

August 7, 2012

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

Siskiyou Co. DPW – Scott River Road at McCarthy Creek, Culvert Replacement
WDID No. 1A12121WNSI

Siskiyou County

On July 5, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Siskiyou County Department of Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, water quality certification for proposed activities associated with removal and replacement of a culvert located on Scott River Road (Post Mile 21.65) at McCarthy Creek. The purpose of the project is to replace the existing arch culvert that has rotated and cracked footings and is failing quickly due to age. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with McCarthy Creek in the Scott Bar Hydrologic Subarea No. 105.41.

The proposed project involves excavation of the roadway to allow for removal of the existing 32-foot long steel arch culvert and its deteriorated footings. A new 117-inch wide, 79-inch high, and 54-foot long corrugated metal arch pipe will be installed in the same alignment as the existing culvert. Excavation of the streambed and streambanks will be required in order to align the slightly longer culvert with the stream channel and achieve the appropriate slope. Headwalls consisting of rock-filled gabion baskets will be installed at the inlet and outlet ends of the culvert to retain roadway fill material. The proposed culvert is sized to pass the 100-year storm event.

Any water flowing in McCarthy Creek will be temporarily diverted through the project area during construction. A sandbag coffer dam will be installed immediately upstream of the inlet to the new culvert to block the flow and the water will be piped through the disturbed construction area. The water will be returned to the stream channel immediately downstream of the outlet of the new culvert.

Scott River Road will be closed at the project site during construction. The project does not include installation of a temporary stream crossing and the applicant will not be providing a detour route around the project. Proposed activities are scheduled to begin on September 15, 2012 and the project is expected to be completed in approximately 20 working days.

The proposed new culvert and headwalls will result in additional permanent impacts to 22 linear feet and 220 square feet of the stream channel at the existing road crossing. The proposed coffer dam will result in temporary impacts to 5 linear feet and 50 square feet of stream channel. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include replacement of any mature woody riparian trees (diameter of 6-inch or greater at breast height) removed during construction. At least one large diameter oak tree located at the downstream end of the existing culvert will have to be removed. Three replacement trees will be planted onsite for each mature tree removed. Replacement trees will consist of riparian species found

along McCarthy Creek. Non-compensatory mitigation measures also include use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion control and for use of heavy equipment in a stream.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit No. 14 pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The applicant has also applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. Trinity County determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Section 15301 – Existing Facilities). Regional Water Board staff have also determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Section 15301 – Existing Facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for the proposed project.

The Scott River watershed has been listed as impaired for sediment (1992) and temperature (1998) in accordance with section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, because the State of California determined that the water quality standards for the Scott River are exceeded due to excessive sediment and temperature. The *Action Plan for the Scott River Sediment and Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads* includes sediment and temperature total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and describes the implementation actions necessary to achieve the TMDLs and attain water quality standards in the Scott River watershed within 40 years of United States Environmental Protection Agency approval (Sept. 8, 2006) of the Scott River TMDL Action Plan. Roads and bank erosion are identified as sources contributing to the sediment impairment. In addition, activities that impact the riparian zone and reduce riparian vegetation are identified as sources contributing to increased stream temperatures. The primary adverse impacts associated with excessive temperature and sediment in the Scott River watershed pertain to cold freshwater habitat, primarily anadromous salmonid habitat. Activities authorized by this certification require implementation of BMPs and impact avoidance measures as described above. Accordingly, the proposed project is consistent with, and implements portions of the Scott River TMDL.

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 activities including maps and detailed design drawings. 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 letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.