

July 29, 2009

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

California Department of Transportation  
Highway 101 – Repair Cross Drain Project in Southern Humboldt County  
WDID No. 1B08165WNHU

Humboldt County

On November 17, 2008 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application and \$640 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 Repair Cross Drain Project in Southern Humboldt County (project). Additional project information was received on May 5, 2009. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with drainages within the Eel River HU No. 111.00.

The proposed project includes four locations along Highway 101 at post mile (PM) 21.83, PM 22.17, PM 32.75 and PM 39.01 in Humboldt County. The purposes and objectives of the project are to repair and upgrade the culverts and to protect the roadway from erosion-related structural failures. The proposed construction activities will consist of: installing cured-in-place pipe liners; installing a headwall; and repairing a failing culvert invert. The proposed project will result in temporary impacts to 744 feet<sup>2</sup> (346 linear feet) of drainages within the Weott Hydrologic sub-area 111.31 and 375 feet<sup>2</sup> (250 linear feet) of temporary impacts to drainages within the Scotia Hydrologic sub-area 111.12. Vegetation removal will be minimized to only what is needed to conduct the repairs. 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 project impacts are associated with temporary construction activities and repair of existing culverts. 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 2009 or 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 written comments 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.