

July 21, 2009

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

Pullman Ditch Improvement Project

San Mateo County

On March 5, 2009, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Department) requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities associated with reconstruction of a drainage outlet system and stabilization of the bed and banks of Pullman Ditch, located at post-mile 30.8, State Route One, latitude 37.489444, longitude 122.450833, San Mateo County. The proposed project will cause permanent impacts to approximately 102 linear feet (0.03 acres) of waters of the State associated with Pullman Ditch in the Half Moon Bay Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 202.22, within the San Mateo Coastal Hydrologic Area.

The proposed project will stabilize a portion of the channel and northern bank of Pullman Ditch. Additionally, the Department will replace the drainage connection between the State Route 1 (SR 1) cross culverts and Pullman Ditch.

Pullman Ditch begins immediately west of SR 1. Currently, the alignment of Pullman Ditch is offset from the SR 1 cross-culvert that conveys flows from the eastern side of SR 1. Because of this offset, a drop inlet, 900 millimeter concrete culvert, and flared end section drainage system currently discharge flows perpendicularly from the SR 1 cross-culverts outlet to Pullman ditch. As a result of the perpendicular discharge, the bank of Pullman Ditch opposite the drainage outlet has been severely eroded. The Department's proposal to repair this drainage system has been encouraged by the adjacent property owner who is losing land as a result of the erosion.

The Department proposes to replace the existing 900 mm culvert and flared end section with a 900 mm plastic pipe that will discharge to a new drain inlet. The new drain inlet will discharge directly into the active channel of Pullman Ditch.

The Department proposes to excavate and rebuild approximately 72 linear feet of the right ditch bank. The bank will be fortified with horizontal layers of plastic grids (i.e., geogrid) and backfilled and compacted with soil and concrete. Rock slope protection will be keyed into the toe of the slope in approximately 13-foot segments at the up and downstream segments of the Project reach.

Additionally, the Department will construct a grade control "vortex" ¼-ton rock weir at the downstream segment of the Project limits. The weir elevation of this

check dam will match the flowline out of the drainage inlet upstream. The purpose of the vortex weir is to reduce the potential scour along the side banks of the channel by directing the flow to the center and control the grade at the end of the repair section.

Compensatory mitigation consists of re-vegetating all disturbed areas with native plant and shrub species. Because the Department will be ameliorating conditions causing excessive erosion, additional mitigation is not required.

The Department has applied for authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform the project under a Nationwide Permit No. 13 (bank stabilization) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Department has determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (Class 1 Categorical Exemption). To avoid potential impacts to special-status species, the proposed project activity will only be performed between July 1st and October 15th.

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 BThompson@waterboards.ca.gov on or before Monday, August 10, 2009.