

May 27, 2016

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

**Hauser Bridge Road Bridge Replacement Project
WDID No. 1B15160WNSO**

Sonoma County

On December 14, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Sonoma County Transportation & Public Works (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Hauser Bridge Road Bridge Replacement Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with the South Fork of the Gualala River, an unnamed ephemeral tributary, and riparian area, within the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No. 113.85. The Project is located where Hauser Bridge Road crosses the South Fork of the Gualala River, Sonoma County, at latitude 38.603309°N, and longitude 123.286977°W. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State include approximately 240 linear feet of river and adjacent creek bed and bank and 0.03 acres of riparian vegetation clearing. Permanent impacts include clearing approximately 0.03 acres of riparian along approximately 40 linear feet river bank for the new approaches and abutments.

The primary purpose of the Project is to replace the Hauser Bridge Road Bridge adjacent to (northwest of) the existing structure. The existing three-span, 121 foot long by 12 foot wide, single lane, army deck truss main span bridge, constructed in 1947 has recently been determined to be structurally deficient.

The proposed Project would include installation of a new bridge which would span 165 feet and be 29 feet wide. Temporary access roads and structures will be placed along 160 linear feet of the river bank and bed in order to gain access, install abutments, and implement the project, then removed and restored to pre-Project condition. The new bridge will be located parallel to, and northwest of, the existing bridge and once the new bridge is completed the existing bridge will be removed by crane and approximately 40 linear feet of the channel banks where existing approaches and abutments will be restored. Along an adjacent ephemeral tributary, a 90-foot long existing undersized culvert will be replaced when approach lanes are constructed.

The proposed Project includes a plan to revegetate disturbed areas and restore the existing roadway approach and banks, including planting approximately 0.13 acres within the riparian area, restoring approximately 40 linear feet of river bank and revegetating 0.27 acres of adjacent uplands with appropriate native plant species. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Project is planned to begin in the fall of 2016 through fall of 2017 with construction work planned to last approximately 168 days.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

On August 11, 2015, Sonoma County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has produced an Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2015052058), pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed Project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

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 comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during 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, please contact staff member Gil Falcone Gil.Falcone@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten Stephen.Bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.