

October 23, 2008

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

California Department of Transportation
Highway 101 Storm Damage Repair Project:
WDID No. 1B08103WNME

Mendocino County

On June 10, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application and \$521.50 fee 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 101 Storm Damage project (project), in Mendocino County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.114.00, Forsythe Creek Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 114.33. Both temporary and permanent impacts are proposed to an intermittent tributary to Forsythe Creek, a tributary to the Russian River.

The project is located along Highways 101 at post mile (PM) marker 36.41. The purpose and objective of the project are to repair and upgrade a degraded double barreled culvert to protect the roadway from erosion and potential structural damage. The proposed construction activities will consist of: installing two plastic pipes; replacing the rock slope protection (RSP); excavating failed slopes; reconstructing and repaving the damaged roadway; replacing degraded downdrains; revegetating the disturbed soil areas; and conducting erosion control. The project will result in temporary impacts to 3,779 feet² (131 linear feet) waters of the U.S. and waters of the State. However, the majority of temporary impacts are within the existing drainage facilities (i.e. culverts and RSP).

Water diversions may be required for work associated within drainage; however, in an attempt to reduce impacts to jurisdictional waters work will only be conducted during the dry season. All graded areas within the project affected by the construction activities will be appropriately stabilized with native vegetation. In addition, construction and post construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to ensure erosion is minimized and controlled. To compensate for the impacts to waters of the U.S. and waters of the State associated with project, Caltrans proposes to plant approximately 600 feet² of riparian vegetation adjacent to the RSP at the outfall of location PM 36.41.

Caltrans has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under their Nationwide Permit No. 14 (linear transportation projects) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans has also applied to California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or 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.2008058314)]. 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. Construction work in all drainages will only be conducted during the dry season from the period of May 15th to October 15th. The entire

project is expected to take 50 working days and is anticipated to be completed between July 1st and October 15th, 2009.

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.