

November 9, 2015

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

**Blue Slide Road PM 3.24 Roadway Restoration Project
WDID No. 1B15094WNHU**

Humboldt County

On July 20, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Blue Slide Road PM 3.24 Roadway Restoration Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Oil Creek within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.11. The Project is located on Blue Slide Road at Post Mile 3.24, Rio Dell, Humboldt County, at latitude 40.5277°N, and longitude 124.1638°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 15 linear feet of creek bank. No temporary impacts are proposed at the Project site.

The primary purpose of the Project is to repair the failing roadway embankment. The Project plans include sediment and silt control measures to ensure no discharge to the creek during construction. The Project will include installation of a 905 square foot welded wire wall to stabilize the roadway and installation of an 8" perforated underdrain system. During construction of the repair no riparian trees are proposed to be removed.

The proposed Project includes a plan to revegetate disturbed areas and install erosion control to ensure sediment is not discharged from banks of Oil Creek. The Applicant proposes to plant native willows along approximately 50 linear feet of creek bank for added bank stabilization and shading. The project will be conducted above Ordinary High Water and no work is proposed to be conducted within flowing creek water.

The Project is planned to begin between 2016 and 2018 (between July 15 and October 31 each year) with construction work planned to last approximately 45 days. The Project start date is dependent on Federal Highway Administration funding.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404, Nationwide Permit No. 3. 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 lead 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 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.