

February 13, 2014

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

Mendocino County Department of Transportation,
Muir Mill Road at Baechtel Creek Bridge No. 10C-0137 Replacement
WDID 1B13160WNME

Mendocino County

On December 30, 2013, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County Department of Transportation (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with the Mendocino County Department of Transportation, Muir Mill Road at Baechtel Creek Bridge No. 10C-0137 Replacement project (project). The proposed project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with Baechtel Creek, tributary to the Eel River, in the Outlet Creek hydrologic sub-area (111.61). The project is located on Muir Mill Road, approximately 2 miles west of Willits, California, at latitude 39.3689°N and longitude 123.3661°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.008 acres to seasonal roadside wetlands and 0.03 acres or 80 linear feet to the streambed of Baechtel Creek. Temporary impacts to waters of the United States and state would be approximately 0.02 acres to torrent sedge wetland and 0.06 acres to the streambed of Baechtel Creek. An additional temporary impact to a roadside ditch would occur totaling approximately 0.009 acres or 80 linear feet.

The purpose of the project is to replace a structurally deficient bridge that is constricting the channel of Baechtel Creek. The project would involve removal and replacement of the existing bridge and the use of a temporary bridge and adjacent driveway during construction. In-stream work would be limited to removal of the existing bridge, including removal of bridge footings and abutments, and work associated with embankments to restore the creek channel to its original geometry before the existing bridge was constructed. The temporary bridge will be supported on temporary concrete abutments and will not involve any construction in the active flow of Baechtel Creek.

Mitigation for the project includes the removal of the old bridge abutments that are within the active channel. The new abutments will be placed outside of the ordinary high water mark and restore the natural channel width of Baechtel Creek. No compensatory mitigation is proposed. The project will employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction. The project is expected to begin in the summer of 2014.

The applicant has applied for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On August 27, 2013, the County of Mendocino, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), filed a notice of determination with the state clearinghouse, and determined that a mitigated negative declaration was prepared and certified for the project. The notice of determination was received by the clearinghouse on September 4, 2013.

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. 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 Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.