

April 12, 2013

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

Mendocino County Department of Transportation
School Way Bridge Replacement
WDID No. 1B12188WNME

Mendocino County

On October 31, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Mendocino County Department of Transportation (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with replacement of the bridge over the West Fork Russian River, on East School Way, for the purpose of improvement of public safety. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the West Fork Russian River, in the Russian River Hydrologic Unit, Forsythe Creek Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 114.33. Total temporary and permanent impact to the river bed and bank is approximately 0.228 acres/297 linear feet.

The proposed project includes construction of a new bridge and removal of the existing bridge. The project includes the following actions:

1. Flow in the West Fork Russian River will be temporarily diverted;
2. Bridge abutments will be constructed on driven steel H-piles outside of the low-flow channel;
3. Rock slope protection (RSP) will be installed along both banks;
4. Smaller gravel will be used to fill voids between the larger RSP. Planting will occur over the face of the RSP;
5. Construction of an instream clean gravel platform and falsework for new bridge construction;
6. Construction of a retaining wall and new bridge deck;
7. Removal of falsework;
8. Upon completion of new bridge, the existing bridge will be demolished and removed;
9. Removal of the gravel platform and diversion pipes.

The project is planned to commence in summer 2013 and have a work duration of approximately 300 days. Instream work would be limited to the dry season, between June 15 and October 15.

Mitigation includes a smaller footprint of the new bridge in comparison with the existing bridge, within waters of the state. Disturbed riparian habitat will be replanted with native vegetation and removed trees of 6 inch diameter or greater will be at a 3:1 ratio. Non-native vegetation will be removed and replaced with native vegetation.

The Applicant has received authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Projects, on January 10, 2013, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has also applied to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Lake and/or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Mendocino County Department of Transportation, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed it with the State Clearinghouse, (SCH No. 2012022022) and recorded a Notice of Determination on April 11, 2012, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during 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, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

130412_Mendocino_DOT_School_Way_Bridge_PN