

March 17, 2010

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

Humboldt County Public Works Department – Mattole Road Post Mile 5.25 Storm
Damage Repair (“Roscoe Slide”)
WDID No. 1B10003WNHU

Humboldt County

On January 11, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Public Works Department (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for proposed roadway repair activities on Mattole Road at Post Mile 5.25 near Petrolia. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with wetlands and an ephemeral spring in the Mattole River Hydrologic Area No. 112.30.

Winter storms in 2005-2006 resulted in a large landslide that caused approximately 500 linear feet of the roadway surface to sink by up to 15 feet. An existing 24-inch diameter culvert at the north end of the slide area plugged during the storms and flows around the culvert resulted in damage to the culvert and erosion of approximately half the roadway width for a distance of 70 feet. Temporary emergency repairs were completed. Emergency repairs included fixing the culvert outlet, backfilling the outlet area with rock, and grading the roadway with additional fill material to restore traffic.

The proposed project involves realignment of the roadway and construction of a stabilization trench with a perforated pipe underdrain. The slide area of the roadway will be excavated to a depth of 20 feet below the roadway surface. A 3-foot wide and 10-foot deep trench will be excavated parallel to the base of the excavated hillslope (cutbank) for approximately 375 feet. An 8-inch diameter perforated pipe will be placed near the bottom of the stabilization trench and the trench will be backfilled with permeable material. The permeable backfill and underdrain pipe will be enclosed in filter fabric.

Underdrain outlets will be installed at two locations along the underdrain to convey collected seepage to the hillside below the roadway. The underdrain outlets will consist of a section of 8-inch diameter perforated pipe connected perpendicular to the underdrain pipe and a section of 8-inch diameter non-perforated pipe to extend the perforated pipes beyond the roadway fill prism so the outlets drain onto the hillside below the roadway. Flexible pipe will be used to further extend the underdrain outlets to appropriate discharge locations on the hillside. A new 18-inch diameter cross drain culvert will also be added under the restored roadway section to convey additional storm water runoff from the inboard ditch to the hillside below the roadway.

The proposed project requires construction of 540 linear feet of detour road along the upslope side of the existing roadway. Construction of the detour will require additional excavation into the cutbank adjacent to the existing roadway to create a bench for the temporary detour. Approximately 3,700 cubic yards of material will be removed from the existing cutbank to create a 1:1 slope and an at-grade bench for the approximately 12-foot wide detour road alignment. A K-rail barrier will be installed to separate the

detour road from roadway reconstruction activities. The excavated bench for the detour route will not be refilled following completion of the roadway. The bench will be used as a base for creating a rock slope protection buttress over the cutbank. The remaining area of the bench will act as a catch basin area for additional landslide material, and for recreating a roadside drainage channel for seepage and storm water collection and conveyance.

The proposed project will result in permanent impacts to the roadside drainage ditch including 30 square feet of wetlands. The proposed project will also result in 400 square feet of temporary impacts to an ephemeral spring channel that drains to the roadside drainage ditch. Compensatory mitigation is required for the proposed wetland impacts. A larger roadside drainage ditch will be created after the roadway is restored and wetlands are expected to reestablish within the newly created roadside ditch. The applicant will be required to monitor the new drainage ditch and demonstrate that the ditch is revegetated and at least 30 square feet of jurisdictional wetlands are restored such that the project does will not result in any permanent loss of wetland area. Replanting appropriate areas within the ditch with wetland species may be necessary.

Noncompensatory mitigation includes use of Best Management Practices for erosion, sediment and turbidity control. All construction activities will be performed during the summer months. Proposed project activities are scheduled to begin in June 2010. The proposed project is expected to take five months to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 14 (File No. 2009-00123), pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required for the proposed activities. Humboldt County Public Works Department determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to section 15301, class 1 – existing facilities and section 15304, class 4 – minor alterations to land. Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (class 1, section 15301 – existing facilities, and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed roadway repair and drainage improvement 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 application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

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 Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.