

March 9, 2009

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

County of Lake, Elk Mountain Road PM 27.53 Storm Damage Repair Project
WDID No. 1B09011WNLA
Lake County

On January 21, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Ken Brown, Principal Civil Engineer, on behalf of County of Lake (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification (certification) for proposed activities related to replacement of a storm damaged culvert with a larger capacity culvert and associated construction work.

The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the State and United States associated with an unnamed seasonal tributary to the Eel River, in the Lake Pillsbury Hydrologic Sub-Area 111.63, Upper Main Eel River Hydrologic Area 111.60, Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.00, Lake County.

The proposed project will result in permanent and temporary impacts to approximately 0.046 acres/50 feet of linear stream course. The project is located on Elk Mountain Road, Post Mile (PM) 27.53, latitude 39.408889°N, longitude 122.9808167°W. Per the applicant, the subject of this project is a storm damaged culvert inlet, outlet and road embankment on Elk Mountain Road in Lake County. The total length of road improvement is about 110 feet. Storm debris blocked the inlet of a cross culvert causing water to overflow the road, eroded the culvert outlet and road embankment. During emergency opening the debris was removed, a temporary cross culvert installed and a deep hole around the existing culvert inlet was backfilled for public safety. The final goal is to replace the existing culvert, install a concrete headwall, place a down-drain on the outlet and restore the road embankment. The failed 12-inch and temporary 18-inch culvert will be replaced with a 42 inch HDPE culvert. The 18-inch culvert will be removed and the 12-inch culvert will be abandoned in place. A 24-foot long section of 42-inch down-drain pipe will be placed on-slope at the outlet of the new 42-inch culvert. Energy dissipation methods will be utilized at the outlet of the new down-drain.

The project is designed to replace eroded areas and protect these areas from further erosion and sediment delivery to the Eel River, and is considered self-mitigating.

Non-compensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices for erosion control near a stream channel. The proposed project is scheduled to commence in the dry season of 2009.

Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game and the US Army Corps of Engineers for their respective permits.

County of Lake, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency has determined that the proposed project is Statutorily Exempt from CEQA review (Section 15269 - Emergency Projects), and have filed a Notice of Exemption for this project on February 29, 2008, with the State of California Office of Planning & Research.

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 Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this project; all related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected 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.

030909_SKB_County_of_Lake_Elk_Mountain_Rd_PM_27.53_Storm_Damage_Repair_PN