

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 36 Larabee Slips Repair Project
WDID No. 1B14130WNHU, ECM PIN CW-811655
Caltrans EA No. 01-0B340
EFIS No. 01-1200-0118**

Humboldt County

On December 16, 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 36 Larabee Slips Repair Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause impacts to jurisdictional waters that are tributaries of the Van Duzen River and Little Larabee Creek (Basin Plan Hydrologic Planning Sub-Area 111.22, Bridgeville).

The Project would make drainage improvements and reconstruct unstable portions of State Route 36 at three locations between post-miles 22.80 and 27.20, in the vicinity of Bridgeville. The purpose of the Project is to maintain public safety by abating and preventing further roadway damage.

Work would be performed at three locations:

- **Post-Mile 22.80:** Work at this location involves: Reconstruction of the roadway structural section; installation of two deep underdrains and one underdrain outlet; replacement of a 24" culvert; and placement of rock slope protection at the outlet of the 24" culvert. This location discharges to a tributary drainage that only reaches the Van Duzen River during very high flows.
- **Post-Mile 25.69:** Work at this location involves: reconstructing the roadway structural section; installing a deep underdrain and a 12" downdrain to connect with an existing 24" corrugated plastic pipe; replacing a culvert that carries drainage beneath a driveway; replacing the two flared inlet sections; and, placing rock slope protection at the outlet of the driveway culvert.

Also, the site drainage currently discharges from a 24" corrugated plastic pipe after travelling overland to Little Larabee Creek. The historical discharge from this pipe has created significant erosion and sediment discharge to the Creek. Caltrans will repair and stabilize the current erosional features and modify the drainage system outlet to prevent future erosion and discharge of sediment to Little Larabee Creek.

- **Post-Mile 27.61:** Work at this location involves: reconstructing the roadway structural section using a geosynthetic reinforced embankment; installing a deep underdrain and underdrain outlet; constructing a downdrain to convey underdrain flows; installing a culvert slip-liner; replacing one flared-end inlet section; and, placing rock slope protection at the underdrain outlet.

The Project is expected to be completed within approximately 130 working days in the spring and fall of 2015. 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 20 linear feet (0.002 acres) of permanent and 40 linear feet (0.009 acres) of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters. Tree removal would not be necessary.

The Van Duzen River watershed is listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as impaired for sediment. In December 1999, the U.S. EPA established sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Van Duzen River. The TMDL identifies State Route 36 as a sediment delivery risk in the watershed. Excessive sediment in the Van Duzen River is particularly harmful to cold freshwater habitat, including anadromous salmonid habitat. The 401 certification would include conditions to avoid and minimize transport of sediment.

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

Caltrans intends to obtain coverage under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers non-reporting Nationwide pursuant to CWA, section 404. Caltrans as also submitted a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in November 2014.

On June 26, 2014, Caltrans certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2014052042) 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 notice 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.

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