

December 11, 2006

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

Trinity County Department of Transportation – Trinity Dam Boulevard at Baker Gulch  
Culvert and Slope Repair  
WDID No. 1A06124WNTR

Trinity County

On August 28, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Janice Smith, representing Trinity County Department of Transportation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for proposed activities to repair a culvert inlet and fill slope on Baker Gulch at Trinity Dam Boulevard in Lewiston, Trinity County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Baker Gulch in the Upper Trinity River Hydrologic Subarea No. 106.40. Baker Gulch is a perennial stream that is tributary to Lewiston Lake. The project is approximately 1,000 feet from the confluence of Baker Gulch and Lewiston Lake.

High flows in Baker Gulch during January 2006 caused a ten foot long inlet section of a sixty-inch diameter corrugated metal culvert to separate from the remainder of the culvert. Separation of the culvert at the inlet caused the lower half of the sixty foot high roadway fill prism to wash out on the upstream side of the road. The fill failure is approximately twenty feet high by forty feet wide, and up to twenty feet deep. The purpose of the proposed project is to restore the eroded fill prism and culvert inlet to its previous condition to allow continued public access and to prevent additional sediment discharge into Lewiston Lake.

The proposed project involves removal of rocks, large logs, and other debris in the area of the failed fill slope so that a new ten foot long section of culvert inlet can be attached to the existing culvert. Soil backfill will be used to restore the eroded fill prism. Rock slope protection will be placed over the fill and around the inlet, and the fill slope will be seeded with native grasses. The materials used for rock slope protection and backfill will be obtained from other Trinity County road projects or from commercial sources. Previously used access roads are located on either side of the creek. One of the old access roads will be restored to allow heavy equipment to access a bench above the inlet area. Restoration of the old access road will be limited to removal of vegetation. Vegetation to be removed from the access road consists of several shrubs, as many as six small saplings (fir, live oak, maple, alder, and tanoak), as many as three 4-inch to 8-inch diameter fir trees, and some limbs from the larger trees that will otherwise be avoided.

Placement of the soil backfill and rock slope protection around the culvert inlet will result in approximately 0.001-acre of permanent impacts to waters of the United States. Removal of the accumulated material from the inlet area of the channel to allow for installation of the new section of culvert is expected to result in less than 0.001 acre of temporary impacts to waters of the United States. Compensatory mitigation is not

required. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices for heavy equipment operation near a waterway, and for sediment and erosion control. The proposed project is scheduled to occur during summer 2007, when the flow in Baker Gulch is low and the project can be completed without any water diversion. The project is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 3, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Trinity County Planning Department, as the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act compliance, has determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment, and is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class 1, Section 15301 – Existing Facilities). The applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game 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 submitted in writing and received at this office by mail 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.