

January 17, 2014

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

California Department of Transportation  
Del Norte State Route 101 Culvert Repairs Project  
WDID No. 1A13142WNDN

Del Norte County

On November 20, 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 101 Del Norte State Route 101 Culvert Repairs Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause disturbances to jurisdictional tributaries of McGarvey Creek, Wilson Creek, the Pacific Ocean, and Elk Creek Wetlands Wildlife Area, all within the Smith River Hydrologic Unit (Basin Plan Hydrologic Planning Area 103.00).

The proposed Project would occur at seven locations along State Route (SR) 101 between post-miles 0.95 and 23.60, in Del Norte County. The purpose of the Project is to repair compromised drainage systems. Project elements would include the following work at the designated post-miles (PM):

- **PM 0.95:** A 24-inch downdrain will be replaced, in-kind. This work would occur between September 15 and October 15;
- **PM15.65:** The existing 36-inch welded steel pipe would be lined with a new plastic liner. The voids between the liner and the existing pipe would be filled with grout. There will be some ground disturbance to access the site with equipment at the culvert inlet, but no vegetation or tree removal will be necessary. This work would occur between September 15 and October 15;
- **PM 22.69:** The existing 36-inch culvert would be abandoned in place, capped and slurry or sand would be pumped into the existing pipe. A new 36-inch pipe would be placed beneath the roadway using the existing inlet and outlet locations. Rock-slope protection would not be placed at the outlet and vegetation or trees would not require removal. Work would take approximately one week;
- **PM 23.08:** The existing 18-inch corrugated steel pipe and downdrain would be removed and a new, 24-inch culvert and inlet headwall would be placed. All work would be performed from the roadway and completed in approximately one week;
- **PM 23.43:** The existing 42-inch welded steel pipe would be lined with a new plastic liner. The voids between the liner and the existing pipe would be filled with grout. There will be some ground disturbance to access the site with equipment at the culvert inlet, but no vegetation or tree removal will be necessary. This work would take approximately two to three days to complete; and
- **PM 23.64:** Approximately 350-feet of an existing earthen drainage ditch, beginning at the outlet of a cross culvert at PM 26.64, would be filled with rock and planted

with willow to reduce erosion along its length. This work would take approximately one week and occur between June 15 and October 15.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed Project would result in approximately 0.04 acres (350 linear feet) and 0.09 acres (230 linear feet) of permanent and temporary impacts, respectively, to jurisdictional waters. Caltrans has proposed planting 109 willows along the 350-foot earthen drainage ditch as mitigation for filling it with rock.

Caltrans would utilize appropriate erosion control, sediment control, and site management Best Management Practices to control pollutants during construction.

Caltrans has applied for coverage under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 3, *Maintenance*, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans has also submitted a draft Streambed Alteration Agreement to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review.

On October 15, 2013, the California Department of Transportation, acting as lead agency, filed a Notice of Exemption (section 15301, *Existing Facilities*) for the proposed Project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental documentation, and has determined that the Project is categorically exempt from CEQA and anticipates filing a Notice of Exemption.

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.