
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 28, 2012

In the Matter of
Water Quality Certification
for

**Trinity County DOT – Summit Creek Road Culvert Installation
WDID No. 1A12116WNTR**

APPLICANT: Trinity County Department of Transportation
RECEIVING WATER: Summit Creek
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: South Fork Trinity River Hydrologic Area No. 106.20
COUNTY: Trinity
FILE NAME: Trinity Co. DOT – Summit Creek Road Culvert Installation

BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On June 21, 2012, the Trinity County Department of Transportation (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 associated with installation of a culvert at an existing wet ford (stream crossing) where Summit Creek Road crosses Summit Creek. The project is located near Post Mile 4.0. The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858 on August 2, 2012, and posted information describing the project on the Regional Water Board's website. We did not receive any public comments on this project.
2. Summit Creek Road will be closed through the project area during construction. The project will not include a temporary stream crossing and no detour route will be provided around the project area. Summit Creek Road makes a loop with two connections to Highway 3 that will provide alternate routes to all residences.

3. The primary purpose of the project is to eliminate the existing wet ford crossing so vehicles will no longer be driving directly through the stream. The project will separate the stream channel from the unpaved road surface, improve the surface of the existing roadway at the crossing, and reduce future road maintenance. The culvert is designed to improve water quality and aquatic habitat by reducing sedimentation and potential pollution associated with vehicles driving directly through the stream.
4. The project involves installation of a 70-foot long and 10-foot diameter corrugated metal culvert to replace the existing wet ford crossing. The project will require excavation of the streambed and streambanks to align the culvert with the stream channel and to achieve the appropriate grades. The culvert is sized to pass the 100-year storm event and it will be embedded approximately four feet into the streambed. Material excavated from the stream channel and/or additional material engineered to simulate the natural streambed material will be imported from a commercial source and placed inside the embedded culvert to simulate a natural streambed. Excess excavated material not suitable for use as streambed material will be used as backfill over the culvert or removed from the project site. Road sub-base and base materials from commercial sources will be placed on top of the backfill to restore the existing 16-foot wide unpaved roadway over the new culvert.
5. In order to simulate natural streambed porosity, the materials placed within the culvert will undergo a compaction and water jetting process that partially seals the streambed to assure that surface waters do not permeate the streambed and flow subsurface. Water used in the jetting process will be trucked to the site from a local water district source and a sump will be excavated at the outlet end of the culvert to collect the water used in the jetting process. Pumps will be placed in the sump to recycle the water for jetting and to pump any excess water to vegetated areas away from the stream. After the jetting process is complete the sump area will be filled with streambed mix and compacted to restore the streambed.
6. Rock slope protection (RSP) consisting of 1/4-ton rock will be placed around the inlet and outlet of the new culvert. RSP areas will extend approximately 3 feet beyond the ends of the culvert on each streambank in a 6-foot high by 3-foot wide wedge. The RSP will be embedded into the fill embankments and streambanks such that the outer edges of the rocks will be flush with the banks in order to maintain hydraulic capacity of the channel through the new crossing structure.
7. The new culvert and RSP will result in permanent impacts to 82 linear feet and 736 square feet of stream channel. Activities associated with jetting and installation of the temporary sump at the outlet will result in temporary impacts to 10 linear feet and 30 square feet of streambed. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include revegetation of any disturbed areas that are suitable for supporting riparian vegetation using locally derived alder or willow cuttings. 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. Construction activities are scheduled to begin on September 15, 2012 when the stream channel is expected to be dry. The project is expected to be completed in approximately 20 working days.

8. 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 (CDFG).
9. Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Section 15301 – existing facilities).
10. The South Fork Trinity River Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for temperature and sediment was established in 1998 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, because the State of California determined that the water quality standards for the South Fork Trinity River are exceeded due to excessive temperature and sediment. 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 South Fork Trinity River pertain to cold freshwater habitat, primarily anadromous salmonid habitat. The project is designed to improve water quality and aquatic habitat by reducing sedimentation and other potential pollution associated with vehicles driving directly through the wet stream channel. In addition, authorized activities require implementation of BMPs for sediment and erosion control. Accordingly, this project is consistent with, and implements portions of the South Fork Trinity River TMDL.
11. The federal antidegradation policy requires that state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Resolution No. 68-16 incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Regional Water Board's Basin Plan implements, and incorporates by reference, both the State and federal antidegradation policies. This Order is consistent with applicable federal and State antidegradation policies, as it does not authorize the discharge of increased concentrations of pollutants or increased volumes of treated wastewater, and does not otherwise authorize degradation of the waters affected by this project.

