

November 1, 2011

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

California Department of Transportation
Highway 1, Dunn Creek Bridge and Fish Passage Project
WDID No. 1B11176WNME

Mendocino County

On September 22, 2010, 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 1, Dunn Creek Bridge and Fish Passage Project (Project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with Dunn Creek, a tributary to Cottaneva Creek located within the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No.113.00 (Rockport Hydrologic Area No.113.10)

As part of the compensatory mitigation requirements from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for the Caltrans Highway 1 - Ten Mile River Bridge Project, Caltrans proposes to remove the existing culvert within Dunn Creek, which is a fish passage barrier, and construct a new bridge and in-stream weirs to accommodate upstream salmonid migration. Caltrans is proposing to remove the existing 9-foot diameter, 87-foot long culvert, construct a 134-foot long 3-span concrete slab bridge, and construct rock weirs to provide grade control to improve fish passage. Proposed actions also include the establishment of staging areas in upland areas, installation of temporary culverts to divert flow during construction, reconstructing embankments, restoration and enhancement of the stream channel, and other activities.

Caltrans has determined that the total project permanent impacts to streams identified as waters of the U.S. and State will be approximately 5,950 feet² (567 linear feet). The temporary project impacts to streams identified as waters of the U.S. and waters of the state will be approximately 0.17 acres (7,358 feet², 371 linear feet). Permanent impacts to riparian areas designated as waters of the state were determined to be 0.57 acres (24, 766 feet² linear feet, 405 linear feet). The project will result in 262 linear feet of stream channel restoration, reduce sedimentation and erosion, and extend available habitat to threatened and endangered salmonids.

The project is anticipated to take 215 days to construct; however, work within waters of the U.S. will only be conducted between June 15 and October 31. Caltrans' contractor will be required to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction and post-construction phases of the project to provide erosion and sediment control and pollution prevention throughout the project area. All graded areas within the project affected by the construction activities will be appropriately stabilized and BMPs will be implemented to ensure erosion and potential pollution 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. 27 (Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities) and No. 33 (Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering) 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. On April 4, 2011, Caltrans, acting as lead agency, certified an Initial Study with Negative Declaration for the proposed project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State Clearing House No. 2010032029). The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document including any proposed changes, and incorporates any avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures into the project as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

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.