

June 25, 2009

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

California Department of Transportation  
Highway 253 – Storm Damage Repair Project  
WDID No. 1B08162WNME

Mendocino County

On November 6, 2008 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application and \$1,543.00 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 253 Storm Damage Repair project (project). Additional project information was received on February 5, 2009 and June 19, 2009. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with ephemeral and intermittent tributaries to Feliz Creek and Robinson Creek located within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit (HU) No.114.00 (Ukiah sub-area 114.31).

The proposed project includes three locations along Highway 253 at post miles (PM) 8.05, PM 9.21 and PM 10.81 in Mendocino County. The purposes and objectives of the project are to repair and replace the highway subgrade and culverts to protect the roadway from erosion related structural failures. The proposed construction activities will consist of: replacing culverts; replacing headwalls; grading drainage ditches; installing underdrains; installing culvert aprons and flared end sections; replacing asphalt and road base; installing rock slope protection (RSP); and conducting slope revegetation and erosion control. The proposed work will result in impacts to jurisdictional waters (tributaries to Feliz Creek) including 314 feet<sup>2</sup> (135 linear feet) of impacts associated with the work at PM 8.05 and 196 feet<sup>2</sup> (98 linear feet) with the work at PM 8.09. In addition, the proposed work will result in impacts to jurisdictional waters (tributaries to Robinson Creek) including 733 feet<sup>2</sup> (343 linear feet) of impacts associated with the work between PM 10.77 and PM 10.81. All areas with disturbed soil will be stabilized with appropriate erosion control and subsequent to the completion of the project the disturbed soil areas will be revegetated.

The majority of the project impacts are associated with existing culverts, roadside ditches and the installation of RSP. The proposed project will only result in approximately 0.019-acres of new permanent impacts to waters of the U.S and waters of the State. However, the permanent impacts are associated with the installation of RSP in an unstable drainage ditch, which is ultimately designed to reduce the amount of sediment in the drainage ditch and improve water quality. To avoid impacts to jurisdictional drainages, project activities will only be conducted under “no flow” conditions. Caltrans will utilize BMPs for all activities including work windows for stream work, and proper erosion control, sediment control and pollution prevention during construction.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform the project under their Nationwide Permit No. 3 (maintenance) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. In addition, Caltrans has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. Caltrans has determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (Class 1 Categorical Exemption). 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 during the summer of 2010. In addition, all project activities will only be performed during the dry weather months 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](mailto: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.