

December 19, 2007

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

CDOT – Highway 299, Little Grass Valley Creek Culvert Repair
WDID No. 1A07143WNTR

Trinity County

On September 14, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to a culvert repair project on Highway 299 at Post Mile 68.2, approximately eighteen miles east of Weaverville. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Little Grass Valley Creek in the Douglas City Hydrologic Subarea No. 106.31.

The existing twelve-foot diameter culvert under Highway 299 is about 50 years old. High flows have eroded the fill material around the culvert inlet due to the lack of a headwall. The culvert invert is wearing out from transporting sediment. Voids are present under the culvert where water has leaked through the culvert invert and washed out the substrate. The purpose of this project is to repair the culvert in order to prevent failure of the fill-slope above the culvert and possible collapse of the roadway.

Proposed project activities include filling the voids beneath the culvert invert with grout, paving the invert with an eight-inch thick layer of concrete, constructing a headwall at the culvert inlet, installing rock slope protection (RSP) around the inlet, and removing select steel members of the existing debris catcher. Heavy equipment, such as backhoes and concrete pumping trucks, will be operated from temporary access roads that will terminate above the stream banks. A temporary sandbag diversion dam will be installed at a natural bottleneck in the stream located approximately 30 feet upstream of the culvert inlet. A temporary catchment dam will be installed approximately 10 feet downstream of the culvert outlet.

The new headwall and RSP will result in 144 square feet (0.003 acre) of new permanent impacts to the stream channel and 10 linear feet of new permanent impacts to the stream banks. The excavation for installation of the proposed headwall will result in 64 square feet (0.001 acre) of temporary impacts to the stream channel. The temporary diversion and catchment dams will result in approximately 60 square feet of temporary impacts to the stream channel and 8 linear feet of temporary impacts to the stream banks. 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 operation of heavy equipment near a waterway. The proposed project is scheduled for the summer 2008 and construction activities are expected to take twenty-four days to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 3, pursuant to Clean

Water Act, section 404. The applicant has determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (class 1, section 15301 – existing facilities). Based on a review of the project information submitted to date, Regional Water Board staff have 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.