August 5, 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: Little River Airport Road MP 5.78 Culvert Replacement Project
WDID No.: 1B16377WNME, ECM No.: CW-824338

Introduction

On May 2, 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 Little River Airport Road MP 5.78 Culvert Replacement Project (Project). The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit, and to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). The Project is located at Milepost 5.78 on Little Airport 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:
Little River Airport Road is a paved county road beginning at the intersection with Highway 1 in the town of Little River and ending at the intersection with Comptche Ukiah Road. The Project purpose is to replace a watercourse crossing at Mile Post (MP) 5.78. The existing 24 in. by 50 ft. corrugated metal pipe (CMP) is reaching the end of its operational life span. Several holes have developed along the bottom of the pipe due to extensive corrosion which allows flows to discharge onto the fill slope of the road. The existing CMP is not set to grade resulting in 8 ft. of pipe extending out from the downstream side of the fill slope. Continued degradation of the pipe will likely result in accelerated erosion of the fill slope and possible failure of the road section.

The project proposes to replace the existing CMP with a 30 in. by 50 ft. circular smooth-bore polyethylene (HDPE) pipe, which will be set as close to stream grade as feasible. A rock headwall measuring 4.5 ft. by 3.5 ft. by 2 ft. will be constructed by hand at the inlet with clean rock ranging in size from 6 in. to 12 in. in diameter. The new rock headwall will not encroach into the natural stream channel. Utilizing a smooth bore HDPE pipe and setting it to natural stream grade will increase the velocity of the flows at the outlet, resulting in scour and possible development of a plunge pool. To prevent this, an energy dissipater is planned at the outlet of the crossing. Approximately 5 cubic yards of clean rock, ranging in size from 1/4 –ton to cobble will be placed in a 40 square foot area to armor the base of the road fill slope and 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.

The proposed crossing replacement is located on an ephemeral, non-fish bearing watercourse. Work will be conducted when the watercourse is completely dry. No heavy equipment will be operated within the stream channel. Heavy equipment will be operated from the road surface and road shoulder. Vegetation removal will be minimal, consisting of poison oak and duff 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 site 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 dissipater.

Impacts
New permanent impacts will result from the installation of energy dissipater. New temporary impacts include the loss of grass and pruning of underbrush needed to access the road fill and to install the energy dissipater. It is anticipated that the affected vegetation will grow back within one year.

Receiving Water:	Unnamed ephemeral watercourse Little River Hydrologic Area, 113.40
Filled / Excavated Area:	Area Permanently Impacted: 40 square feet (.0009 acres) Area Temporarily Impacted: none
Total Linear Impacts:	Length Permanently Impacted: 8 linear feet

Length Temporarily Impacted: 8 linear feet

Fill Volume: 5 cubic yards clean rock

Latitude/Longitude: 39.2723 N, 123.6965 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 Little River Airport MP 5.78 Culvert Replacement Project, WDID No. 1B16377WNME, 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 1st 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,

Fred Blatt
for
Digitally signed by Fred Blatt
Date: 2016.08.05 15:29:01 -07'00'
Water Boards

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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