

May 12, 2014

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

**FHWA George E. Tryon Bridge (No. 01C0005) Replacement CA PFH 112-1(3) South  
Fork Smith River Project  
WDID No. 1A14029WNDN**

**Del Norte County**

On April 13, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Federal Highway Administration, Central Federal Lands Highway Division (FHWA-CFLHD), Wendy Longley (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the FHWA George E. Tryon Bridge (no. 01C0005) Replacement CA PFH 112-1(3) South Fork Smith River Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with South Fork of the Smith River and wetlands within the Smith River Hydrologic Unit No. 103.20. The Project is located where South Fork Road (California Forest Highway 112) crosses the Smith River (Post Mile 0.4), Crescent City, Del Norte County, at latitude 41.797178°N, and longitude 124.054345°W. No permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State are proposed. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State include approximately 0.009 acres of wetlands and 0.03 acres of riparian vegetation clearing.

The primary purpose of the Project is to replace the George E. Tryon Bridge within its current alignment and with a similar structure. The current 205 foot long, 2-laned, arched bridge, constructed in 1948 has recently been determined to be structurally deficient and has a deteriorating lead-based paint matrix.

The proposed Project would include containment of the paint matrix for removal avoiding discharge to surface waters, bridge removal, reconstruction of north and south approaches, structural retaining wall construction and bridge construction above the 100 year floodplain and ordinary high water mark. During construction of the new bridge clearing (no grubbing) of approximately 0.03 acres of riparian vegetation including approximately 6 to 8 trees and understory would be necessary. Additionally, temporary impacts to 0.009 acres of wetlands along the north approach are proposed.

The proposed Project includes a plan to revegetate disturbed areas, including planting 10 White and Red Alder plants within the riparian area and revegetating the wetland feature with a 0.01 acre vegetated swale with wetland appropriate plant species. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Project is planned to begin in the fall of 2014 through summer of 2017 with construction work planned to last approximately 24 months.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit.

On April 16, 2014, Del Norte County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has produced an Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2014042066), 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.