

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

**Grizzly Bluff Road Bridge Replacement Project
WDID No. 1B15078WNHU**

Humboldt County

On May 26, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Grizzly Bluff Road Bridge Replacement Project (Project). The proposed Project would cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Williams Creek within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.11. The Project is located on Grizzly Bluff Road at Post Mile 10.21 where it crosses Williams Creek, Ferndale, Humboldt County, at latitude 40.5713886°N, and longitude 124.2478127°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 180 linear feet of creek bed and bank. Temporary impacts to waters of the State include approximately 0.05 acres of riparian.

The primary purpose of the Project is to replace an obsolete bridge that spans Williams Creek on Grizzly Bluff Road with a new bridge that meets current design standards. The current bridge will be replaced with a 60 foot long single span cast-in-place pre-stressed concrete voided slab. The proposed Project would include construction of a temporary detour bridge (flatcar) on the south side of the existing bridge, temporary diversion of Williams Creek, vegetation clearing for detour and construction, demolition of the existing structure, creek bank excavation, construction of the new bridge including pile driven abutments and decommissioning of temporary detour.

The proposed Project includes a design to revegetate temporarily disturbed areas, including replanting the 0.05 acres of riparian area with native species. The Project also includes designs for installation of bioengineered channel banks where Rock Slope Protection (RSP) is used. This installation will include use of native willow pole plantings interplanted on approximately 180 linear feet of channel within the RSP. The new bridge design will increase creek channel width and capacity, decreasing bank slope and enhancing functions. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

The Project is planned to begin in the summer of 2016 through fall of 2016 with construction work planned to last approximately five months.

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 and the California Coastal Commission for a Coastal Development Permit.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical

Exemption, 15302 (c) Replacement or Reconstruction, 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 gil.falcone@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten stephen.bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.