

March 11, 2015

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 199 Patrick Creek Slipouts Project
WDID No. 1A15012WNDN, ECM PIN CW-813004
Caltrans EA No. 01-0B310**

Del Norte County

On February 9, 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 Patrick Creek Slipouts 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 proposed Project involves stabilization of slipouts along State Route 199 (SR 199) at post-miles 8.7 and 21.7 along the Middle Fork Smith River in Del Norte County.

Post-mile 8.7 is approximately 1.5 miles north of the Myrtle Creek Bridge, between the towns of Hiouchi and Gasquet. Specific activities proposed at this location include:

- Construction of an approximately 181-foot long cantilever retaining wall on the east side of the roadway;
- Addition of a 4-foot road shoulder; and
- Metal beam guardrail reconstruction.

Caltrans anticipates approximately 0.19 acres of soil disturbance at this location.

Post-mile 21.7 is approximately 1.1 miles south of the SR 199 Patrick Creek Bridge. Specific activities proposed at post-mile 21.7 include:

- Construct an approximately 50-foot long gabion retaining wall;
- Road shoulder reconstruction; and
- Metal beam guardrail reconstruction.

Caltrans anticipates approximately 0.04 acres of soil disturbance at this location.

Culvert and utility work will not be performed at either location. No trees larger than 10 inches diameter breast height would be removed at either location. A debris fence would be constructed below the Project areas to contain rock, dirt, and debris that may be dislodged during construction.

The Project is expected to take 120 days to complete between July 2015 and October 2016.

Caltrans has determined that the proposed Project would result in approximately 0.23 acres (420 linear feet) of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters as a result of pile and soil excavation, and construction access.

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

Project implementation would result in approximately 0.023 acres of new impervious surface area. Because the added impervious area is less than 5,000 square feet, the Regional Water Board will not be requiring post-construction storm water treatment BMPs.

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.