

August 13, 2008

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

California Department of Transportation – District 2
Interstate 5 – Shasta River Bridge Deck Replacement and Seismic Retrofit
WDID No. 1A08098WNSI
Siskiyou County

On June 12, 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 Interstate 5 – Shasta River Bridge Deck Replacement and Seismic Retrofit project (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) within the Shasta River, which is part of the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit No.105.00, and Shasta Valley Hydrologic Area No. 105.50.

The proposed project is located on Interstate-5 at post mile (PM) 22.6, in Siskiyou County. The purpose of the proposed project is to repair and upgrade the northbound and southbound bridges to accommodate truck load weights and withstand potential earthquakes. Caltrans proposes repairing and retrofitting the northbound bridge and replacing the deck of the southbound bridge, which span the Shasta River, a tributary to the Klamath River. The proposed project will include girder strengthening on each of the bridges, placing a concrete overlay on the new southbound bridge deck, replacing the metal beam guard rails, improving bridge approach rails and new joint seals, and providing permanent post construction storm water treatment within the project area.

The proposed project will result in temporary impacts to a waterway that is within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction. The scope of work proposed would require the installation of a water diversion which would temporarily impact approximately 7,000 square feet of the Shasta River. In addition, access to the river would require the excavation of the stream bank, resulting in an additional 375 square feet of temporary impacts associated with the project. Additionally, approximately 0.79 acres of upland area will be disturbed during the project activities. The total area of soil disturbance within the project is 1.6 acres. However, the scope of work for the project does not propose any permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. or waters of the State. Caltrans will utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to provide erosion control and pollution prevention throughout the project area. As an additional BMP, the proposed in-channel work will only be conducted during the summer when flows are low.

Caltrans proposes revegetation activities by planting approximately 563 square feet of willow stakes to off-set the temporary impacts from construction access. All graded areas within the project affected by the construction activities will be appropriately stabilized and/or replanted with native vegetation. In addition, construction and post construction BMPs will be implemented to ensure erosion is minimized and controlled.

The project would not result in a net increase of impervious area. However, due to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan for the Shasta River, Caltrans

has evaluated post construction treatment controls to address storm water runoff in the vicinity of the project area. Road safety concerns and physical constraints prevented the treatment of storm water generated from the actual bridge deck. However, Caltrans has determined the landscape adjacent to the roadway north of the bridges will meet the criteria for biostrips and bioswales and will preserve and maintain approximately two acres for storm water treatment. In addition, post construction BMPs including the sweeping of traction sands will be implemented during the winter months to prevent direct discharges to the Shasta River.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the USACE to perform the project under their Nationwide Permits No. 14 (linear transportation projects) and No. 33 (Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans has also applied for a California Department of Fish and Game 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement. Caltrans has determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review [Class 1 Categorical Exemption (SCH No.2006128235)]. 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.

The majority of proposed project activity is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2009. Construction work within the channel will only be conducted between June 1st to October 15th and only during dry weather. In addition, to accommodate a deer migration path beneath the bridges, no work will be conducted underneath the bridges from April 1st to May 31st and October 1st to November 30th. The entire project is expected to take eight months to complete and is anticipated to be conducted between April 1st, 2009 and November 30th, 2009; however, a second construction season may be required.

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 phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within 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.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed road construction 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 related documents and comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.