

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 299 Lupton Curve Improvement Project
WDID No. 1B14128WNHU, ECM PIN CW-811395
Caltrans EA No. 01-0A520, EFIS No: 01-00020425**

Humboldt County

On December 8, 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, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed State Route 299 Lupton Curve Improvement Project (Project). The proposed Project is in the Redwood Creek watershed and would cause impacts to jurisdictional waters within the Lake Prairie Hydrologic Area (Basin Plan Hydrologic Planning Area 107.30).

The Project would occur on State Route 299 between post-miles R21.1 and R21.5, approximately 11 miles east of Blue Lake, and approximately 0.1 miles east of Chezem Road in Humboldt County. The purpose of the Project is to improve safety on a curvilinear segment of State Route 299 with a higher-than-average rate of collisions. The Project involves constructing two retaining walls on either side of the roadway that would provide additional area to accommodate roadway widening; a 931-foot-long, approximately 9-foot-high, Mechanically Stabilized Earth wall would be embedded into the northern side of the roadway fill section, and a 178-foot-long wall consisting of guard railing elements would be constructed on the south side.

The Project is expected to be completed within approximately 80 days between June 1 and October 30, 2015.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed Project would result in approximately 0.012 acres (109 linear feet) of permanent and 0.043 acres (565 linear feet) of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters and approximately 0.009 acres and 0.16 acres of permanent and temporary impacts, respectively, to riparian vegetation. Caltrans has proposed to create 0.027 acres and restore 0.16 acres of riparian habitat to mitigate for Project impacts.

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 also submitted a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Caltrans reports that the Project activities

would be authorized by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under the April 9, 2014, *Programmatic Informal Consultation for the California Department of Transportation's Routine Maintenance and Repair Activities, and Small Projects Program for Districts 1 and 2* (AFWO-12B0001-12I0001). Caltrans also reports that the Project activities would be covered by the National Marine Fisheries Service October 2010 *Programmatic Authorization for Caltrans' Routine Maintenance and Repair Activities in Districts 1, 2, and 4*.

The Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, (section 15301, *Existing Facilities*), and would file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

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 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.