feet. The new bridge will be 1480-feet long with 12-foot wide land and 6-foot shoulders on both sides. A separated 5-foot sidewalk will be constructed on the west side of the proposed bridge. Additional work involves constructing a new maintenance pullout near the southwest quadrant of the new bridge; realigning, extending, or replacing ditches/culverts; and installing new bridge approach quad guard crash

cushions/metal beam guard railing. A private gravel road located north of the Ten Mile Bridge along the east side of Highway 1 will be realigned outside Caltrans' proposed right-of-way.

Caltrans is preparing a mitigated negative declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Staff is 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 Mona Dougherty at (707) 570-3761, or at [mdougherty@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mdougherty@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.