

July 9, 2009

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

Mendocino County Department of Transportation, Eastside Calpella Road MP 3.70
Storm Damage Project
WDID No. 1B08092WNME

Mendocino County

On May 22, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Larry Alexander of the County of Mendocino Department of Transportation (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities associated with a bank stabilization project on the southern bank of the Russian River. The project involves stabilization of a 30-40 ft. near vertical bank that was damaged in the 2005-2006 winter storms. The project uses bank armoring and planting of native willows and vegetation for reinforcement and stabilization of the bank. The project is located near Eastside Calpella Road, M.P. 3.70, north of the Town of Calpella, latitude 39.24170° N, longitude 123.19851° W, Mendocino County. The project permanently impacts approximately 0.025 acres of waters of the State associated with the Russian River in the Ukiah Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.31, Russian River Hydrologic Area 114.00.

The purpose of the proposed project is to reinforce a damaged embankment and halt erosion of 40 linear feet of riverbank. The roadway is within four feet of the precipice and the potential for further erosion and damage persists.

The Applicant proposes to temporarily divert the river flow by digging a channel in a gravel bar adjacent to the riverbed. Two feet of gravel will be left on both ends of the new channel for 24 hours at minimum, allowing sediment to settle before the channel is opened to river flow. Excavated gravel will be used to construct plastic lined cofferdams up and down stream from the construction site and using screened pumps, a pool at the base of the embankment will be dewatered and upon consultation with NOAA Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Game, all fish will be relocated. A three foot deep keyway will be excavated at the edge of the embankment, within the river bed, which will be filled with four ton rock slope protection up the side of the slope and one ton rock slope protection will be installed above it. Any existing deep water habitat will be preserved if possible. Two rock vanes may be constructed to deflect water flow away from the bank. Creek flow will be returned to the original condition upon completion of the bank armoring, causing as little disturbance as possible. Willow poles will be planted at the base of the rock and all disturbed ground will be treated with mulching, seeding of native grasses and/or sterile hybrids, and/or erosion control blankets. Silt fences and silt curtains will be used to avoid delivery of sediment to the Russian River during construction. The project will require the use of an excavator, bulldozer and dump trucks. The paved parking area of Mendocino Redwood Company will be used for staging, overnight storage and offloading, and provide an access point to the construction site. All operations, including harvesting of local willow stems, will be done with respect to all wildlife and to cause the minimum of disruption possible.

All plantings shall be irrigated and managed for a minimum of 5 consecutive years immediately following planting. Planted vegetation shall have at least an 85% survival rate of thriving planted species at the end of five years. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board for five years, and shall include photos of the revegetated areas, and include survival rates and a narrative summary of the status of the revegetation effort. All erosion control measures will be installed and in place by October 15 and maintained thereafter by the contractor. Additionally, all required Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment before the start of construction activities.

Compensatory mitigation will consist of planting of native riparian vegetation in and around the repair area to establish shade and habitat. Plantings shall also be placed to help reduce erosion at and near the project site.

The County of Mendocino Department of Transportation, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, submitted a Notice of Exemption to the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2008108388) on October 27, 2008, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.

Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Applicant has applied to US Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit (File No. 400818N), issued on November 15, 2007.

Staff is 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 or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov, within 21 days of 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.