

November 23, 2015

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

**Mattole Road PM 5.25, 15.50, 17.83, & 26.96  
Emergency Relief Permanent Roadway Project  
WDID No. 1B15111WNHU**

**Humboldt County**

On August 19, 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 Mattole Road PM 5.25, 15.50, 17.83, & 26.96 Emergency Relief Permanent Roadway Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with wetlands and unnamed stream beds and banks within the Cape Mendocino Hydrologic Unit No. 112.30. The Project is located at four locations along Mattole Road, Southwestern Humboldt County. Project site approximate locations include Post Mile (PM) 5.25 at latitude 40.254928°N and longitude 124.190317°W, PM 15.50 at latitude 40.333383°N and longitude 124.302342°W, PM 17.83 at latitude 40.344903°N and longitude 124.325025°W, and PM 26.96 at latitude 40.435817°N and longitude 124.392044°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 64 linear feet of stream bed and bank and temporary impacts include approximately 85 linear feet of wetlands.

The primary purpose of the Project is to permanently repair roadway damage from severe storms during 2011. Project activities are designed to address safety hazards by returning the roadway to preexisting form and function. The proposed Project would include creating a stabilization trench, a vertical underdrain system, corrugated metal pipe risers and cross-drains, a geogrid-reinforced embankment, multiple rock buttresses, and a gabion basket retaining wall system above the ordinary high water mark.

The proposed Project includes a plan to revegetate disturbed areas, including restoration of temporary impacts to approximately 85 linear feet of wetlands at PM 5.25, approximately 40 linear feet of native riparian plantings at PM 17.83 and approximately 40 linear feet of native riparian plantings at PM 26.96. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

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 30 - 60 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](mailto:gil.falcone@waterboards.ca.gov) at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten [stephen.bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:stephen.bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov) at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.