

February 20, 2014

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

**Shively Community Bridge – Low-Flow Railcar Crossing, Eel River Project  
WDID No. 1B03010WNHU**

**Humboldt County**

On January 24, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Marc Barsanti and Ms. Linda Vonah of the Shively Bridge Committee (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with annual installation and removal of the Shively Community Bridge – Low-Flow Railcar Crossing, Eel River Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Eel River within the Scotia Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 111.12. The Project is located on Hwy 254 at approximately Post Mile 43.2, Shively, Humboldt County. The Water Quality Certification previously issued for the seasonal bridge activities expired on May 12, 2013. The Project site is located at latitude 40.437778°N, and longitude 123.919167°W. The Project will cause no permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State Eel River channel bed and bank would be approximately 10,800 Square feet (0.25 acres) and 30 linear feet.

The Shively Community Bridge provides a direct access route to Highway 101 for approximately four months each year during the summer low flow season. The seasonal bridge and roadway connects the community of Shively to the Avenue of the Giants (Hwy 254), approximately one mile south of Pepperwood. The seasonal bridge provides important emergency access and saves approximately forty minutes of one-way travel time compared to the alternate routes from Shively to Highway 101.

Proposed Project activities include installation of boulders and logs to form bridge abutments and excavation of aggregate material from the adjacent dry gravel bar to create the roadway approach ramps to the flatcar bridge. Following annual bridge removal, the aggregate materials used in the approach ramps will be returned to the borrow area and graded to ensure that runoff will drain toward the river channel in the downstream direction. The proposed Project does not require vegetation removal.

The proposed Project may temporarily impact approximately 10,800 square feet (0.25 acre) and 30 linear feet of the stream channel including the fill area of the bridge approaches and the aggregate borrow area. The proposed Project is not anticipated to result in any permanent impacts to the stream channel. Road gravel will be used to mitigate dust on the access roads, and will be removed from the active channel when the bridge is removed. Following the annual bridge removal the Project site will be restored to pre-project condition. Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and operation of heavy equipment near a stream are proposed to avoid and minimize temporary impacts.

The Project proposes to install the bridge on June 15 and remove it in October or November each year, depending on weather conditions and flows in the Eel River.

The Applicant has obtained authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit (File No. 2002-26902N). The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and obtained a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15302 (class 2) Replacement or Reconstruction, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, 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 Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.