
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 24, 2016

In the Matter of

Water Quality Certification

for

**Mendocino County DOT Forsythe Creek Bridge No. 10C-0077 Reeves Canyon Road
Replacement Project
WDID No. 1B15112WNME**

APPLICANT: Mendocino County Department of Transportation, Howard Dashiell

RECEIVING WATER: Forsythe Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.33

COUNTY: Mendocino

FILE: Mendocino County DOT Forsythe Creek Bridge No. 10C-0077
Reeves Canyon Road Replacement Project, ECM PIN CW-817592

FINDINGS BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On August 21, 2015, the Mendocino County Department of Transportation, Howard Dashiell (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 the Mendocino County DOT Forsythe Creek Bridge No. 10C-0077 Reeves Canyon Road Replacement Project (Project). Information describing the Project was noticed for public comment on the Regional Water Board's website on February 25, 2016. We received no comments. The Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and state associated with Forsythe Creek of the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.33. The Project is located where Reeves Canyon Road crosses Forsythe Creek approximately 0.5 miles northwest from its beginning at US

Highway 101, Redwood Valley, Mendocino County, at latitude 39.2786°N, and longitude 123.2605°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 22 linear feet of creek bank and 0.008 acres of riparian wetland. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 85 linear feet of stream channel and 0.025 acres of riparian wetland.

2. The primary purpose of the Project is to replace the Forsythe Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0077) on Reeves Canyon Road with a longer structure just upstream of the existing structure. In 2010 the Applicant identified the bridge as structurally deficient due to substandard load carrying capacity. The existing bridge is a 120-foot long by 12-foot wide railroad flatcar bridge with concrete abutments and timber pile wingwalls and decking. The bridge would be replaced with a three-span 154-foot long by 22 foot wide, cast-in-place, post-tensioned concrete slab bridge that meets current safety and capacity standards. The new bridge will be designed to convey the base 100-year flood.

The proposed Project would include installation of an 85-foot temporary creek diversion that meets National Marine Fisheries *Guidelines for Fish Salmonid Passage at Stream Crossings* and temporary work pads to support false work. After completion of construction of the new bridge, false work would be removed. Demolition of the old bridge will take place once the new bridge is complete and will include the removal of the flatcars, support timbers, and existing abutments per Caltrans standard specifications. After demolition is complete the work pad, culverts and any fill gravel placed temporarily will be removed with an allowance for an incidental amount of clean spawning gravel "fish rock" to remain distributed within the stream channel. During construction of new bridge abutments #1 and #4, rock slope protection (RSP) will be interplanted with appropriate riparian plantings using bioengineered designs. Riparian planting will not occur within the shaded area directly under the new bridge.

3. The Project is planned to begin in May 2016 and continue through October 2016, with construction work planned to last approximately 145 days.
4. The proposed Project includes the *Forsythe Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0077) on Reeves Canyon Road Replacement Project Riparian Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* submitted in October 2015 and revised in February 2016. The plan proposes to restore the temporarily diverted area (85 linear feet of channel) to pre-project condition. Abutments #1 and #4 of the new bridge will have RSP interplanted with riparian vegetation. The footprints of the old bridge abutments and all temporarily disturbed areas are proposed to be restored and replanted, re-establishing approximately 0.075 acres of riparian wetlands and approximately 22 linear feet of creek bank. Successful mitigation will result in a net increase of 0.050 acres of riparian wetlands habitat. The plan includes total success criteria of 85% survivorship after at least a five year period for planted riparian trees and shrubs, which may be supplemented by appropriate "volunteer" native riparian species. Monitoring shall be conducted for a period of at least five years (minimum of three

- monitoring visits in years 1, 3, and 5) reporting to regulatory agencies the results of the three monitoring visits. Supplemental irrigation will be provided by water trucks or other appropriate methods during the first two years following planting, if necessary, or until such time as plants are found to be self-sustaining for two consecutive years. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction including measures for erosion and sediment control and prevention of accidental spills of pollutants.
5. The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit, Nationwide Permit No. 14. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.
 6. On October 7, 2014, Mendocino County, as the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), produced an Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2014072062), pursuant to CEQA guidelines.
 7. The Russian River is identified as impaired for sediment and temperature under Clean Water Act Section 303(d). At present, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) have not been established for this water body. If TMDLs are established and implementation plans are adopted for this watershed prior to the expiration date of the requested certification, the Regional Water Board may revise the provisions of that certification to address actions identified in such action plans. Bank erosion is identified as a source contributing to the sediment impairment. Removal of riparian vegetation is identified as a source contributing to temperature impairment. Activities that will be authorized by this certification are designed to reduce removal of riparian vegetation and reduce sediment discharges from bank erosion. Accordingly, this certification is consistent with, and implements, BMPs that would attenuate sediment and temperature adverse impacts.
 8. Pursuant to Regional Water Board Resolution R1-2004-0087, Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Policy Statement for Sediment-Impaired Receiving Waters within the North Coast Region (Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy), the Executive Officer is directed to "rely on the use of all available authorities, including existing regulatory standards, and permitting and enforcement tools to more effectively and efficaciously pursue compliance with sediment-related standards by all dischargers of sediment waste."
 9. 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 certification 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.

