

May 3, 2011

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

California Department of Transportation
Highway 254 – Myers Flat Wall Roadway Stabilization Project
WDID No. 1B11038WNHU

Humboldt County

On April 1, 2011 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the proposed Highway 254, Myers Flat Wall Roadway Stabilization Project (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with an ephemeral drainage within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit (HU), No.111.00 (Weott Sub-Area 111.31).

The proposed project is located in Humboldt County, on Highway 254 (HUM-254), south of the town of Miranda at post mile (PM) 5.9. The purpose of the proposed project is to restore the highway to its pre-damage condition under the Major Damage (Permanent Restoration) Program. The project includes improving drainage facilities, reconstructing 360 feet of roadway, and constructing a 226-foot long tieback wall on the west side of Highway 254. The project will also include the placement of metal beam guard railing and re-striping 520 feet of highway. Caltrans has determined that total project permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. and State will be approximately 12 feet² (4 linear feet). The temporary project impacts to waters of the U.S. and State will be approximately 112 feet² (40.3 linear feet). The total disturbed soil area (DSA) for this project is estimated at 0.28 acres. The DSA is based on the footprint of the areas needed to reconstruct the roadway and install the wall and drainage system including access and staging areas. Since the impacts associated with the project are minor, no compensatory mitigation is required for this project. However, as part of the proposed project Caltrans will revegetate the disturbed area with appropriate native vegetation. Caltrans' contractor will be required to prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that will include Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction and post construction phases of the project. Caltrans will utilize BMPs to provide erosion and sediment control and pollution prevention throughout the project area during construction. 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.

The project is tentatively scheduled for the period from March 1, 2011 to October 28, 2012; however, work within the drainages will only be conducted in the dry season (May 15th to October 15th). Caltrans has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under their Nationwide Permits No. 14 Non-Reporting

(linear transportation projects) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. In addition, Caltrans has applied for a 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. Caltrans has determined that this project is Categorical Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, class 1 categorical exemption). In addition, Regional Water Board staff also determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA 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.