

July 8, 2016

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

**California Department of Transportation  
State Route 96 Temporary Debris Racks Project  
WDID No. 1A16897WNSI, ECM PIN CW-825647  
Caltrans EA No. 02-0H810, EFIS No. 02-1500-0074**

**Siskiyou County**

On June 16, 2016, 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 96 Temporary Debris Rack Project (Project).

**Project Description**

The purpose of the proposed project is to install site-specific custom designed debris racks which will be placed adjacent to the culvert inlet at four locations that have been identified as the highest risk for roadway overtopping events. Due to the recent fires occurring in Siskiyou County, debris has been accumulating much higher frequency. The racks will be freestanding and not attached to the adjacent drainage infrastructure. Each rack will be designed to allow smaller debris and wildlife to pass and maintain streamflow. The debris racks are designed to be installed during the high flow season and removed during the low flow season.

**Impacts**

The proposed Project would result in approximately 28 linear feet of temporary impacts to the stream channel due to the debris racks and rebar anchors.

**Proposed Mitigation**

Mitigation is not necessary due to the negligible impacts associated with this Project.

**Post-Construction Storm Water Treatment**

Post-construction storm water treatment is not required because this project will not increase the area of impervious surface at the four debris rack installation locations.

**Construction Timing**

The Project is proposed to begin and be completed within August 2016.

### **Disturbed Ground Area**

Project implementation will result in less than one acre of disturbed soil area. Caltrans shall utilize appropriate erosion control, sediment control, and site management Best Management Practices to prevent discharge of pollutants during construction.

### **Total Maximum Daily Load and Water Impairment**

The Klamath 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 reporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 3, *Maintenance*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

### **CEQA Compliance**

The Regional Water Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, (section 15301, *Existing Facilities*), and has filed a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

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](mailto: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.