

June 15, 2007

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

Lake County DPW – Bear Creek Road at Parramore Creek, Road Embankment Repair  
WDID No. 1B07049WNLA

Lake County

On April 26, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Lake County Department of Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to a storm damage repair project that involves repairing failed embankments on Bear Creek Road at Post Mile 2.1 in the Mendocino National Forest, Lake County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Parramore Creek in the Lake Pillsbury Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.63.

Parramore Creek is culverted under Bear Creek Road at two locations within approximately 500 feet in the project area. During heavy storm events in December 2005 and January 2006, high flows in Parramore Creek caused debris and water to overflow these culverts, eroding the road surface and areas around the culvert inlets and outlets. Water overflowing the road at the downstream culvert washed out sections of the narrow road shoulder and fill embankment along both sides of the road. The washed out area on the south side of the road at the downstream culvert is approximately 80 feet long and approximately six feet from the waters edge in Parramore Creek during typical flow conditions. The purpose of this project is to restore the road surface, repair the eroded sections of the road embankments, and protect the embankment from future erosion into the creek.

Repairing the section of failed embankment that is adjacent to the creek involves placing a layer of fabric-backed rock slope protection (RSP) over the failed embankment slope. The proposed project activities also include construction of a berm with RSP facing in an upland area adjacent to a washout at the inlet end of the upstream culvert. That washout will be avoided and will not be repaired. A washout located at the inlet end of the downstream culvert will be repaired with rock fill.

Equipment used for placing the RSP will be operated from the road surface. The proposed RSP will not extend into the wet channel of the creek and the proposed project will not result in any permanent or temporary impacts to the stream channel. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and the use of heavy equipment near a waterway. The proposed project is scheduled for the summer 2007 when flows in Parramore Creek are low. Construction activities are expected to take approximately eight working days to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Lake County Public Works Department has determined that this project is statutorily exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (Section 15269 – Emergency Projects). Based on a review of the project information submitted to date, Regional Water Board staff determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1, Section 15301 – Existing Facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this 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 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.