

May 14, 2015

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 299 Storm Damage Project, Post-Miles 10.8 and 26.0
40.926, -123.8028¹ (Post-Mile 26.0)
40.911, -123.9159 (Post-Mile 10.8)
WDID No. 1B15034WNHU, ECM PIN CW-814504
Caltrans EA No. 01-0B450**

Humboldt County

On April 8, 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 299 Storm Damage Project at post-miles 10.8 and 26.0 (Project). The proposed Project would cause temporary impacts to a culverted waters of the U.S.

The Project location is at post-miles 10.8 and 26.0 in Humboldt County on State Route 299. According to Caltrans, storm events in March 2011 resulted in highway damage that this Project would permanently correct. Rock buttresses would be constructed at both locations; however, jurisdictional waters of the U.S. would only be impacted at post-mile (PM) 26.0.

At PM 26.0, a slip-out is present below the roadway adjacent to the eastbound lane. Project activities at this location would involve:

- Removal of approximately 6,200 cubic yards of slide debris on the downhill slope;
- Construction of a 230-foot long, 1-ton rock buttress on the downhill slope, extending between 20 and 50 feet down the slope;
- Replacement of a drainage structure consisting of a 65.4-foot by 18-inch cross culvert beneath the roadway and a 14.7 foot by 24-inch downdrain that transitions into an approximately 70-foot-long flume. The new structure would be placed at a slightly shallower angle and consist of a 61.9-foot by 24-inch cross culvert, a 68.6 by 24-inch downdrain, and a 26-foot by 13-foot rock channel. The last two feet of the downdrain would be incorporated into the rock channel which would outlet at the toe of the slope, similar to where the existing flume discharges. An existing rock energy dissipater at the toe of the slope would remain in place; and
- Repaving and striping of the roadway.

¹ WGS84 datum

At PM 10.8, the westbound number two lane is currently covered with slide debris and closed to traffic. The slide is approximately 500 feet long with upslope scarps. Project activities at this location would involve:

- Removal of approximately 1,900 cubic yards of slide debris at the toe of the slope;
- Installation of hillside sub-surface horizontal drains;
- Construction of a 500-foot long, 1-ton rock buttress on the slope, extending between 20 and 50 feet up the slope; and
- Repaving and striping of the roadway.

The Project is expected to begin after July 9, 2015, and be completed within fifty days. The Project is expected to be completed before October 15, 2015.

The proposed Project would result in no permanent or temporary impacts to State jurisdictional waters.

The Redwood Creek watershed is listed on the Clean Water Act section 303(d) list as impaired for sediment and temperature. On December 30, 1998, the U.S. EPA established sediment total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Redwood Creek watershed. Road-related erosion is identified as a factor in sediment contributions in the watershed. In addition, activities that impact stream beds, banks, and floodplains are identified as sources contributing to increased stream temperatures. Measures that reduce sediment discharges to surface waters from roads in the watershed, as well as measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on riparian zones is essential for achieving TMDL, Basin Plan, and CEQA compliance. Caltrans would utilize appropriate erosion control, sediment control, and site management Best Management Practices to control pollutants during construction. Work would only be performed when the drainage is not flowing. Accordingly, this certification is consistent with, and implements portions of the Redwood Creek TMDL.

Project implementation would not result in a net increase in impervious surface area.

Caltrans intends to apply for coverage under a non-reporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 3, *Maintenance*, 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.

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.