

October 30, 2015

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

**California Department of Transportation  
State Route 1 Estero Americano Bridge Replacement Project  
38.3133, -122.8974<sup>1</sup>  
WDID No. 1B15135WNSO, ECM PIN CW-818531  
Caltrans EA No. 04-209500, EFIS No. 04-1200-0116**

**Marin and Sonoma Counties**

On October 1, 2015, 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, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed State Route 1 Estero Americano Bridge Replacement Project (Project).

**Project Description**

The purpose of the Project is to maintain the integrity of the roadway and provide flooding relief by replacing the existing Estero Americano Bridge over Americano Creek on State Route 1 (SR 1) in Marin and Sonoma Counties. The existing Estero Americano Bridge was constructed in 1925, is structurally deficient, and subject to periodic flooding. The Project limits extend between Marin SR 1 post-miles (PM) 50.1 and 50.5, and Sonoma PM 0.0 and 0.1.

The scope of the proposed work involves:

- Replace the existing 146 foot long bridge in-kind with a 266 foot long cast-in-place slab bridge. The new bridge profile would be six feet higher at its highest point over Americano Creek. The new bridge would also be constructed slightly to the east of its current alignment;
- Widening and realignment of the existing roadway. The existing roadway consists of ten-foot to eleven-foot lanes with zero-foot to one-foot shoulders; the new roadway would have twelve-foot lanes with six-foot shoulders through the Project limits;
- Construction of retaining walls. Four retaining walls would be constructed, extending along the roadway from each bridge quadrant. Retaining walls would be between 100 feet and 575 feet long;
- Construction of a temporary creek diversion during construction;

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<sup>1</sup> WGS84 datum

- Removal of vegetation through the Project area, beginning the season prior to construction; and
- Construction of temporary construction access roads up to 15-feet-wide along the east and west sides of SR 1. During the second construction season, the temporary construction access roads would only be constructed on the west sides of SR 1.

### **Impacts**

Project implementation would result in approximately 0.262 acres of permanent impacts to jurisdictional roadside wetlands due to placement of fill material for the new retaining walls and roadway embankment. Project implementation would result in approximately 0.144 acres of temporary impacts to jurisdictional wetlands as a result of construction access and staging. Project implementation would result in approximately 75 linear feet (0.29 acres) of temporary impact to Americano Creek as a result of water diversion for construction access. Project implementation would also result in approximately 1.14 acres of permanent impacts to riparian vegetation due to construction access and bridge and embankment construction.

### **Proposed Mitigation**

Caltrans is proposing to restore approximately 1.6 acres of wetlands habitat and 3.3 acres of riparian trees, both on and off the Project site. 1.1 acres of riparian trees would be planted within the Project limits, and 0.65 acres of seasonal wetlands would also be created within the Project limits. 2.2 acres of riparian establishment planting would occur off-site at a location yet to be determined. 0.95 acres of seasonal wetlands would be created off-site at a location yet to be determined.

### **Post-Construction Storm Water Treatment**

Project implementation would result in approximately 0.35 acres of new and 1 acre of reworked impervious area. To control roadway pollutants, post-construction, Caltrans would install one biofiltration swale to treat no less than 1.35 acres of impervious surface runoff.

### **Construction Timing**

The Project is expected to require 2 years of construction. The Project is proposed to begin in April of 2016, and be completed in April of 2018.

### **Disturbed Ground Area**

Project implementation would result in greater than one acre of disturbed soil area. Caltrans shall apply for coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ) and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan detailing best management practices (BMPs) to control pollution from the Project area during construction. All temporarily disturbed areas within the Project area shall be appropriately stabilized and/or replanted with appropriate native vegetation.

### **Other Agency Permits**

Caltrans has applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for either a Nationwide or individual Clean Water Act section 404 permit. Caltrans has applied for a Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Caltrans received a Biological Opinion from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) dated December 1, 2014, that discusses the Project effects on Contra Costa goldfields, California red-legged frog, Myrtle's silverspot butterfly, tidewater goby, and California freshwater shrimp. The USFWS found that there is no designated critical habitat for listed species within the Project area. Caltrans has also applied to the California Coastal Commission for a Coastal Development Permit.

### **CEQA Compliance**

On December 15, 2014, Caltrans signed a Notice of Determination approving a Negative Declaration for the Project (State Clearinghouse No. 20114102047) in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

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 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 notice 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](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 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.