



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Beverly Wasson, Chairperson



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

January 24, 2006

Ms. Gail Popham
CDOT - Eureka
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Popham:

Subject: Issuance of Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification) for the Highway 162 Underdrain Project

File: CDOT – Hwy 162, Underdrain Project, PM 20.65-21.67
WDID No. 1B05130WNME

This Order by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board), is being issued pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341), in response to your request, on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (applicant), for Water Quality Certification to install underdrains and associated outlets at four locations along Highway 162 between Post Mile 20.65 and 21.67 in Mendocino County. On September 26, 2005, the Regional Water Board received your application and a \$500.00 processing fee. On December 8, 2005, we deemed the application complete and on December 12, 2005, we posted information describing the project on the Regional Water Board's website for a 21-day public review and comment period. We did not receive any comments on this project.

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to alleviate chronic roadway slumping problems caused by excessive subsurface water in the roadway prism. The roadway prism becomes saturated during the rainy season and the subsequent soil movement compromises the integrity of the roadway. The project involves placement of underdrains to intercept subsurface water and direct the intercepted water into the inlets of existing culverts. The underdrains will be constructed in 11-15 foot deep trenches along the cut slope side of the roadway, using perforated pipe and permeable backfill material. Approximately 3,140 cubic yards of material excavated from the underdrain trenches will be removed offsite for disposal at an approved location.

The underdrains will outlet on the banks of existing culverted drainage channels. Where the new underdrains connect to the existing drainage channels, there is likely to be some disturbance below the ordinary high water mark. Approximately 0.001-acre of

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seasonal drainage channel will be permanently impacted by placing additional rock where the new underdrains will daylight and connect to existing drainages. Approximately 0.001-acre of seasonal drainage channel will be temporarily impacted for construction access.

- Receiving Waters: Unnamed seasonal drainages tributary to the Middle Fork Eel River in the Eden Valley Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.71.
- Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: 0.001 acre of seasonal drainage channel
Area Permanently Impacted: 0.001 acre of seasonal drainage channel
- Federal Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 18
- Compensatory Mitigation: None
- Noncompensatory Mitigation: Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and for heavy equipment use near stream channels. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required for this project.
- CEQA Compliance: The California Department of Transportation, as the lead agency for CEQA, determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class1, Section 15301).
- Standard Conditions: Pursuant to Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3860 (23 CCR 3860), the following three standard conditions shall apply to this project:
- 1) This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section 13330 of the California Water Code and 23 CCR 3867.
 - 2) This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

- 3) The validity of any nondenial certification action (actions 1 and 2) shall be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required under 23 CCR 3833, unless otherwise stated in writing by the certifying agency.

Additional Conditions:

Pursuant to 23 CCR 3859(a), the applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

- 1) The applicant shall notify the Regional Water Board in writing at least five working days (working days are Monday – Friday) prior to the commencement of the project, with details regarding the schedule of operations, to allow staff the opportunity to be present onsite and to answer any public inquiries that may arise regarding the project.
- 2) All conditions listed in this Water Quality Certification must be included in the Plans and Specifications prepared by the applicant for the Contractor. All conditions shall be implemented according to the submitted application and this Water Quality Certification.
- 3) A copy of this permit must be provided to the contractor and all subcontractors conducting the work, and a copy must be in their possession at the work site. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the contractor and all subcontractors are provided a copy of this permit.
- 4) Adequate Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place prior to, during, and after construction in order to ensure that no silt or sediment enters surface waters.
- 5) If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface waters occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the project shall cease immediately and Regional Water Board staff shall be notified promptly.
- 6) All construction activities shall be done when the affected drainage channels are dry.
- 7) No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete washings, oil or petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature, other than that authorized by this permit, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the State.

- 8) When operations are completed, any excess material or debris shall be removed from the work area and disposed of properly. No rubbish shall be deposited within 150 feet of the high water mark of any stream.
- 9) The total area of all permanent and temporary impacts to waters of the United States shall not exceed 0.002 acre.
- 10) If construction dewatering is found to be necessary, the applicant will use a method of water disposal other than disposal to surface waters (such as land disposal) or the applicant shall apply for coverage under the General Construction Dewatering Permit and receive notification of coverage to discharge to surface waters.
- 11) Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, operation, storage and staging of vehicles and equipment shall be outside of waters of the United States and shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the United States. At no time shall the applicant use any vehicle or equipment, which leaks any substance that may impact water quality.
- 12) Project activities shall comply with provisions in the North Coast Region Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan).
- 13) The project site may be visited and assessed by Regional Water Board staff to document compliance with this certification.
- 14) All activities, Best Management Practices, and associated mitigation will be conducted as described in this Permit and the application submitted by the applicant for this project.
- 15) This Order is not transferable. In the event of any change in control of ownership of land presently owned or controlled by the applicant, the applicant shall notify the successor-in-interest of the existence of this Order by letter and shall forward a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board at the above address.

To discharge dredged or fill material under this Order, the successor-in-interest must send to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer a written request for transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, address, and telephone number of the person(s) responsible for contact

with the Regional Water Board. The request must also describe any changes to the Project proposed by the successor-in-interest or confirm that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the Project as described in this Order.

Water Quality Certification: I hereby issue an order [23 CCR Subsection 3831(e)] certifying that any authorized discharge from the Highway 162 Underdrain Project, (Facility No. 1B05130WNME) will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 ("Effluent Limitations"), 302 ("Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations"), 303 ("Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans"), 306 ("National Standards of Performance"), and 307 ("Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards") of the Clean Water Act [33 USC Subsection 1341 (a)(1)], and with other applicable requirements of State law. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003 - 0017 - DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification.

Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicant's project description, and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Regional Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

Expiration: The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on January 24, 2011. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this certification are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

Please notify Dean Prat of our staff at (707) 576-2801 prior to construction (pursuant to Additional Condition No. 1 above) so that we can answer any public inquiries about the work.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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Enclosure:

State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017 - DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification"

cc: Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions, 333 Market Street,
San Francisco, CA 94599
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, P.O. Box 4863, Eureka, CA 95502