10. 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. (Weblink attached below).

Receiving Water: Forsythe Creek,
Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.33

Filled or Excavated Area: Permanent impact to waters of the US:
22 linear feet creek channel
Permanent impact to waters of the state:
0.008 acres riparian wetland
Temporary impact to waters of the US:
85 linear feet creek channel
Temporary impact to waters of the state:
0.025 acres riparian wetland

Latitude/Longitude: 39.2786°N / 123.2605°W

Expiration: March 24, 2021

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Mendocino County DOT Forsythe Creek Bridge No. 10C-0077 Reeves Canyon Road Replacement Project (WDID No. 1B15112WNME), 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 certification 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.

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. The validity of 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. A fee of \$200 was received for the Project on August 24, 2015. This certification is eligible for the "Low Impact Discharge Fee" and will not be subject to annual billing during the construction phase ("Annual Active Discharge Fee") nor during the monitoring phase of the Project ("Annual Post Discharge Monitoring Fee"), per the current fee schedule, which can be found on our website:
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/water_quality_certification.shtml
5. The Project shall implement the *Forsythe Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0077) on Reeves Canyon Road Replacement Project Riparian Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* submitted in October 2014 and revised in February 2016. The plan shall restore the temporarily diverted area (85 linear feet of channel) to pre-project condition. Abutments #1 and #4 of the new bridge shall have RSP interplanted with riparian vegetation. The footprints of the old bridge abutments and all temporarily disturbed areas shall be restored and replanted, re-establishing approximately 0.075 acres of riparian wetlands and approximately 22 linear feet of creek bank. Successful mitigation shall result in a net increase of approximately 0.050 acres of riparian wetlands habitat. The Project site shall meet success criteria of 85% survivorship after at least a five year period for planted riparian trees and shrubs, which may be supplemented by appropriate "volunteer" native riparian species. Monitoring shall be conducted for a period of at least five years (minimum of three monitoring visits in years 1, 3, and 5) reporting to regulatory agencies the results of the three monitoring visits. Supplemental irrigation will be provided by water trucks or other appropriate methods during the first two years following planting, if necessary, or until such time as plants are found to be self-sustaining for two consecutive years. The Project shall employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction including measures for erosion and sediment control and prevention of accidental spills of pollutants.

Results of monitoring of the mitigation areas shall be reported to the Regional Water Board annually or in years 1, 3, 5 if appropriate. An as-built report shall be submitted following construction to demonstrate the project was constructed as planned and identify and quantify plant installations for future monitoring of success criteria. Monitoring reports shall summarize data collected, annual performance, any remedial action necessary and whether success criteria are met. The reports shall be submitted to the following email address: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov

6. Only wildlife-friendly, 100 percent biodegradable erosion and sediment control products that will not entrap or harm wildlife shall be used. Erosion and sediment control products shall not contain synthetic (e.g., plastic or nylon) netting. Photodegradable synthetic products are not considered biodegradable. The Applicant shall request approval from the Regional Water Board if an exception from this requirement is needed for a specific location.
7. BMPs shall be implemented as proposed in the application materials. 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. Severe and unseasonal rain events are becoming more frequent due to the effects of climate change. Therefore, BMPs shall be immediately available for deployment at all times to prevent discharges to waters of the state.
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 certification, 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. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the Project site to document compliance with this certification.
10. 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.
11. Prior to implementing any change to the Project that may be a material change as defined in California Water Code section 13260(c) as a proposed change in character, location, or volume of the discharge, the Applicant shall obtain prior written approval of the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of the material change to the discharge, it will be considered a violation of this

certification, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement action(s).

12. All Project work shall be conducted as described in this certification and in the application submitted by the Applicant, and shall comply with all applicable water quality standards as detailed in the Basin Plan. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the Project, it will be considered a violation of this certification, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement actions.
13. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this certification and 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.
14. Disturbance or removal of existing vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the Project.
15. 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.
16. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification, 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.
17. 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 State 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 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 certification, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.

18. 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 certification by letter and shall email a copy of the letter to the following email address: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

The successor-in-interest must email the Regional Water Board Executive Officer at: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov to request authorization to discharge dredged or fill material under this certification. The request must contain the following:

- i) Effective date of ownership change;
 - ii) Requesting entity's full legal name;
 - iii) The state of incorporation, if a corporation;
 - iv) The address and phone number of contact person; and
 - v) A description of any changes to the Project or confirmation that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the project as described in this certification.
19. 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).
 20. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on March 22, 2021. 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 Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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. Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County Department of Transportation, 340 Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482

Electronic

Copy to: Holly Costa, US Army Corps of Engineers holly.n.costa@usace.army.mil

Wirt Lanning, North State Resources, lanning@nsrnet.com

Connie MacGregor Carpenter, North State Resources, carpenter@nsrnet.com

Jackson Ford, Mendocino County, fordj@co.mendocino.ca.us

Wes Stokes, CDF&W, Wesley.Stokes@wildlife.ca.gov