
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 13, 2016

Mr. James Linderman
Mendocino Department of Public Transportation
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482-9432
Lindermanj@co.mendocino.ca.us

Dear Mr. Linderman:

Subject: Notice of Applicability (NOA) for coverage under the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General 401 Water Quality Certification for County Road Management and Activities Conducted Under the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (Order No. R1-2013-0004)

File: Peachland Road Culvert Replacement Project
WDID No.: 1B16193WNME, ECM No.: CW-822759

Introduction

On March 29, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received the complete application package requesting coverage under the *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and General 401 Water Quality Certification for County Road Management and Activities Conducted Under the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program* (5C Waiver and General Certification) for the Peachland Road Culvert Replacement Project (Project). The Regional Water Board also received copies of the Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 permit (404 permit) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the signed Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, on October 22, 2015, and December 8, 2015, respectively. The Project is located at Milepost 0.45 and Milepost 0.65 on Peachland Road in Mendocino County, California. Staff conducted a site visit to the project location on April 12, 2016.

Background

On April 16, 2014, the Regional Water Board received Mendocino County's Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage of, county road maintenance and

activities under the 5C Waiver and General Certification, Order No. R1-2013-0004. Project proponents that have adopted the Five Counties Salmon Conservation Program (5C Program) are required, in part, to implement the best management practices (BMPs) contained within the Five Counties Roads Manual (5C Roads Manual). Projects covered under the 5C Waiver are eligible for coverage under the General 401 Water Quality Certification contained within the 5C Waiver without undergoing a project CEQA analysis. In order to receive coverage, a Project must meet the following requirements – Project activities will not 1) take place within the channels and/or banks of watercourses containing fish; 2) result in significant unavoidable environmental impacts including permanent impacts to wetlands, and/or violation of water quality standards; 3) result in the direct or indirect take of any listed species; or 4) expose people and/or structures to potential adverse effects from flooding, landslides, or soil erosion. Additionally, project proponents may use the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Lake and Streambed Alteration Notification in-lieu of a General 401 Water Quality Certification application.

Project Purpose and Description:

Peachland Road is an unpaved rural road serving multiple properties in the hills above the town of Boonville, California. The Project purpose is to improve crossings on two ephemeral watercourses at Milepost (MP) 0.45 and MP 0.65, and to repair a sinkhole and replace a crossing at MP 3.91. The outlets of the three existing corrugated metal pipe (CMP) crossings are set high in the road fill, not to stream grade, and are discharging onto the road fill, causing erosion and resulting in the formation of gullies leading down to the watercourse channels. All three crossings are undersized and overtop during high precipitation storm events, causing road surface erosion. Lastly, at the MP 0.45 and 0.65 locations, traffic along the outboard edge of the road at both locations has caused loss of road fill and reduced road width.

Culvert Replacement at Milepost 0.45

The project proposes to replace the existing 12"x35' CMP with a 24"x40' circular smooth-bore High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The length of the pipe will be increased by 5 feet so that it can be set as close as possible to stream grade. A 1.3 ft. depth inlet basin will be constructed to allow for sufficient road cover over the new larger diameter pipe. A rock headwall measuring approximately 4'x2.5'x1.5' will be constructed by hand above the inlet with clean rock ranging in size from 6" to 12". The new headwall will be constructed on the existing road shoulder fill and will not extend into the natural stream channel. On the outlet side, approximately 30 cubic yards of clean rock will be placed on the outboard road fill in an area approximately 17'x21' to protect the fill slope and to serve to dissipate stream flow energy at the outlet of the pipe. The rock for the energy dissipater will extend approximately 8 ft. downstream of the outlet.

Culvert Replacement at Milepost 0.65

The project proposes to replace the existing 12"x30' CMP with a 24"x35' circular HDPE pipe. The length of the pipe will be increased by 5 feet so that it can be set as close as

possible to stream grade. A 1.4 ft. depth inlet basin will be constructed to allow for sufficient road cover over the new larger diameter pipe. A rock headwall measuring approximately 4'x2.5'x1.5' will be constructed by hand above the inlet with clean rock ranging in size from 6" to 12". The new headwall will be constructed on the existing road shoulder fill and will not extend into the natural stream channel. On the outlet side, approximately 25 cubic yards of clean rock will be placed on the outboard road fill in an area approximately 20'x15' to protect the fill slope and to serve to dissipate stream flow energy at the outlet of the pipe. The rock for the energy dissipater will extend approximately 6 ft. downstream of the outlet.

Culvert Replacement at Milepost 3.91

The project proposes to replace the existing 12"x50' CMP with a 24"x55' circular HDPE pipe. The length of the pipe will be increased by 5 feet so that it can be set as close as possible to stream grade and will extend to the base of the existing fill slope. A rock headwall measuring approximately 4'x2.5'x1.5' will be constructed by hand above the inlet with clean rock ranging in size from 6" to 12". The new headwall will be constructed on the existing road shoulder fill and will not extend into the natural stream channel. No permanent impacts are anticipated as a result of work at this location.

All three proposed crossing replacements are located on ephemeral and non-fish bearing watercourses. Work will be conducted when streams are completely dry. No heavy equipment will be operated within stream channels. Heavy equipment will be operated from the road surface. Vegetation removal will be minimal, consisting of poison oak and grass removal to better access the fill slope and watercourse channels. No trees will be removed. Temporary erosion and sediment control BMPs and materials will be stockpiled at the sites during construction and will be implemented prior to the onset of a forecasted rain event. Soil disturbance beyond the limits of the road prism will be limited to the installation of the energy dissipaters.

Impacts

New permanent impacts from the excavation of inlet basins and installation of energy dissipaters at MP 0.45 and 0.65 will total 18 feet. New temporary impacts at all three locations include the loss of grass and pruning of underbrush needed to access the road fill and to install energy dissipaters. It is anticipated that the affected vegetation will grow back within one year.

Receiving Water:	Three unnamed ephemeral watercourses Con Creek, Navarro River Hydrologic Area, 113.50
Filled / Excavated Area:	Area Permanently Impacted: 70 square feet (.001 acres) Area Temporarily Impacted: 192 square feet (.003 acres)
Total Linear Impacts:	Length Permanently Impacted: 18 linear feet Length Temporarily Impacted: 18 linear feet

Fill Volume: 6.5 cubic yards clean rock

Latitude/Longitude: MP 0.45: 39.037222 N, 123.38427 W
MP 0.65: 39.040187 N, 123.38228 W
MP 3.91: 39.07111 N, 123.37493 W

Anticipated Work Window: June 15 – October 15, 2016

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed Project meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the 5C Waiver and General Certification. Implementation of the BMPs contained within the project description and the 5C Roads Manual together with the requirements described in the signed SAA and 404 permits will reduce the temporary impacts to a level below significance.

The Peachland Road Culvert Replacement Project, WDID No. 1A15028WNSI, is subject to the requirements of the 5C Waiver and General Certification, Order No. R1-2013-0004. The MRP for the 5C Waiver and General Certification requires that BMP implementation and effectiveness monitoring be conducted as per Item 10-B-1 and Item 10-B-2 of the 5C Manual to document the achievement of performance standards and project goals. The results of this monitoring must be included in the Annual Report and submitted to the Regional Water Board no later than March 1 of each calendar year. Finally, notification of completion must be submitted to the Regional Water Board no later than 30 days after Project completion. Please include the project name and the WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals.

Please contact Maggie Robinson at (707) 576-2292, or at Maggie.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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cc: Kate Blanchard, Katherine.Grossman@wildlife.ca.gov

Cameron Purchio, Cameron.R.Purchio@usace.army.mil