

April 27, 2011

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

California Department of Transportation  
Highway 253 - Mendocino Storm Damage Repair  
WDID No. 1B10028WNME

Mendocino County

On March 25, 2010 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the proposed Mendocino County Highway 253, PM 7.60 and 7.75- Storm Damage Project. Additional information was submitted on April 15, 2010 and March 21, 2011. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with an unnamed wetland within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit (HU) No.114.00 (Ukiah Sub-Area 114.31).

The proposed project is located on Highway 253 at post mile (PM) 7.60 and PM 7.75, in Mendocino County. The purpose of the proposed project is to repair the embankment and shoulder and upgrade drainage items along a section of Highway 253. The repairs are needed to restore the integrity of the highway, which has begun to fail. Soldier pile tieback walls were chosen to repair the road at these locations despite their high cost because they had the smallest footprint and the least amount of impacts to jurisdictional features.

At location 1 (PM 7.60), 193 linear feet of 8-inch underdrain will be replaced in kind on the upslope side of the road, roughly opposite the soldier pile tie back wall, and connected to the existing 18 inch cross culvert (approximately 75 linear feet). At location 2 the existing 8 inch by 250 foot damaged underdrain will be replaced in kind. The existing 8 inch and 18 inch cross culverts (approximately 50 linear feet each) will remain in place. Both culverts will have 25 foot downdrains attached at their outlets which will channel water to a 40 foot by 18 inch diameter perforated pipe. This pipe will run perpendicular to the culvert in order to distribute water evenly through the wetland area. Caltrans has determined that the project will result in 0.97 acres (443 linear feet) of temporary impacts to waters of the state (drainages). In addition, the project will result in 0.08 acres of temporary impacts to wetlands (0.01 acres waters of the U.S and 0.07 acres Waters of the State). Caltrans' contractor will be required to prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that will include Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction and post construction phases of the project. Caltrans will utilize BMPs to provide erosion and sediment control and pollution prevention throughout the project area during construction. All graded areas within the project affected by the construction activities will be appropriately stabilized and BMPs will be implemented to ensure erosion is minimized and controlled.

The project is tentatively scheduled for the period March 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>; however, work within the drainages will only be conducted in the dry season (May 15 to October 15<sup>th</sup>). Caltrans has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under their Nationwide Permits No. 18 Non-Reporting (minor discharges) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. In order to comply with California Environmental Quality Act, Caltrans has certified Mitigated Negative Declaration in June of 2009 (State Clearing House No. 2009052093). The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental documents and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within 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 or comments, please contact staff member Jeremiah Puget at (707) 576-2835 or [JPuget@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:JPuget@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed road construction activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The related documents and comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.