

October 25, 2006

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)
**California Department of Transportation Anderson Creek Bridge, Soda
Creek Bridge, and Outlet Creek Bridge Project
Mendocino County (WDID# 1B06010WNME)**

On March 2, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (CDOT) requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Anderson Creek Bridge, Soda Creek Bridge, and Outlet Creek Bridge project in Mendocino County. The proposed project will disturb Waters of the United States associated with Outlet Creek and the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No.111.61 as well as Soda and Anderson Creeks and the Navarro River Hydrologic Unit No. 113.50.

The proposed project has three sites: Outlet Creek Bridge located on Route 162 at post mile (PM) 0.2, Anderson Creek Bridge located on Route 253 at PM 0.54, and Soda Creek Bridge located on Route 253 at PM 3.47, all in Mendocino County. Bridge widening and rail replacement work will be conducted at each location and is a safety requirement to bring the existing bridges up to current bridge design standards.

The proposed project consists of bridge retrofitting at three sites. At the Outlet Creek Bridge site work will not occur within the jurisdictional Waters of the United States. There will be minimal grading and widening of the existing access road to provide a staging/storage area. Access for the underside of the bridge can be achieved from the creek banks and by a traveling platform. The platform will be assembled and raised for use above the waterway. Work to be completed includes widening the bridge by 3.5 feet on each side and upgrading the rail to meet current standards. A temporary structure will be used to prevent debris from entering the stream.

Proposed work at the Anderson Creek Bridge site will consist of widening the bridge deck by three feet on both sides and replacing the guard rail with one that will meet current standards. The pier cap and pier columns will be strengthened. The existing footings and abutments will be enlarged and the wingwalls will be replaced. Rock riprap will be placed on the abutments under the bridge. To accommodate the associated enlarged road on either end of the bridge, retaining walls will be constructed on the south-east and north-west quadrants. A temporary access road will be formed in the north-east area of the construction zone to provide access to the underside of the bridge. The lower portion of this road will be returned to pre-construction conditions upon completion of the

project. An existing 18-inch culvert will be extended due to the construction of the access road, and three utility poles will be relocated.

Work to be completed at the Soda Creek Bridge consists of widening the deck 3.75 feet on the south side, removing the existing wingwall, upgrading the rails, installing rock riprap on the banks, widening the bridge abutments, and adjusting the alignment of the road at each end to correspond with the widening. No access road is required for the work on this bridge. All work will be conducted from the highway or from the bank of Soda Creek. A platform will be used to catch any debris that could fall into the water.

Impacts due to the completion of the proposed project will include 0.06 acres of permanent fill of streambank which corresponds to 60 lineal feet of fill.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will be attained through plantings at the Anderson and Soda Creek project sites, plantings at these sites will include canyon live oak, toyon and white alder, willow pole plantings will be incorporated along the toe of the rock riprap. Plantings will not be performed at the Outlet Creek site because no temporal or permanent impacts are anticipated. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of standard erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) including revegetation of exposed soils, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, temporary mulch, clear water diversion, Baker Tank or equivalent for excavation pumping, and concrete washouts. Stormwater will be treated through biofiltration. Full debris containment will be required.

The California Department of Transportation, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA, State Clearinghouse number 2005072158.

The Anderson Creek Bridge, Soda Creek Bridge, and Outlet Creek Bridge project is scheduled to begin February 2007, and end in February 2009. 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 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 Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.