

March 11, 2008

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

CDOT – Highway 36, Salt Creek Culvert Replacement  
WDID No. 1B07160WNTR

Trinity County

On October 12, 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 to repair two existing culverts on Highway 36 near Wildwood. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Salt Creek in the Hayfork Valley Hydrologic Subarea No. 106.25.

The purpose of the proposed project is to repair two existing culverts that cause flooding of Highway 36 during and after large storm events. The existing 18-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe at post mile 33.67 is undersized. This culvert is located on an unnamed ephemeral stream that is tributary to Salt Creek. During large storm events, the highway floods near the inlet and excess water is diverted along the edge of the highway and into the adjacent culvert at post mile 33.76. The invert of the existing 48-inch diameter culvert at post mile 33.76 is deteriorated and needs to be repaired. This culvert is on Salt Creek, a perennial stream.

The proposed project involves filling the existing 18-inch culvert and abandoning the culvert in-place. Approximately 10 feet of the inlet end of the existing culvert will be removed to allow placement of a new 24-inch diameter culvert directly over the abandoned culvert. The new culvert will extend approximately six feet upstream of the existing culvert inlet. Approximately three cubic yards of fill material will be placed over the extended culvert section and a flared end section will be attached to the inlet. A 24-foot long down drain will be installed at the outlet of the new culvert so that flows will be returned to the same rocky area in the stream channel that the existing culvert discharges. The proposed culvert replacement activities will result in 19 square feet and 7 linear feet of additional permanent impact to the stream channel.

The existing 48-inch diameter culvert will be repaired by inserting a 42-inch diameter plastic liner inside the existing culvert and pumping grout into the space between the existing culvert and the new liner. Temporary bulkheads will be placed at the inlet and outlet to contain the grout. The culvert will be extended by 4.5 feet at the inlet end and a concrete headwall will be installed. The extended portion of the culvert will be covered with approximately five cubic yards of backfill and one cubic yard of light (approximately 16-inch diameter) rock slope protection (RSP). Approximately one cubic yard of light RSP will also be added to the existing rock at the culvert outlet. The proposed culvert lining activities will result in 15 square feet and 5.5 linear feet of additional permanent impact to the stream channel.

A clear water diversion will be required to divert flows in Salt Creek around the work area. A temporary check dam will be constructed using gravel filled bags and plastic sheeting to block flows approximately 15 feet upstream of the culvert inlet. Flows from the check dam will be piped approximately 180-linear feet along the roadside drainage ditch and into an existing 48-inch diameter culvert on an adjacent tributary that flows into Salt Creek within approximately 75 feet of the culvert outlet on Salt Creek that will be lined while the diversion is in place. The applicant anticipates that the Salt Creek diversion will only be needed for two days. The check dam and clear water diversion will result in approximately 10 square feet and 4 linear feet of temporary impacts to the Salt Creek 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 operation of heavy equipment near a waterway. The proposed project will be conducted during the low flow period between May 15 and October 15. Construction activities are expected to take 21 days to complete. Temporary staging of materials and equipment will occur on the small roadside pullouts near the culverts.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under the non-reporting provision of Nationwide Permit Number 3, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement for the project. 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.