

November 15, 2010

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

California Department of Transportation
Highway 101 - Rattlesnake Wall Storm Damage Project
WDID No. 1B10051WNME

Mendocino County

On May 11, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application and \$3,202 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 Rattlesnake Wall Storm Damage Project between Post Miles (PM) 80.75 and 85.30 on Highway 101 in Mendocino County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with Rattlesnake Creek within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit (HU) No.111.00 (South Fork Eel River Sub-Area 111.32).

This is a storm damage repair project to reduce maintenance needs along a section of State Route (SR) 101 which is prone to failure. The purpose of the project is to stabilize several slide areas along the highway by either reducing the weight of the road base or stabilizing the highway through walls at three locations on Highway 101. A summary of the proposed work at each location is described below.

At location 1 (PM 82.00) Caltrans proposes to: excavate the fill section of the two northbound lanes 15 feet to 25 feet below the shoulder and replace with lightweight fill (LWF); repave the roadway; and replace metal beam guard rail (MBGR). The LWF will be expanded polystyrene blocks encapsulated in a rubber membrane, overlain by embankment material. Access to the work area will be from existing highway. On the cut slope side of the road Caltrans proposes to construct a 20 foot deep under drain; repair a breach in the cut slope bench above the roadway and regrade the existing ditch; and replace the cross culverts and drain inlets (DIs) at PM 81.98 and 82.07. Construction work at PM 81.98 will likely require a temporary clear water diversion for a spring that flows through the culvert.

At location 2 (PM 82.50) Caltrans proposes to: remove slide material; regrade a cutoff ditch located above the slide; place rock slope protection (RSP) in the cutoff of the outfall; buttress the toe of the slide with RSP; and fill surface voids in RSP with soil.

At location 3 (PM 83.82) Caltrans proposed to: construct a soldier pile retaining wall; construct MBGR and cable railing along top of wall; replace the asphalt concrete (AC) dike at edge of pavement under MBGR; construct a 12 foot deep under drain; regrade the roadside drainage ditch; and replace 24-inch diameter cross culvert and DI.

Several measures will be taken to control sediment and erosion while working above Rattlesnake Creek. For all three locations Caltrans will implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) detailing the deployment of a selection of Best

Management Practices (BMPs). The contract will specify some line item BMPs to be included in the SWPPP. These are: temporary silt fence, temporary reinforced silt fence, temporary drainage inlet protection, temporary concrete washout, temporary clear water diversion system, and fiber rolls. Also, all disturbed soil areas will receive a compost blanket and hydroseeding. The project will be constructed in the dry season from May 15th, 2011 to October 14th, 2011 over an estimated 85 working days.

Caltrans has determined that impacts to waters of the U.S. and State would total 866 square feet (396 linear ft.) of temporary impacts. The nature and extent of impacts are relatively minor; therefore, compensatory mitigation is not required. Caltrans will utilize BMPs to provide erosion control and pollution prevention throughout the project area during construction. In addition, all graded areas within the project affected by the construction activities will be appropriately stabilized and BMPs will be implemented to ensure erosion is minimized and controlled.

Caltrans has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under their Nationwide Permits No. 14 (linear transportation projects) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans will also be applying for a California Department of Fish and Game 1602 Streambed Alteration. California Department of Transportation has determined that this project is Categorical Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (Class 2 Categorical Exemption). In addition, Regional Water Board staff also determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 2 Categorical Exemption) and anticipates filing a Notice of Exemption.

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 comments submitted in writing and 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 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.