

March 29, 2007

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)
California Department of Transportation, Highway 101 PMs 25.36 and
29.60 Culvert Maintenance Project
Mendocino County (WDID# 1B07006WNME)**

On January 19, 2007, 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 Highway 101 PMs 25.36 and 29.60 Culvert Maintenance project in Ukiah, Mendocino County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with an unnamed tributary and Gold Gulch Creek and the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.31.

The proposed project is located along Highway 101 at PMs 25.36 and 29.60. The purpose of the project is to extend the service life of the culverts and to reduce sediment from entering the watercourse.

The proposed project consists of work at two locations. The first location is located at PM 25.36, here CDOT intends to abate the scouring at both the inlet and outlet sides of the culvert by placing rock riprap. The riprap will be made of small rock (under ¼ ton), which will be placed individually by a backhoe. At the outlet of the culvert there will be willow pole planting to aid in stabilizing the banks. The second location is at PM 29.60. The culvert at this location conveys Gold Gulch Creek, a small seasonal stream, under Highway 101. CDOT intends to pave the invert of the existing culvert and to place riprap at the outlet. The riprap will be installed in the same way as described for location one. All work will take place when the streambed is dry. The total area to be permanently filled is approximately 450 square feet. The staging areas for the proposed project are located in the CDOT Right of Way.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will be attained through the removal of non-native vegetation, including Himalayan Blackberry and Ludwigia, as well as through the plantings of willows at the outlets of both culverts. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include revegetation and mulching of all disturbed areas, including staging areas. At location one a check dam will be necessary. If water needs to be diverted at this location, it will be gravity fed through a flex culvert attached to the inside of the existing culvert, and delivered back to the ditch, downstream of the work area.

The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, is considering a Categorical Exemption for this project.

The Culvert Maintenance Project is scheduled to begin August, 2007, and end in October 2007. 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.

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