

January 16, 2009

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

California Department of Transportation - District 1
Highway 101 - Clam Beach Culvert Project
WDID No. 1B08115WNHU

Humboldt County

On July 17, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation – District 1 (Caltrans), requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the proposed Highway 101 – Clam Beach Culvert project (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State within the Mad River Hydrologic Unit No.109.00, and Blue Lake Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 109.10.

The proposed project is located on Highway 101 from post mile (PM) 95.9 to 96.1, in Humboldt County. The purpose of the proposed project is to install a 24-inch diameter, 650 foot long high density polyethylene (HDPE) culvert to alleviate flooding issues along the highway during heavy rainfall events. The proposed project will result in temporary impacts to waters of the State and minor permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. Caltrans proposes to install the HDPE culvert along the grassy shoulder of the highway to transport excess water that collects along the highway during heavy rainfall events to Patrick Creek. The scope of work will include: trenching; culvert installation; drainage inlet installation; minor clearing of riparian vegetation; and installation of new culvert outlet adjacent to Patrick Creek. The culvert outlet will be installed within an existing headwall associated with a culvert that carries Patrick Creek beneath Highway 101. Caltrans will utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to provide erosion control and pollution prevention throughout the project area during construction.

Caltrans has determined that temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and waters of the State (Riparian Vegetation along Patrick Creek) would total 200 feet². Additionally, less than one cubic yard of waters of the U.S. and waters of the State will be permanently impacted work associated with the headwall and culvert outfall. No stream diversions will be required for the proposed project. In addition, compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. All disturbed areas within the project affected by the construction activities will be appropriately stabilized and/or replanted with appropriate native 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under their Nationwide Permits No. 33 (temporary access, construction and dewatering) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans has also applied for a California Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement. Caltrans has determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (General Rule). 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 proposed project activity is scheduled to be conducted between August 1, 2009 (or 2010) and October 15, 2009 (or 2010). Work in all drainages will only be performed during dry weather between May 15 and October 15.

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.