

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 199 Middle Fork Smith River Wall Project
41.8822, -123.8216
WDID No. 1B15014WNDN, ECM PIN CW-813031
Caltrans EA No. 01-0B320**

Del Norte County

On February 6, 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 199 Middle Fork Smith River Wall Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause impacts to the Middle Fork Smith River (Basin Plan Hydrologic Planning Area 103.30, Middle Fork Smith River).

The Project location is in Del Norte County between post-miles 24.6 and 24.7 on State Route 199 (SR 199). The purpose of the Project is to fortify a section of SR 199 that overlies a geologically unstable area immediately adjacent the Middle Fork Smith River. Two existing steel bin walls are failing due to saturation of the existing roadway prism. Caltrans would install a soldier pile tieback wall to encapsulate the existing walls and the unstable area between the walls; the goal is to prevent the sinking of the soil in the space between the two bin walls.

The Project is expected to take 150 days to complete between July 2015 and October 2016.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed Project would result in approximately 0.16 acres (200 linear feet) of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters as a result of pile excavation and construction access.

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

Project implementation would result in approximately 0.03 acres of new impervious surface area. Caltrans is not proposing to treat storm water from the Project area, post-construction.

Caltrans has applied for coverage under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 14, 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.

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 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.