

August 5, 2010

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

Humboldt County Department of Public Works – Culvert Replacements at Telegraph  
Creek Road P.M. 1.36 and Wolverine Way P.M. 0.15  
WDID No. 1B10059WNHU

Humboldt County

On June 3, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for proposed activities related to removal and replacement of existing culverts under Telegraph Creek Road and Wolverine Way in Shelter Cove. The proposed projects will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with unnamed tributaries to Telegraph Creek in the Mattole River Hydrologic Area No. 112.30.

Telegraph Creek Road Culvert at Post Mile 1.36

The existing crossing on Telegraph Creek Road over an unnamed perennial stream consists of a 42-inch diameter and 100-foot long corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with concrete headwalls at the inlet and outlet ends. In 2007, Humboldt County personnel noticed a sink hole in the roadway surface and determined that the culvert was failing. An additional inspection revealed that the culvert had separated under the roadway approximately 20 feet from the inlet near the location of an 8-inch diameter drop inlet that conveys roadway runoff from the roadway into the culvert.

Proposed activities at this site involve removal of the existing culvert and drop inlet, and installation of a new steel culvert and drop inlet of the same sizes. The existing headwalls and wingwalls do not appear to be damaged so the applicant is planning to insert the ends of the new culvert into the existing headwalls to avoid any impacts to the embankments around the inlet and outlet. The proposed project will not result in any additional permanent impacts to the stream channel.

Flows in the unnamed tributary will be temporarily diverted around the project during construction. A sandbag coffer dam will be installed upstream of the project and water will be pumped around the site. If the road is closed during construction the flows may be diverted through a temporary 18-inch diameter pipe so that pumping is not necessary. Fish are not expected to be present in the tributary. Proposed culvert excavation and replacement activities on Telegraph Creek Road, including installation of the temporary coffer dam and diversion, will result in 360 square feet and 120 linear feet of temporary impacts to the stream channel. All disturbed areas will be seeded with a mix of fast growing native grasses and mulched.

Wolverine Way Culvert at Post Mile 0.15

The existing crossing on Wolverine Way over an unnamed ephemeral stream consists of an 18-inch diameter and 120-foot long CMP. The culvert crosses under the roadway

for 40 linear feet and then continues as an underground down drain for another 80 feet. The existing culvert is undersized and a separation or blockage under the roadway is causing water to exit the culvert. Scour of the road prism is causing the roadway to slump. The wooden headwall at the inlet end has also partially collapsed so the culvert inlet is no longer visible.

Proposed activities at this site involve removal of the 40-foot long section of culvert under the roadway and removal of the wooden headwall at the inlet. A new 40-foot long section of 24-inch diameter plastic (HDPE) culvert will be installed under the roadway and rock armoring will be installed to replace the wooden headwall. The buried section of down drain will be plugged with concrete slurry and abandoned in place. A new 24-inch diameter down drain culvert will be installed above the ground surface and an anchor system will be installed to secure the culvert in place. A rocked energy dissipater will be installed below the outlet.

Culvert excavation and replacement activities on Wolverine Way will result in 80 square feet and 40 linear feet of temporary impacts to the stream channel. Installation of rock armoring around the inlet and the rocked energy dissipater around the outlet will result in 20 square feet and 10 linear feet of permanent impacts to the stream channel. All disturbed areas will be seeded with a mix of fast growing native grasses and mulched.

#### Telegraph Creek Road and Wolverine Way

The Telegraph Creek Road and Wolverine Way culvert replacement projects will require controlled traffic and partial road closures during construction. Road detours for both project sites are available. The applicant will post notices prior to construction to inform local residents of the short road closures and detours. Each project is expected to take up to two weeks to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform these projects under Nationwide Permit No. 3, pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 404. The Applicant has also applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. The County of Humboldt 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 (section 15301, class 1 – existing facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed projects. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and turbidity control and for operation of heavy equipment in a stream channel. The proposed projects are scheduled for construction during the summer of 2010.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed activities including maps and detailed 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.