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**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
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Arnold
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April 3, 2007

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

California Department of Transportation –Culvert Rehabilitation PM 0.48-13.5 Project
WDID No. 1B06160WNHU

Humboldt County

On October 12, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Royal McCarthy, representing California Department of Transportation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for proposed activities to rehabilitate five culverts located at Post Miles 0.48, 1.78, 8.98, 11.29, and 13.5 along a 13 mile stretch of Highway 101 extending from just north of the Mendocino County line to the community of Redway, Humboldt County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Benbow Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.32.

The proposed project involves the rehabilitation of five deteriorated culverts; all the culverts pose a risk for compromising the roadway and water quality due to erosion. The proposed culvert rehabilitation activities are all within the CDOT right-of-way. All five culverts convey water to the South Fork Eel River. All the sites except PM 13.5, which is in the Miranda USGS quadrangle, are located in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Garberville 7.5 –minute topographic quadrangle. The environmental setting varies from grassland to oak woodland. Riparian vegetation will not be removed at any of the proposed project locations. Each of the proposed culvert projects has an individual work plan. The locations of the culverts and descriptions of the work proposed at each are as follows:

- Location 1, PM 0.48 (40.0067/123.7882) – The proposed work involves placement of 121 feet of 32-inch High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) liner inside the existing 128-foot 36-inch corrugated steel pipe (CSP). Approximately 6.5 feet of pipe will be removed at the end of the CSP and 6-7 cubic yards (CY) of rip rap will be placed as a Rock Energy Dissipater (RED) at the culvert outlet.
- Location 2, PM 1.78 (40.0243/123.7941) – The applicant proposes to install a 72-foot, 48-inch diameter HDPE liner inside of the existing 80-foot CSP culvert, and to replace the existing corroded outlet and flume with a 21-foot, 47-inch diameter downdrain. The applicant proposes to leave the existing concrete endwall and apron below the outlet as an energy dissipater.

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- Location 3, PM 8.98 (40.0698/123.7899) – The proposed activity at this location involves replacement of the existing Drainage Inlet (DI) with an Open Metal Pipe inlet and a steel cover, removal of the existing 24-inch crossdrain, to be replaced by a 105-foot crossdrain of the same diameter, and placement of 9-10 cy of riprap as a RED.
- Location 4, PM 11.29 (40.1018/123.7974) – The applicant proposes to replace the existing 54-inch diameter, 131-foot CSP culvert with a bituminous CSP of similar dimensions. and to place riprap on the downdrain area.
- Location 5, PM 13.5 (40.1308/123.80026) – The proposed activity at this location involves filling the eroded area around the 108-foot, 24-inch diameter culvert and downdrain with Rock Slope Protection (RSP) material and replacement of the corroded downdrain with one of similar size.

The total permanent impact to waters of the United States resulting from the proposed project is 0.04 acres (1868 sq.ft.) for all the culvert locations. Compensatory mitigation involves the replacement of any vegetation removed, during access and egress, with in-kind native plant species. Noncompensatory mitigation for the project includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for heavy equipment operation near a waterway, and for sediment and erosion control. The proposed project is scheduled to occur during the dry season, June 15 to October 15; the applicant anticipates completing construction activities in 2007. Water is not expected to be present at any of the culvert locations during the dry season; clear water diversion is not expected to be required. Disturbed soil will be reseeded and mulched or revegetated.

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 3 for *Maintenance* and 33 for *Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering*, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The California Department of Transportation has determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment, and is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (Class 1, Section 15301 Existing Facilities). Based on review of the project information submitted to date by the applicant, Regional Water Board staff anticipate filing a Categorical Exemption for this project, as well. 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 or comments, please contact Diana Henriouille at (707) 576-2350 or email DHenriouille-Henry@waterboards.ca.gov or Catherine Woody at (707) 576-6723 or email Cwoody@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

