

May 6, 2013

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

California Department of Transportation
Mendocino County State Route 128 Culvert Rehabilitation Project, Phase II, Part 2
WDID No. 1B13026WNME

Mendocino County

On February 19, 2013, 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 State Route 128 (SR 128) Culvert Rehabilitation Project, Phase II (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) associated with the following hydrologic sub-areas: Navarro River, hydrologic sub-area number 113.50; Warm Springs, hydrologic sub-area number 114.24; Ukiah, hydrologic sub-area number 114.31; and Geyserville, hydrologic sub-area number 114.25. Creeks that would be impacted include Rancheria, Dry, and Anderson Creeks.

The purpose of the project is to replace deteriorating, inadequate and undersized culverts throughout the Mendocino County State Route 128 corridor. This project addresses a portion of the second of three phases. Phase I was certified by the Regional Water Board on August 29, 2011. The first portion of Phase II was certified on February 22, 2012. This project addresses rehabilitation of 56 culvert systems between SR 128 post miles 14.3 and 49.28.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed project would result in approximately 0.163 acres of permanent and approximately 0.558 acres of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters. The project would also result in approximately 0.005 acres of permanent and approximately 0.333 acres of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters. As mitigation, Caltrans is proposing to: restore temporarily impacted areas to pre-construction condition following completion of construction activities; provide in-kind replanting of removed native vegetation; help fund wetland creation and restoration at MacKerricher State Park; and claim mitigation credit for riparian restoration work already performed adjacent Robinson Creek in cooperation with the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District.

The proposed project would be constructed between June 15, 2013, and October 1, 2014. To minimize erosion and associated water quality impacts, culvert rehabilitation shall be conducted only in the dry season. In-stream work and work on the banks of perennial anadromous fish-bearing streams would be conducted only between June 15 and October 15.

The project would result in more than one acre of disturbed soil area. Caltrans would prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan detailing Best Management Practices to control pollution from the project area during construction. All disturbed areas within the project would be appropriately stabilized and/or replanted with appropriate native vegetation.

The Navarro River watershed is listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as impaired for sediment and temperature. In December 2000, the U.S. EPA established sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Navarro River watershed. The Russian River watershed is listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as impaired for sediment, temperature, and indicator bacteria. Roads are a significant source of sediment in the watershed (directly, from surface erosion, and indirectly, by triggering landslides). In addition, activities that impact the riparian zone and reduce riparian vegetation contribute to increased stream temperatures. Certification conditions would focus on measures to reduce sediment discharges to surface waters from the project and include measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts in riparian zones.

Caltrans has received U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorization to perform the project under Regional General Permit no. 2009-00447N, pursuant to CWA, section 404. Caltrans has also applied for a California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1602 streambed alteration agreement.

On June 14, 2005, Caltrans certified a Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2005042089) for the project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document.

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 Brendan Thompson at (707) 576-2699 or via e-mail, at Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of Caltrans's proposed road construction activities. The Regional Water Board's project file includes the application for Water Quality Certification and additional details about the proposed project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any 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.