

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 128 Culvert Rehabilitation Project (Phase 3)
WDID No. 1B15008WNME, ECM PIN CW-812914
Caltrans EA Numbers: 01-37814, 01-37817
EFIS Numbers: 0100000134, 0100000137**

Mendocino County

On January 30, 2015, 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 128 Culvert Rehabilitation Project (Project). Three certifications were issued for the first two phases of this project on August 29, 2011, February 22, 2012, and May 29, 2013. The proposed Project would cause impacts to jurisdictional water tributaries to Navarro Creek (Basin Plan Hydrologic Planning Area 113.50).

The Project would rehabilitate 72 drainage systems along State Route 128 between post-miles 2.8 and 23.3. The purpose of the Project is to maintain public safety and prevent highway damage due to potential drainage system failures. Drainage system elements generally include culverts, down-drains, headwalls, and energy dissipation (rip-rap). Common problems with the existing drainage systems include corroded and damaged culverts, undersized culverts, inadequate or missing headwalls or rip-rap, and lack of down-drains.

The Project is expected to be completed within approximately 280 working days between spring 2015 and fall 2020. Work would only be performed in State waters between June 15 and October 15.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed Project would result in approximately 2,474 linear feet (0.061 acres) of permanent and 5,158 linear feet (0.057 acres) of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters. Caltrans would be avoiding riparian vegetation. Caltrans would mitigate for permanent impacts by providing 0.46 acres of restored wetlands and 0.17 acres of restored waters of the United States at MacKerricher State Park, immediately north of Fort Bragg. Mitigation would be done consistent with the April 2013, Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dune Natural Preserve Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, prepared by Caltrans.

The Navarro River watershed is listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as impaired for sediment and temperature. In December 2000, the U.S. EPA established sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Navarro River watershed. Roads are a significant source of sediment in the watershed (directly, from surface erosion, and indirectly, by triggering landslides). Certification conditions would focus on measures to

reduce sediment discharges to surface waters from the project and include measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts in riparian zones.

Caltrans would utilize appropriate erosion control, sediment control, and site management Best Management Practices to control pollutants during construction.

Caltrans has requested U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorization to perform the project under Regional General Permit no. 2009-00447N, pursuant to CWA, section 404. Caltrans has also submitted a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Caltrans received a Biological Opinion (AFWO-10B0003-10F0090) from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on January 4, 2005, that determined the Project is not likely to adversely affect listed salmonid species. Caltrans reinitiated consultation with NMFS in 2006 after a change in the listing status of Central California Coast coho salmon as well as designation of critical habitat for Northern California steelhead and Central California Coast steelhead. In a January 10, 2007, letter, NMFS maintained that the original Biological Opinion and incidental take statement remained valid.

On June 14, 2005, Caltrans certified a Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2005042089) for the project in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document.

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.