

November 19, 2014

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

**Big Rock Gulch Bridge Replacement Project  
WDID No. 1B14077WNHU, ECM PIN CW-808410**

**Humboldt County**

On August 6, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Humboldt County, Andrew Bundschuh (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Big Rock Gulch Bridge Replacement Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated with Big Rock Gulch a tributary to the Klamath River within the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit No. 105.12. The Project is located at post mile 0.3 Red Cap Road, Orleans, Humboldt County, at latitude 41.3004°N, and longitude 123.537°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 50 linear feet of stream bed and bank.

The primary purpose of the Project is to replace the Red Cap Road Bridge at Big Rock Gulch with a single span precast bridge that will meet county and federal safety standards. The new bridge will be approximately 60 feet in length and 36 feet wide, while widening the stream channel and creating less impact to waters than the existing bridge.

The proposed Project would include a staged removal of the existing bridge and staged construction of the new bridge to allow for traffic to pass at all times. Construction would not likely require stream diversion due to summer work schedule, however, a plan is in place for diversion should water flow be present. During construction no riparian vegetation is proposed to be permanently impacted. The existing abutments will be removed and the stream channel will be widened and redesigned to match conditions upstream and downstream. New abutment will be constructed upslope widening the channel by approximately 20 feet. 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 summer of 2015 with construction work planned to last approximately 2 months.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has also applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as a Responsible California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a

Categorical Exemption, 15302 (b) 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.

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