

March 13, 2015

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

**Holmes-Larabee Bridge Repair Project  
WDID No. 1B15025WNHU**

**Humboldt County**

On March 3, 2014, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Public Works Department, Andrew Bundschuh (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Holmes-Larabee Bridge Repair Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States and the State associated Eel River within the Larabee Creek Hydrologic Sub-Area No. 111.13. The Project is located at approximately Holmes Flat Road, Post Mile 1.68, Redcrest, Humboldt County, at latitude 40.420021°N, and longitude 123.935499°W. No permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State are proposed. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and the State include approximately 200 linear feet of river bed and bank.

The primary purpose of the Project is to repair the weakened portions of timber piles and caps of the bents on the bridge along with repairing the most severely deteriorated sections of the concrete deck. The existing low-water summer bridge that crosses the Eel River, located at Holmes Flat Road PM 1.68, has been posted as "Closed" to all traffic due to the instability and unsafe conditions of the bridge. This repair work is needed to bring the bridge up to load standards and provide safe access to the community and emergency services until a new bridge can be built.

The proposed Project would include working during low flow conditions on the river working on sections of the bridge that are dry on exposed bars as well as in the active wetted channel. Repair activities would include exposing piles by excavating / removing accumulated sediment, temporarily suspending the bridge sections using jacks, supports and cantilever so that work can be completed on each bent. Additionally, the Applicant proposes to remove rotten timber and pile sections, install new untreated timber components and braces, temporarily install river protection Best Management Practices (BMPs) and repair concrete deck as needed. When working in deep water, concrete clocks are proposed to be temporarily placed in the channel adjacent to the bridge to support construction infrastructure, then removed when complete.

The proposed Project includes a plan to temporarily dewater shallow areas of the river to minimize impacts during construction. The Applicant proposes to employ BMPs and conservation practices to prevent or reduce sediment discharges to the Eel River as well as avoid and minimize impacts to riparian habitat during construction.

The Project is planned to be conducted in the summer and fall of 2015.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as a Responsible California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15301 (c) Existing Facilities, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed Project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

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 comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during 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, please contact staff member Gil Falcone at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.