

October 26, 2010

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

Humboldt County Department of Public Works – Alderpoint Road, Post Mile 12.0-12.2,  
Storm Damage Repair  
WDID No. 1B10056WNHU

Humboldt County

On May 24, 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 activities associated with repairing Alderpoint Road near Post Mile 12.0 where a landslide and slipout occurred during the winter storms of 2005-2006. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with an unnamed tributary to Jewett Creek in the Spyrock Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.42.

Large winter storms in 2005-06 resulted in a slide above Alderpoint Road that blocked the inboard drainage ditch. The slide caused water to flow across the road which saturated the fill prism and caused the road shoulder to slip. Emergency repair work consisted of placing barricades and rocky backfill material in the slipout, and resurfacing the roadway with cold mix. The proposed project involves construction of a subsurface edge drain along the uphill side of the road and reconstruction of the damaged roadway.

Construction of the edge drain involves excavation of a 350-foot long by 2-foot wide by 4-foot deep trench along the uphill side of the road and installation of 350 linear feet of 8-inch diameter perforated plastic pipe in the trench along with filter fabric and permeable backfill material. The new edge drain pipe will collect and transport water to the north where it will enter a new 18-inch diameter cross drain pipe. The cross drain pipe will carry flows under the roadway to the downhill side. A down drain pipe will be connected to the cross drain pipe and the down drain outlet will be placed in an existing rocked outlet area below an existing culvert located on an unnamed tributary to Jewett Creek.

Construction of the edge drain requires relocating the existing roadside drainage. The new roadside drainage will be 350-feet long by 2-feet wide by 1-foot deep. Approximately 48 linear feet of the existing roadside drainage on the downstream end will not be disturbed and the drainage channel will continue to flow into an unnamed tributary to Jewett Creek approximately 4 feet upstream of the existing culvert inlet. A rock buttress will be installed at the base of fill slope on the downhill side of the roadway to stabilize the fill slope. The roadway surface will be reconstructed with aggregate base and asphalt concrete.

Proposed activities associated with relocation of the roadside drainage will result in permanent impacts to 176 square feet of wetlands in the drainage channel and an additional 262 linear feet of the roadside drainage channel. Compensatory mitigation is

required for the proposed wetland and channel impacts. Impacts will be mitigated onsite within a new roadside drainage channel. Due to existing hillside seeps above the new drainage channel and restoration of the existing drainage conditions, new wetlands are expected to establish within the newly created roadside drainage channel. The applicant will be required to monitor the new channel to demonstrate that the channel is revegetated by wetland plants and at least 176 square feet of jurisdictional wetlands are recreated such that the project will not result in any permanent loss of wetland area. If monitoring indicates that at least 176 square feet of wetlands do not reestablished within the drainage channel within three years, the wetland areas will be reassessed to determine if conditions can be modified or created to encourage wetland propagation, and a revised or supplemental revegetation and monitoring plan will be implemented. Noncompensatory mitigation will include the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and turbidity control. The proposed project is scheduled for construction during the summer when the drainage channel and wetland are dry.

The applicant has received authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Nos. 3 and 14, pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 404. The Applicant has also applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. 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.

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.