

September 30, 2014

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

California Department of Transportation
State Route 1 Jenner Soldier Pile Wall Project
WDID No. 1B14088WNSO, ECM PIN CW-807181

Sonoma County

On September 10, 2014, 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 (certification) for activities related to the proposed State Route 1 Jenner Soldier Pile Wall Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause permanent impacts to a jurisdictional wetland within the Guerneville Hydrologic Sub-Area (Basin Plan Hydrologic Planning Area 114.11).

The proposed Project would occur on State Route 1 at post-mile 19.6, approximately 1.5 miles south of the town of Jenner, in Sonoma County. The purpose of the Project is to stabilize the failing southbound roadway embankment and eliminate a pavement ice hazard. The Project involves addition of new slope fill, construction of a 110-foot soldier pile wall using treated timber lagging, and installation of a subsurface drainage system to prevent saturated soil conditions adjacent the roadway. Additionally, damaged asphalt concrete pavement would be replaced and the southbound lane and shoulder would be widened.

The Project is expected to be completed within approximately 60 days between May 15 and October 15, 2015 or 2016.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed Project would result in approximately 0.023 acres of permanent impacts to jurisdictional roadside wetlands as a result of installing a subsurface drainage system and permanently depriving them of their water supply. There would be no temporary impacts to jurisdictional wetlands or waters. Caltrans is proposing to mitigate for permanent impacts off-site and out-of-kind by purchasing 0.1 acres of riparian credits at the East Austin Creek Conservation Bank.

Caltrans would utilize appropriate erosion control, sediment control, and site management Best Management Practices to control pollutants during construction.

Caltrans has applied for coverage under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 14, *Linear Transportation Projects*, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, section 404. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a Biological Opinion for the Project, dated April 9, 2014.

The North Coast Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, (section 15301, *Existing Facilities*), and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

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 (707) 576-2699 or 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 Caltrans's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's Project file includes the application for certification and additional details of the proposed Project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any 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.