

February 25, 2016

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

**Mendocino County DOT Forsythe Creek Bridge No. 10C-0077 Reeves Canyon Road
Project
WDID No. 1B15112WNME**

Mendocino County

On August 21, 2015, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Mendocino County Department of Transportation (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Mendocino County DOT Forsythe Creek Bridge No. 10C-0077 Reeves Canyon Road Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Forsythe Creek of the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.33. The Project is located where Reeves Canyon Road crosses Forsythe Creek approximately 0.5 miles northwest from its beginning at US Highway 101, Redwood Valley, Mendocino County, at latitude 39.2786°N, and longitude 123.2605°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 22 linear feet of creek bank and 0.008 acres of riparian wetland. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. include approximately 85 linear feet of stream channel and 0.025 acres of riparian wetland.

The primary purpose of the Project is to replace the Forsythe Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0077) on Reeves Canyon Road with a longer structure just upstream of the existing structure. In 2010 the Applicant identified the bridge as structurally deficient due to substandard load carrying capacity. The existing bridge is a 120-foot long by 12-foot wide railroad flatcar bridge with scoured concrete abutments and timber pile wingwalls and decking. The bridge would be replaced with a three-span 154-foot long by 22 foot wide, cast-in-place, post-tensioned concrete slab bridge that meets current safety and capacity standards. The new bridge will be designed to convey the base 100-year flood.

The proposed Project would include installation of an 85-foot temporary creek diversion that meets National Marine Fisheries *Guidelines for Fish Salmonid Passage at Stream Crossings* and temporary work pads to support false work. After completion of construction of the new bridge, false work would be removed. Demolition of the old bridge will take place once the new bridge is complete and will include the removal of the flatcars, support timbers, and existing abutments per Caltrans standard specifications. After demolition is complete the culverts and any fill gravel placed temporarily will be removed with an allowance for an incidental amount of clean spawning gravel "fish rock" to remain distributed within the stream channel. During construction of new bridge abutments #1 and #4, rock slope protection (RSP) will be interplanted with appropriate riparian plantings using bioengineered designs. Riparian planting will not occur within the shaded area directly under the new bridge.

The proposed Project includes the *Forsythe Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0077) on Reeves Canyon Road Replacement Project Riparian Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* submitted in October 2014 and revised in February 2016. The plan proposes to restore the temporarily

diverted area (85 linear feet of channel) to pre-project condition. Abutments #1 and #4 of the new bridge will have RSP interplanted with riparian vegetation. The footprints of the old bridge abutments and all temporarily disturbed areas are proposed to be restored and replanted, re-establishing approximately 0.075 acres of riparian wetlands and approximately 22 linear feet of creek bank. Successful mitigation will result in a net increase of 0.050 acres of riparian wetlands habitat. The plan includes total success criteria of 85% survivorship after at least a five year period for planted riparian trees and shrubs, which may be supplemented by appropriate "volunteer" native riparian species. Monitoring shall be conducted for a period of at least five years (minimum of three monitoring visits in years 1, 3, and 5) reporting to regulatory agencies the results of the three monitoring visits. Supplemental irrigation will be provided by water trucks or other appropriate methods during the first two years following planting, if necessary, or until such time as plants are found to be self-sustaining for two consecutive years. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction including measures for erosion and sediment control and prevention of accidental spills of pollutants.

The Project is planned to begin in May 2016 and continue through October 2016, with construction work planned to last approximately 145 days.

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit, Nationwide Permit No. 14. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

On October 7, 2014, Mendocino County, as the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), produced an Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2014072062), 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.