

November 23, 2015

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 101 Peregrine Slides Repair Project
38.897, -123.057; 38.916, -123.057¹
WDID No. 1B15029WNME, ECM PIN CW-813833
Caltrans EA No. 01-0B500, EFIS No. 01-1200-0133**

Mendocino County

On September 23, 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 101 Peregrine Slides Repair Project (Project).

Project Description

The purpose of the Project is to control and stabilize two active slide areas up-gradient of State Route 101 (SR 101). The Project locations are approximately five miles south of Hopland, adjacent the Russian River in Mendocino County at post-miles (PM) 3.75 and 5.30, and at the Korean War Veteran's Viaduct.

Proposed Project activities include the following:

Formoli Slide—PM 3.75

At this location, Caltrans would build a 20-foot-high, 353-foot-long soldier pile ground anchor wall approximately 35 feet to the east of northbound SR 101. Additional activities at this location would include:

- Construction of a ten-foot-deep underdrain at the front toe of the wall. An eight-inch-diameter perforated plastic pipe would be placed six inches above the base of permeable material to collect and convey seepage water to the drainage inlet at PM 3.72;
- Grading of slopes behind the anchor wall to minimize surface ponding and slope saturation;
- Excavation of an inward-sloped, aggregate base-surfaced bench in front of the anchor wall to facilitate drainage, to provide maintenance access, and to provide a space to capture potential slide debris; and

¹ WGS84 datum

- Construction of a new structural section where the roadway pavement has been damaged by the slide movement. The uplifted sections would be removed and the roadway surface returned to near its original elevation.

The hillside surface flow above the anchor wall would be directed along the sides of the wall to a swale and conveyed to the drainage inlet at PM 3.72. The existing pipe culvert at PM 3.72 will be replaced and installed at a lower elevation to match the elevation of the proposed underdrain.

Peregrine Slides—PM 5.3

At this location, Caltrans would build a 50-foot-high, 419-foot-long soldier pile ground anchor wall approximately 100 feet to the east of northbound SR 101. Additional activities at this location would include:

- Excavation of an inward-sloped, aggregate base-surfaced bench in front of the anchor wall to facilitate drainage, to provide maintenance access, and to provide a space to capture potential slide debris;
- Construction of underdrains at the front toe of the wall and fifty feet behind the wall;
- Replacement of culvert at PM 5.17 with new culvert placed at a lower elevation;
- Replacement of the last forty feet of the existing culvert at PM 5.07 with 24-inch corrugated steel pipe;
- Installation of horizontal drains in the slope above the anchor wall. The horizontal drains and front underdrain would discharge via a collector system to the drainage system at PM 5.17. Discharge from the underdrain behind the wall would be conveyed to the drainage system at PM 5.11 via a hillside channel;
- Grading of slopes behind the anchor wall to minimize surface ponding and slope saturation;
- Construction of a storm water treatment biofiltration swale; and
- Construction of a new structural section where the roadway pavement has been damaged by the slide movement. The uplifted sections would be removed and the roadway surface returned to near its original elevation.

Surface runoff from Peregrine Slide currently flows into a cross culvert at PM 5.22. Project construction would result in the redirection of surface runoff to the existing culvert at PM 5.11.

Korean War Veteran's Viaduct

The damaged cross-drainage culvert at PM 4.85 would be removed and replaced with an approximately 192-foot-long open channel.

Impacts

The proposed Project would result in approximately 546 linear feet (0.037 acres) of permanent impacts to ephemeral tributaries of the Russian River as a result of drainage

system modifications. The proposed Project would result in approximately 56 linear feet (0.001 acres) of temporary impacts to ephemeral tributaries of the Russian River as a result of culvert modifications. The proposed Project would also result in approximately 0.023 acres of permanent impacts to riparian vegetation.

Proposed Mitigation

To compensate for 546 linear feet (0.037 acres) of permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters, Caltrans is proposing to convert a culverted drainage to a rock-lined ditch which would result in approximately 192 feet (0.11 acres) of open channel.

To compensate for approximately 0.023 acres of permanent impacts to riparian vegetation, approximately 0.069 acres of willow cuttings and valley oak trees would be planted along the ephemeral drainages behind the Formoli Wall (~PM 5.22), and at the culvert outlet of the drainage system located at post-mile 5.11.

Post-Construction Storm Water Treatment

Caltrans would install two biofiltration swales to treat roadway storm water pollutants, post-construction.

Construction Timing

The Project is expected to require 190 days of construction. The Project is proposed to begin in the spring of 2016, and be completed in the fall of 2017.

Disturbed Ground Area

Project implementation would result in greater than one acre of disturbed soil area. Caltrans shall apply for coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ) and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan detailing best management practices (BMPs) to control pollution from the Project area during construction. All temporarily disturbed areas within the Project area shall be appropriately stabilized and/or replanted with appropriate native vegetation.

Total Maximum Daily Load and Water Impairment

The Russian River is identified as impaired for sediment and temperature under Clean Water Act Section 303(d). At present, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have not been established for this water body. Bank erosion is identified as a source contributing to the sediment impairment. Removal of riparian vegetation is identified as a source contributing to temperature impairment. Activities that would be authorized by the certification would be designed to reduce removal of riparian vegetation and reduce sediment discharges from bank erosion.

Other Agency Permits

Caltrans has applied for coverage under a non-reporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 14, *Linear Transportation Projects*, pursuant to section 404 of the

Clean Water Act. Caltrans has applied for a Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

CEQA Compliance

On April 2, 2015, Caltrans signed a Notice of Determination approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2015021063) in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

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 Brandon Stevens at (707) 576-2377 or Brandon.Stevens@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.