

May 17, 2011

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

California Department of Transportation  
Highway 1 – Navarro Bluffs Retreat Project  
Project WDID No. 1B11031WNME

Mendocino County

On March 18, 2011, 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 Highway 1, Navarro Bluffs Retreat Project (project). Additional project information was received on May 10, 2011. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with wetlands and drainages within the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit, No.113.00.

The proposed project includes three drainage systems (culverts) located in Mendocino County, on Highway 1 from post mile (PM) 38.38 to PM 38.92. Caltrans inspections indicate extensive cracking and roadway subsidence. In general, the slope appears to be moving downward and westerly toward the ocean. The purpose of this realignment is to stabilize the roadway by retreating eastward away from the failure area. This project proposes to realign the roadway to the east of the current alignment from 0 to approximately 100 feet. The new alignment will include 12-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders. The existing roadway, where no longer needed, will be obliterated, removed, regraded and replanted. Drainage work will include installation of new culverts where needed and the removal of existing culverts and restoration of existing drainage as part of the decommissioning of the existing roadway. Rock slope protection at the new culvert outlets will be installed as needed. Existing utilities will be relocated as needed. Existing fencing of adjoining properties will be replaced by new fencing along new right of way.

Caltrans has determined that total project permanent impacts to streams identified as waters of the U.S. and State will be approximately 0.0051 acres (225 feet<sup>2</sup>, 113 linear feet). The temporary project impacts to streams identified as waters of the U.S. and State will be approximately 0.0034 acres (150 feet<sup>2</sup>, 75 linear feet). In addition, the project will result in a temporary impact to wetlands of 0.077 acres (3,362 feet<sup>2</sup>) and a permanent impact to wetlands of 0.089 acres (3,859 feet<sup>2</sup>). As mitigation to compensate for impacts associated with this project, Caltrans proposes on-site revegetation following construction for all temporary impacts. In addition, the project will create 0.1732 acres (7,544 feet<sup>2</sup>) of wetlands and restore 0.0102 acres (444 feet<sup>2</sup>) of stream channel habitat. The mitigation project will be conducted in accordance with the Caltrans-Prepared *Waters of the United States Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the California Department of Transportation's Navarro Bluff Re-Alignment Project*, received March 18, 2011.

The project will result in a net increase of impervious surface area of approximately 0.5 acres. On-site storm water treatment controls will primarily include two bioswales located adjacent to the east side of the highway. The bio-swales are designed to improve water quality by treating storm water runoff from approximately 0.8 acres of impervious surface along the highway prior to its discharge into waters of the State.

Project activities are anticipated to take 200 days to complete and construction will be conducted in the wet season; however, work in the drainages will only be conducted in the dry season between May 15 and October 15. Caltrans' contractor will be required to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction and post-construction phases of the project to provide erosion and sediment control and pollution prevention throughout the project area. 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.

Caltrans has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under their Nationwide Permits No. 14 (linear transportation projects) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. In addition, Caltrans has applied for a 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game and a Coastal Development Permit from the County of Mendocino. In order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, Caltrans certified a Focused Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration in January, 2009 (State Clearing House No. 2008102096). 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.