

July 2, 2014

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

California Department of Transportation
Big Gulch Storm Damage Repair Project
WDID No. 1B14026WNME, ECM PIN CW-804904

Mendocino County

On March 25, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed State Route 1 Big Gulch Storm Damage Repair Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause disturbances to a jurisdictional perennial tributary to the Pacific Ocean within the Garcia River Hydrologic Area (Basin Plan Hydrologic Planning Area 113.70). The stream originates from a nearby hillside seep.

The proposed Project would occur on State Route 1 between post-miles 2.34 and 2.53, north of the town of Gualala, in Mendocino County. The purpose of the Project is to repair storm damage. Project elements would include the following work at the designated post-miles:

- **Construct Soldier Pile Wall:** Caltrans would construct a cantilever soldier pile wall below the southbound side of the roadway between post-miles 2.41 and 2.44. The wall would be 10-feet high and 150-feet long. Piles would be constructed using cast-in-drilled-hole method.
- **Roadway Excavation and Reconstruction:** The roadway would be excavated and reconstructed between post-miles 2.34 and 2.53. The existing asphalt concrete surface would be grinded-off and the underlying aggregate base would be removed. The travel-way width would be increased from 11.5 feet to 12.0 feet wide between post-miles 2.41 and 2.44.
- **Drainage System Replacement:** A 30-inch cross culvert (with inlet headwall) would be relocated approximately 6 feet south of its current location at post-mile 2.43. A new downdrain will be constructed and discharge to a Pacific Ocean cove.

The Project is expected to be completed within 80 days between May 15 and October 14, 2015.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed Project would result in no permanent impacts and approximately 0.011 acres of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters. Mitigation is not proposed for this Project.

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. 14, *Linear Transportation Projects*, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans has submitted a draft Streambed Alteration Agreement to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a Biological Assessment, dated November 8, 2013, concurring with Caltrans's determination that Project implementation may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect the federally-threatened California red-legged frog.

Caltrans, acting as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, filed a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse approving an Initial Study/ Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2013102005) for the Project.

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 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of Caltrans'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.