

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 101 Big Lagoon Walls Storm Damage Repair Project
41.191, -124.11¹
WDID No. 1B15134WNHU, ECM PIN CW-818406
Caltrans EA No. 01-0B430, EFIS No. 01-1200-0127**

Humboldt County

On September 29, 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 Big Lagoon Walls Storm Damage Repair Project (Project).

Project Description

The purpose of the Project is to protect State Route 101 (SR 101) by reconstructing and stabilizing three embankment slope failure areas. The Project area is on SR 101 through Humboldt County between post-miles (PM) 111.4 and 111.6, approximately eleven miles north of Trinidad.

The scope of the proposed work involves:

- Reconstruction of the southbound lane and shoulder of SR 101 through the Project area;
- Installation of underdrains;
- Widening discrete sections of the SR 101 northbound shoulder;
- Construction of a timber lagging soldier pile tieback wall below the southbound shoulder of SR 101, between PMs 111.42 and 111.45. The wall would be approximately 25-foot-high, 140-foot-long, and required approximately 20 cast-in-drilled-hole (CIDH) H-piles. The wall would be placed just to the south of the proposed southernmost anchored pile system;
- Construction of two anchored pile systems (APS) below the southbound shoulder of SR 101, on either side of the existing micropile buttress. Each of the two APS's would have CIDH W-piles placed at five foot intervals. A reinforced concrete beam will be placed along the entire length of the APS and will encase both the ground anchors and exposed W-beams. The APS proposed south of the existing micropile buttress would be approximately 320 feet long and require approximately 65 CIDH piles. The APS proposed north of the existing micropile buttress would be approximately 205 feet long and require approximately 40 CIDH piles; and

¹ WGS84 datum

- Construction of an approximately 15-foot-wide temporary access road below the southbound shoulder to provide equipment access for construction of the three walls.

Impacts

Project implementation would result in approximately six linear feet (0.0005 acres) of permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters due to placement of rock slope protection in an unnamed tributary at the outlets of two underdrains. Project implementation would also result in approximately 35 linear feet (0.01 acres) of temporary impacts to riparian vegetation due to construction access. Approximately 15 linear feet (0.0003 acres) of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters would occur due to construction access.

Proposed Mitigation

Caltrans is not proposing mitigation for permanent impacts. Caltrans is proposing to revegetate temporarily impacted areas.

Post-Construction Storm Water Treatment

Caltrans has not proposed post-construction storm water treatment for this Project, however off-site stormwater treatment may be required.

Construction Timing

The Project is expected to require 290 days of construction. The Project is proposed to begin in June of 2016, and be completed in October 2019.

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.

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. Caltrans has also applied to the California Coastal Commission for a Coastal Development Permit.

CEQA Compliance

On November 26, 2014, 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.