

June 17, 2016

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

**Eureka Hill Road Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project
WDID No. 1B14133WNME**

Mendocino County

On December 24, 2014, 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 Eureka Hill Road Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project (Project). The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States and state associated with wetlands, riparian and the Garcia River within the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit No. 113.70. The Project is located where Eureka Hill Road crosses the Garcia River approximately 4 miles east of Point Arena, Mendocino County, at latitude 38.9033°N, and longitude 123.6077°W. Permanent impacts to waters of the United States include approximately 31 linear feet of creek bank, 0.0004 acres wetlands, and 0.025 acres of riparian wetlands. Temporary impacts to waters of the United States include approximately 104 linear feet of stream channel, 0.037 acres of wetlands and 0.232 acres of riparian wetlands.

The primary purpose of the Project is to seismically retrofit the Eureka Hill Road Bridge over the Garcia River to meet current standards. The retrofit includes the addition of steel column casings to all pier pilings and adding piles and top mats of reinforcing to all pier foundations. To conduct the Project, traffic will be limited to one lane controlled during construction. The proposed Project would include installation of a 75-foot temporary river diversion; a dewatering plan that meets California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements has been submitted. Implementing the Project will require temporary access through the old roadway alignment to the river bed in order to construct column casings and top mats to the pier foundation. Dewatering and access will allow for construction of a temporary clear water crossing (temporary work pad) beneath the bridge using culverts and cleaned river run gravel. The retrofit includes adding four 72-inch Cast-In-Drilled-Hole (CIDH) piles at each end of the bridge, excavating and constructing top mats to reinforce the pier foundations at existing piers 2, 3, and 4 using CIDH piles, installing concrete girders between the CIDH pile groups, adding bumpers to the superstructure soffit, and rehabilitating the pavement of the approaches.

The proposed Project includes the *Eureka Hill Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project – Revegetation Guidelines and Monitoring Plan* submitted by LSA on behalf of the applicant on June 8, 2016. The plan proposes to restore the temporarily diverted area (75 linear feet of channel) to pre-project condition. All temporary access and work areas in the riverbed, wetlands and riparian will be restored to pre-project condition through removal of temporary work facilities; these constitute temporary impacts listed above. As a part of the retrofit, Large Woody Debris will be placed just downstream of the bridge piers in the main channel as

aquatic habitat enhancement mitigation. Additionally, at the banks (abutments 1 and 5) Rock Slope Protection (RSP) will be interplanted with native cottonwood and willows to mitigate for these impacts. The plan also includes replanting riparian trees greater than 6" DBH that are removed at a 3:1 ratio within an area of 0.049 acres of riparian habitat mitigating for 0.025 acres of permanently impacted riparian areas. 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. Initial plant installation will be documented by preparing and submitting an initial planting plan prior to construction and an as-build plan after installation that will be used as a baseline for the management and monitoring program. Monitoring shall be conducted for a period of at least five years reporting to regulatory agencies the results of annual monitoring visits on December 31st of each year. Supplemental irrigation may be provided by 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.

The Project is planned to begin in May 2017 and continue through October 2017, with construction work planned to last approximately 140 days.

The Applicant has received authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404 permit, Nationwide Permit No. 14 File No. 2014-00237N. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

On August 13, 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. 2014062041), 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.