



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
John W. Corbett, Chairman**



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast)  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403  
Phone: (877) 721-9203 (toll free) • Office: (707) 576-2220 • FAX: (707) 523-0135

**Arnold  
Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

**September 5, 2007**

In the Matter of

**Water Quality Certification**

for the

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY DPW - STEELHEAD ROAD P.M. 0.20 EMBANKMENT  
REPAIR  
WDID NO. 1B07055WNHU**

APPLICANT: Humboldt County Department of Public Works  
RECEIVING WATER: Unnamed Tributary to Eel River  
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Spy Rock Hydrologic Subarea 111.42  
COUNTY: Humboldt  
FILE NAME: Humboldt Co. DPW – Steelhead Road P.M. 0.20  
Embankment Repair

BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On May 4, 2007, the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (Applicant) filed an application for water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) for activities related to a storm damage project that involves repairing a failed embankment on Steelhead Road at Post Mile 0.20 near Alderpoint. The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858 on August 9, 2007, and posted information describing the project on the Regional Water Board's website. We did not receive any public comments on this project.
2. Steelhead Road is a rural gravel road that runs along an unnamed stream that flows directly into the Eel River. Severe storm events in December 2005 and January 2006 caused a small section of the road shoulder and embankment to fail and slide into the stream channel. The embankment failure area is approximately 20 feet wide measured parallel to the road, 20 feet high measured from the edge of the roadway to the toe of the embankment failure, and 5 feet thick.
3. The project involves excavation of a 20-foot long toe trench near the base of the embankment failure followed by placement of approximately 74 cubic yards of 1-ton

**California Environmental Protection Agency**

Recycled Paper

to 2-ton rock slope protection (RSP) in the toe trench and up the embankment to the road shoulder. Equipment used for placing the RSP will be operated from the road surface.

4. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the project. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and turbidity control and for the operation of heavy equipment near a waterway. The project is scheduled for the summer 2007 when the stream is dry or the flows are very low. Construction activities are expected to take one day to complete.
5. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement for the project.
6. The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 3, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404.
7. The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, section 15301 – existing facilities, pursuant to CEQA..

Receiving Water: Unnamed Tributary to Eel River in the Spy Rock Hydrologic Subarea 111.42

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: None  
Area Permanently Impacted: 60 square feet of streambank (0.001 acre)

Total Linear Impacts: Length Temporarily Impacted: None  
Length Permanently Impacted: 20 linear feet of streambank

Dredge Volume: None

Latitude/Longitude: 40.17354 N/123.61307 W

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Steelhead Road P.M. 0.20 Embankment Repair Project (WDID No. 1B07055WNHU), as described in the application, will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of state law, provided that the Applicant complies with the following terms and conditions:

1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 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 title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3855, subdivision (b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

3. This certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 2200, and owed by the Applicant.
4. The Regional Water Board shall be notified prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities, with details regarding the construction schedule, in order to allow staff to be present onsite during construction, and to answer any public inquiries that may arise regarding the project.
5. A copy of this Order and the application submitted by the Applicant for this certification shall be provided to all contractors and subcontractors conducting the work, and shall be in their possession at the work site.
6. All project work shall be conducted as described in this Order and in the application submitted by the Applicant. It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that their contractor(s) are knowledgeable of the authorized project activities, BMPs, avoidance measures and mitigation measures contained in the application submitted by the Applicant. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the project, it will be considered a violation of this Order, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement actions.
7. BMPs for erosion, sediment and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place at commencement of, during and after any ground clearing activities or any other project activities that could result in erosion or sediment discharges to surface water.
8. 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 Order, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the State. When operations are completed, any excess material or debris shall be removed from the work area. No rubbish shall be deposited within 150 feet of the high water mark of any stream.
9. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, rivers or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented. The Regional Water Board shall be notified promptly and in no case more than 24 hours after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
10. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the project.

11. Prior to implementing any change to the project that may have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Order, the Applicant shall obtain the written approval of the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.
12. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order, as appropriate, to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted and approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
13. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the project site to document compliance with this certification.
14. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under applicable State or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any State law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this certification. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the Regional Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Regional Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In response to any violation of the conditions of this certification, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
15. 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, and the 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.

16. Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited to and all proposed mitigation being

completed in strict compliance with the Applicant's project description, and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

17. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on September 5, 2012. 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.

If you have any questions or comments please call Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801.

---

Robert R. Klamt  
Interim Executive Officer

090507\_DLP\_humco\_steelhead\_401cert.doc

Original to: Mr. Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Department of Public Works  
1106 Second Street, Eureka, CA 95501-0579

Copies to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, P.O. Box 4863, Eureka,  
CA 95502  
Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions,  
1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1398