

March 9, 2011

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

Siskiyou Co. DPW – Klamath River Road Bridge Replacement at Highway 96 and Ash  
Creek

WDID No. 1A11002WNSI

Siskiyou County

On January 4, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Siskiyou County Department of Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with removal and replacement of the Klamath River Road Bridge over the Klamath River at Highway 96 and Ash Creek. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Klamath River in the Beaver Creek Hydrologic Subarea No. 105.35.

The proposed project involves construction of a new bridge on a new alignment over the Klamath River approximately 60 feet downstream of the existing bridge. The existing bridge is a single lane steel truss bridge that was constructed in 1901. Maintenance reports indicate that the existing bridge is structurally deficient and does not have sufficient load carrying capacity for emergency vehicles.

The proposed new bridge will consist of a 2-lane, 170-foot long and 26-foot wide, single-span steel truss structure with a poured concrete deck. There will be no center pier in the river channel. The northern abutment will be installed adjacent to Highway 96 and will consist of a formed concrete abutment placed on native bedrock. The northern abutment will be located on the river bank above the ordinary high water elevation. A 35.5 foot-long reinforced concrete approach span will be installed between Highway 96 and the north abutment. The south abutment will include piles driven into native soil. Fill material will be used within the southern bridge approach area to conform to the appropriate grade.

The existing bridge will remain open to traffic until the new bridge is completed. The existing bridge, abutments, and approaches will be disassembled, demolished and removed once the new bridge is opened to traffic. The existing bridge does not have any mid span piers. Bridge removal activities will not result in any impacts to waters of the United States.

The pre-constructed steel trusses will be delivered to the project in approximately three sections. Truss sections will be connected onsite. A crane will be used to pick up two connected sections and place them across the river. A temporary falsework pier will be installed above the ordinary high water elevation on the south bank of the river to support one end of the two-section truss while the third section is connected. The temporary falsework pier will not require excavation or pile driving, and will only be in place until the third truss section is installed between the falsework pier and south abutment.

Rock riprap will be installed around the bridge abutments to prevent scour and erosion during high flows in the river. Rock riprap placed around the north abutment will extend

slightly below the ordinary high water elevation and will result in 17 linear feet and 100 square feet of permanent impact to waters of the United States. The bridge structure will not result in any permanent impacts to waters of the United States.

Riparian vegetation is sparse in the abutment areas. Approximately thirty small-diameter (1-inch or less) willows and one 6-inch diameter locust tree will be removed. The remainder of the project impacts will occur in areas of exposed bedrock, mine tailings, and uplands. Compensatory mitigation is required for proposed impacts to riparian vegetation. Removed riparian vegetation will be replaced onsite with native riparian species. Success criteria for replanted riparian vegetation will be the successful establishment of at least one planted tree for each tree removed after five years from the date of planting. To achieve this criteria the applicant plans to replace removed vegetation at a three-to-one ratio. Supplemental planting will be conducted as necessary to ensure that the mitigation success criterion is achieved.

Post-construction storm water treatment is required to mitigate for the direct discharge of storm water from the new bridge deck. The total area of impervious surface to be treated is 4,420 square feet. A vegetated buffer strip measuring 25-feet wide and 180-foot long (4,500 square feet) will be installed on the eastside of the south abutment. The buffer strip will be hydroseeded along with planting of 30 willow stakes and 25 ponderosa pine saplings.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project 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. On August 22, 2005, the Siskiyou County Department of Public Works approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2005072087) for the project in order to comply with CEQA. 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 Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.