12. 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.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Receiving Water: Summit Creek in the South Fork Trinity River Hydrologic Area No. 106.20

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: 30 square feet of stream channel
Area Permanently Impacted: 736 square feet of stream channel

Total Linear Impacts: Length Temporarily Impacted: 10 linear feet of streambed
Length Permanently Impacted: 82 linear feet of streambed

Dredge Volume: None

Latitude/Longitude: 40.58489 N/123.02741 W

Expiration: August 28, 2017

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Trinity County DOT – Summit Creek Road Culvert Installation (WDID No. 1A12116WNTR), 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:

All conditions of this order apply to the Applicant (and all their employees) and all contractors (and their employees), sub-contractors (and their employees), and any other entity or agency that performs activities or work on the project as related to this Water Quality Certification.

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. The validity this certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3833, and owed by the Applicant.
4. Regional Water Board staff shall be notified in writing at least five working days (working days are Monday – Friday) 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. All project work shall be conducted as described in this Order and 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.
6. All activities and BMPs shall be implemented according to the submitted application and the conditions in this certification. 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.
7. The Applicant shall prioritize the use of wildlife-friendly biodegradable (not photo-degradable) erosion control products wherever feasible. The Applicant shall not use or allow the use of erosion control products that contain synthetic materials within waters of the United States or waters of the State at any time. The Applicant shall not use or allow the use of erosion control products that contain synthetic netting for permanent erosion control (i.e. erosion control materials to be left in place for two years or after the completion date of the project). If the Applicant finds that erosion control netting or products have entrapped or harmed wildlife, personnel shall remove the netting or product and replace it with wildlife-friendly biodegradable products. The Applicant shall request approval from the Regional Water Board if an exception from this requirement is needed for a specific location.
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.

9. Disturbance or removal of existing vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the project.
10. This Water Quality Certification does not authorize the Applicant to draft surface waters.
11. If construction dewatering of groundwater is found to be necessary, the Applicant shall use a method of water disposal other than disposal to surface waters (such as land disposal) or the Applicant shall apply for coverage under Order No. R1-2009-0045, Waste Discharge Requirements for Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters in the North Coast Region or individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and shall receive notification of coverage to discharge to surface waters prior to initiating any groundwater dewatering discharge to surface waters.
12. The Applicant and their contractor(s) are not authorized to discharge wastewater (e.g., water that has contacted uncured concrete, cement, asphalt, curing compounds, etc.) to surface waters, ground waters, or land. Wastewater may only be disposed of to a sanitary waste water collection system/facility (with authorization from the facility's owner or operator) or a properly-licensed disposal or reuse facility. If the Applicant or their contractor(s) propose an alternate disposal method, the Applicant or their contractor(s) shall apply for a permit from the Regional Water Board. Any plans to reuse or recycle wastewater require prior written approval from Regional Water Board staff.
13. A copy of this Order and the application documents 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.
14. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the project site to document compliance with this certification.
15. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, lakes, rivers or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented including stopping work. 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.
16. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or threatened discharge to any waters of the State including dry portions of the shoreline. At no time shall the Applicant or its contractors allow use of any vehicle or equipment, which leaks any substance that may impact water quality.

17. Spill kits are required at each fueling location and at each location where power equipment will be working within waters of the State. In the event of an unauthorized release of fuel (spill or leak) to waters of the State, the Applicant shall immediately stop work and conduct the following measures:
 - a) notify the appropriate agencies including the Regional Water Board, CDFG, and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) at 1(800) 852-7550;
 - b) utilize the appropriate spill kits for containment and clean up of the release;
 - c) collect samples within the immediate area of release, 50 feet downstream, and downstream to the full extent of the release if the release reaches surface waters; and,
 - d) analyze required surface water samples for all appropriate constituents including but not limited to total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPH-D), total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPH-G), and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes (BTEX).
18. Any potentially hazardous waste(s) (solids, liquids, or slurries) derived or encountered during this project shall undergo the appropriate characterization to demonstrate compliance with all applicable waste disposal laws and regulations.
19. All project work shall be conducted as described in this Order and in the application submitted by the Applicant. 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. 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 action(s).
20. The Applicant shall provide a copy of State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ to any contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility company(ies) conducting work on the project, and shall require that copies remain in their possession at the work site. The Applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all work conducted by its contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility companies is performed in accordance with the information provided by the Applicant to the Regional Water Board.
21. The Applicant shall comply with all applicable water quality standards as detailed in the Basin Plan.
22. 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.

23. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, 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 Order. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the State Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this Order to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the State 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 Order, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order as appropriate to ensure compliance.
24. 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.

25. 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).
26. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on August 28, 2017. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this Order 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.

Original Signed By

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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Weblink: 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 can be found at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Original to: Mr. Mark Lancaster, 5 Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, P.O.
Box 2571, Weaverville, CA 96093

cc: Richard Tippet, Trinity County DOT, P.O. Box 2490, Weaverville, CA
96093

Electronic
Copy to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, 601 Startare Drive,
Box 14, Eureka, CA 95501
Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions,
1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1398