

August 10, 2016

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

**California Department of Transportation
State Route 101 Waukell Creek Baffle Installation Project
WDID No. 1A161002WNDN, ECM PIN CW-826928
Caltrans EA No. 01-0E710, EFIS No. 01-1500-0002**

Del Norte County

On July 26, 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 101 Waukell Creek Baffle Installation Project (Project).

Project Description

The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance fish passage and reduce flow velocity by installing fish baffles in an existing culvert located on State Route 101 (SR 101). Caltrans is proposing to strengthen the bulkhead at the inlet of the culvert for the benefit of future scour protection. The work in the streambed, banks and channel will consist of implementing a clear water diversion of the culvert in order to weld steel baffles into place to reduce velocities for easier passage by resident cutthroat trout.

Impacts

Caltrans proposes to install steel baffles inside of an existing 595 foot-long culvert. A clear water diversion will begin approximately 75 feet upstream of the inlet and re-water the channel 100 feet downstream of the outlet. As a result, the proposed Project would include approximately 770 linear feet of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters of Waukell Creek. The proposed Project would have no impacts to riparian areas.

Proposed Mitigation

Mitigation is not necessary due to the negligible impacts associated with this Project. Fish passage improvements will mitigate for Project temporary impacts.

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 culvert location.

Construction Timing

The Project is expected to require 40 days of construction. The Project is proposed to begin on the August 22, 2016, and be completed on October 15, 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

Waukell Creek is a tributary to the Klamath River. The Klamath River is listed as impaired for cyanobacteria hepatotoxic microcystins, organic enrichment/low dissolved oxygen,

nutrients, sediment, and temperature, on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. Bank erosion is identified as a source contributing to sediment impairment. Removal of riparian vegetation is identified as a source contributing to temperature impairment. Disturbance of fine sediments within the channel may increase biostimulatory conditions due to release of nutrient rich fine sediment. Activities that will be authorized by this certification are designed to reduce removal of riparian vegetation, reduce sediment discharges from bank erosion, and have no effect on fine sediment within the channel. The project will not impact flow or stagnation which may increase cyanobacteria hepatotoxic microcystins or organic enrichment/low dissolved oxygen. Caltrans will utilize appropriate erosion control, sediment control, and site management BMPs to control pollutants during construction, and drainage improvements will result in a net reduction in sediment contributions. Accordingly, this certification does not certify any activities that would contribute to Klamath River cyanobacteria hepatotoxic microcystins, organic enrichment/low dissolved oxygen, nutrients, sediment, or temperature impairment.

Other Agency Permits

Caltrans has applied for coverage under a 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.

CEQA Compliance

The Regional Water Board may file a categorical exemption for the Project, if deemed appropriate.

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.