

May 30, 2008

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

CDOT – Hwy 96 Storm Damage Restoration
WDID No. 1A08018WNSI

Siskiyou County

On January 31, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the proposed Highway 96 Storm Damage Restoration Project. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with unnamed perennial drainages within the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit No.105.00, Ukonom Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 105.31.

The project is located from post mile (PM) 3.76 to PM 28.95 on Highway 96, which lies between Somes Bar and Happy Camp in Siskiyou County. The purpose of the proposed project is to repair and upgrade drainage culverts along the highway which were damaged during the winter storms of 2005/2006. Caltrans proposes the repair and upgrade of seven culverts along the project, five of which are within streams that require 401 Water Quality Certification. The proposed project will include the installation of larger and more appropriately sized culverts and the use of rock slope protection (RSP) near culvert inlets and outfalls to stabilize the embankments along Highway 96. In addition, the proposed project will include the installation of new culvert headwalls and more accessible culverts for maintenance purposes. The proposed project will also include the repair of a concrete apron at PM 28.95, which will provide Caltrans maintenance crews an area to remove excess debris from a chronic slide area.

The proposed project will result in permanent and temporary impacts to waterways that are within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction. The scope of work proposed would permanently impact 979 square feet of unnamed perennial drainages associated with four of the culvert repairs/upgrades. In addition, 400 square feet of the perennial drainages will be temporarily impacted for the purpose of accessing the culverts. Caltrans will utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to provide erosion control. The proposed project will require the use of temporary clear water diversion as a BMP to reduce sediment and prevent surface waters from coming in contact with concrete. An additional BMP will be conducting the proposed work between June 1st and September 30th during the summer low flow periods.

Caltrans proposes revegetation activities by planting a total of 5,572 square feet of willows and alders upstream and downstream of the culverts that require repairs. Replanting will occur within and beyond the footprint of the construction area and stabilization of any other disturbed area will be conducted utilizing wood, straw, or hydro

mulch. Riparian areas along the perennial drainages that are affected by the construction activities will be replanted with native riparian vegetation. In addition, construction and post construction BMPs will be implemented to ensure erosion is minimized and controlled.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the USACE to perform the project under their Nationwide Permits No. 3 (maintenance) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans has determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review [Class 1 Categorical Exemption (SCH No. 2007128199)]. In addition, Regional Water Board staff also determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1 Categorical Exemption) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption. Caltrans has also applied to California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. The majority of proposed project activity is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008. Construction work in all drainages will only be conducted during dry weather from the period of June 1st and September 30th. The entire project is expected to take four months to complete and is anticipated to be completed between June 1, 2009 and September 30, 2009.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed road restoration activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA (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 staff member Jeremiah Puget at (707) 576-2835 or jpuget@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.