

July 13, 2006

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

Horn Creek Bridge Replacement on U.S. Forest Service Road 10N17  
WDID No. 1A06084WNSI

Siskiyou County

On June 14, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Ethan Guerra, representing the Forks of Salmon Land Holding Company, LLC (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification to replace a bridge on U.S. Forest Service Road 10N17 over Horn Creek in Siskiyou County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Horn Creek in the Lower Salmon Hydrologic Subarea No. 105.21.

The proposed bridge replacement project is located near the confluence of Horn Creek and the Salmon River, approximately 1 mile west of Cecilville Road and the town of Forks of Salmon. The applicant obtained a Forest Road Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service that authorizes the applicant to reconstruct, maintain, and use approximately 1.2 miles of Forest Service System Road 10N17 and to construct and maintain the privately owned bridge spanning Horn Creek that provides access to private property. The proposed bridge would replace an old log bridge that has already been removed and would eliminate the existing wet crossing route through the creek bottom.

The proposed project involves installation of a new bridge slightly upstream of the historical bridge and the existing wet stream crossing. The proposed new bridge will be placed on concrete abutments and the bridge will span Horn Creek without any in-stream support pilings. The bridge will be approximately 12 feet wide and 60 feet long. The proposed project involves minor excavation on each side of Horn Creek to construct the concrete abutments and roadway approaches. Two steel beam girders will be placed between the abutments to span the creek channel and wood planks will be bolted to the steel girders to create the bridge deck. Rock slope protection will be installed around each abutment.

The applicant is planning to install the bridge as soon as possible after obtaining the necessary permits. Proposed construction activities are anticipated to begin in August 2006 and the project is expected to take six weeks to complete. California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) staff have reviewed the project and determined that no significant biological impacts are anticipated.

Installation of the proposed bridge footings, abutments, and rock slope protection will result in approximately 300 square feet of permanent impacts to the riparian vegetation on the upstream side of the north bridge abutment. There will be no temporary impacts to waters of the United States and all construction activities will be conducted from the existing roadway. To compensate for the permanent impacts to riparian vegetation, the applicant will be required to replant native riparian vegetation over a 300 square foot area located on the downstream side of the north abutment. 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 for authorization to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 14 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Clean Water Act, Section 404. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class 2, Section 15302). The CDF&G has notified that applicant that a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is not required for the project.

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 written comments submitted during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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