

January 14, 2013

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

California Department of Transportation  
State Route 12 – Laguna de Santa Rosa Bridge Replacement Project  
WDID No. 1B12122WNSO

Sonoma County

On May 30, 2012, 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 State Route 12 – Laguna de Santa Rosa Project (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No.1114 (Laguna Hydrologic Sub-Area 114.21).

The proposed project is located at State Route 12 at post mile (PM) 9.6, in the City of Sebastopol, Sonoma County. The purpose of the project is to replace the existing, deteriorating two-lane bridge with a new two-lane bridge built to current design standards. The scope of work includes: demolishing the existing bridge; constructing a new 236-foot-long bridge using two bents, two abutments, and two retaining walls; utility relocation; and resurfacing and widening the bridge approaches.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed project would result in 0.04 acres (1,742 feet<sup>2</sup>) of permanent impacts to U.S. wetlands and 70 linear feet (0.01 acres, 436 feet<sup>2</sup>) of permanent impacts to Other Waters of the U.S. (Laguna de Santa Rosa).

Caltrans has determined that the proposed project would result in 0.26 acres (11,361 feet<sup>2</sup>) of temporary impacts to U.S. wetlands, 68 linear feet (0.45 acres, 25,069 feet<sup>2</sup>) of temporary impacts to Other Waters of the U.S. (Laguna de Santa Rosa), and 21 linear feet (0.004 acres, 160 feet<sup>2</sup>) of temporary impacts to Other Waters of the U.S. that are tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Mitigation for permanent and temporary impacts to U.S. wetlands and waters would include purchase of 0.5 acres of wetland mitigation bank credits and onsite restoration of temporarily impacted areas.

Caltrans has also determined that the proposed project would result in 0.57 acres (24,829 feet<sup>2</sup>, 317 linear feet) of permanent and 0.80 acres (34,848 feet<sup>2</sup>, 425 linear feet) of temporary impacts to riparian vegetation identified as waters of the State. Caltrans proposes to replace temporarily-impacted riparian vegetation after project completion and restore approximately 1,000 linear feet of riparian habitat adjacent to the north bank of Gravenstein Creek at a location approximately 0.7 miles from the project site. Gravenstein Creek is a tributary to Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Project implementation would result in approximately 0.55 acres of new and 0.26 acres of reworked impervious surface area (0.81 acre treatment obligation). Caltrans has proposed using a vegetated filter strip to treat 0.31 acres of impervious area. Because Caltrans was

unable to reduce the filter strip slope and thereby increase treatment performance, a fifty percent treatment credit will be given. Additionally, because Caltrans cannot provide treatment of impervious area for direct discharges to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Caltrans will off-set the overall treatment deficit of 1.31 acres by using treatment credits from the Caltrans funded Sonoma County Fairground low impact development (LID) retrofit project. Caltrans currently holds 2.23 acres of treatment credit from the LID retrofit Project and 0.92 acres of treatment credit would remain after applying the treatment credit for this project.

The proposed project would be divided into utility relocation and bridge replacement phases. The utility relocation phase would occur over a one year period (approximately July 2013 through October 2013) and the bridge replacement phase would occur over a two-year period (approximately June 2013 through December 2015). The project would result in approximately 3.2 acres of disturbed soil area. Caltrans will prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan detailing Best Management Practices to control pollution from the project area during construction. All disturbed areas within the project will be appropriately stabilized and/or replanted with appropriate native vegetation.

Caltrans has received authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Nos. 12 (*utility line activities*) and 14 (*linear transportation projects*) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans has also entered into a 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game. On May 10, 2010, Caltrans, acting as lead agency, certified a Negative Declaration for the proposed project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State Clearing House No. 2008012074). The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental documentation, including any proposed changes, and incorporates any avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures into the project as a condition of approval to avoid significant affects to the environment.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed is listed on the Clean Water Act section 303(d) list as impaired for sediment, temperature, nitrogen, phosphorus, indicator bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and mercury. In addition, activities that impact the riparian zone and reduce riparian vegetation are identified as sources contributing to increased stream temperatures. A focus on measures to reduce sediment discharges to surface waters from construction areas, and measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on riparian zones is essential for achieving TMDL, Basin Plan, and CEQA compliance.

To ensure compliance with Water Quality Objectives within the Basin Plan, adequate wetland and riparian protection and stringent requirements to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the sediment and temperature impacts associated with the proposed project will be incorporated as enforceable conditions in this Water Quality Certification. In addition, Caltrans will be required to conduct surface water monitoring, sampling, and to assess the adequacy of BMPs during construction as well as site specific mitigation measures proposed to minimize impacts to the environment, including sediment and temperature impacts.

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 Brendan Thompson at (510) 622-2506 or [Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Brendan.Thompson@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.

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