

December 4, 2013

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

California Department of Transportation  
State Route 299 Collins Bar Curve Improvement Project  
WDID No. 1A13120WNTR

Trinity County

On August 22, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed State Route 299 Collins Bar Curve Improvement Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to jurisdictional wetlands, tributary to the Trinity River within the Burnt Ranch Hydrologic Subarea of the Trinity River Hydrologic Unit (CalWater Number 106.00).

The proposed Project is located on State Route (SR) 299 between post-miles 12.2 and 12.9, in Trinity County. The purpose of the Project is to improve roadway safety by increasing roadway width and improving roadway geometrics to accommodate larger vehicles. The primary Project elements include: Adding four-foot shoulders to each lane; constructing two sidehill viaduct bridges to allow for road widening; constructing four barrier slab structures; excavation of the hillside above the road at post mile 12.8 to create a rock catchment area; tree removal and placement of approximately 22,000 cubic yards of rock and dirt fill below the westbound lane—the fill would be obtained from the Burnt Rock Transfer Station and from on-site cut—the fill will accommodate roadway widening; and, addition of four new and seven upgraded drainage systems.

The Project is immediately above the Trinity River in the Burnt Ranch Hydrologic Subarea of the Trinity River Hydrologic Unit. Caltrans has determined that the proposed Project would result in approximately 0.006 acres (60 linear feet) of permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters that formed below an underdrain outlet at the lower portion of the proposed fill area. Caltrans has proposed “out-of-kind” mitigation for the proposed permanent impacts by planting 441 deciduous tree species within the Project limits.

Earthwork would be limited to the dry season, between June 15 and October 15. Caltrans would seek coverage under the Statewide Construction General Permit as a Risk Level 3 project and utilize appropriate Best Management Practices to control pollutants during construction.

The Applicant has claimed coverage under a United States Army Corps of Engineers non-reporting Nationwide Permit 14 pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has also applied to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Streambed Alteration Agreement and Incidental Take Permit for the Trinity bristle snail. The Project design has incorporated measures to mitigate for impacts to the bristle snail habitat.

On May 23, 2013, the California Department of Transportation, acting as lead agency, signed a Notice of Determination pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), declaring that a mitigated negative declaration had been approved for the Project. The Notice of Determination was received by the State Clearinghouse on May 31, 2013.

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 [Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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 the Applicant's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's Project file includes the application for certification and additional details of 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.