

November 10, 2010

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

Mendocino DOT, Bridge No. 10C0134, Feliz Creek Bridge Replacement
WDID No. 1B1010WNME

Mendocino County

On September 29, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Park Steiner, on behalf of Mendocino County Department of Transportation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with the Feliz Creek Bridge Replacement (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to approximately 100 linear feet of waters of the United States and waters of the State associated with Feliz Creek within the Ukiah hydrologic subarea no. 114.31, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00

The proposed project is located on County Road 110, at the bridge over Feliz Creek, west of Hopland, latitude 38.972343°N, longitude 123.141943°W, in Mendocino County.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to replace the failing bridge that was installed in 1960. The proposed new bridge will be a three span concrete and steel cast-in-place, reinforced concrete slab bridge with two sets of center pilings, and be approximately 100 feet long and 26 feet wide. The new bridge will be located just downstream of the existing bridge. The new bridge will be longer and span a greater width over the creek than the existing bridge, thus reducing hydraulic constriction impact, and impact to the stream bed. Rock slope protection will be used under each end of the new bridge, only above ordinary high water mark. The new bridge will necessitate removal of some of the native riparian vegetation. The old bridge structure will be removed, and the stream banks and stream bed will be restored with contouring and a combination of planting and natural recruitment of native plant species. Construction is planned for the dry season, when there is no flow in the creek. If there is flow in the creek, appropriate methods will be taken to bypass flow around the work area, and implement biological monitoring to minimize impacts to aquatic species. Construction is planned for a total of 90 days and is tentatively expected to take place during 2011 or 2012.

Compensatory mitigation for the bridge construction and the removal of riparian vegetation will consist of the above mentioned stream bank restoration. Success criteria will be an 85% survival rate of the plantings/natural recruitment over a 5 year period with annual reporting submitted to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Non-compensatory mitigation for this project includes re-vegetation of disturbed areas, as appropriate, and the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control, and for heavy equipment use near a waterway.

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for authorization to perform the project pursuant to Clean Water Act section 404. The

applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. On July 21, 2010, the City of Ukiah submitted a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2010042024) for the project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

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 Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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