

September 27, 2016

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

**Parker Creek Culvert Replacement Project
41.057742, -124.139844¹
ECM PIN CW-828145, WDID No. 1B161320WNHU**

On September 9, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Michael Sebring and Cheryl Kelly (Applicants), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Parker Creek Culvert Repair/Replacement Project (Project).

Receiving Waters

The proposed Project would cause disturbances to Parker Creek in the Big Lagoon Hydrologic Area (Basin Planning Area No. 108.10).

Project Description

The purpose of the Project is to replace a failed 24-inch-diameter, approximately 190-foot-long corrugated metal culvert with a 36-inch, high density polyethylene culvert of the same length and in the same footprint as the existing culvert. Erosion and sinkholes have appeared at various locations along the length of the culvert. The new culvert would be sized to accommodate the 100-year storm flow.

Construction Timing

The Project is expected to be completed in approximately two weeks during the fall of 2016.

Project Impacts

Approximately 400 square feet of riparian vegetation consisting largely of Himalayan blackberry would be temporarily impacted at the inlet and outlet for construction access. No riparian trees would be removed or trimmed. A debris rack may be placed at the culvert inlet.

Avoidance and Minimization of Impacts

Parker Creek cannot be daylighted along the length of the culvert due to an existing leachfield in close proximity to the culvert. Also, as cited in a draft staff report prepared by

¹ WGS84 datum

the City of Trinidad, a daylighted Parker Creek would encroach on the existing Parker Creek Trail and existing geologic conditions would require additional studies that could not be completed before winter 2016-17. Riparian vegetation would be trimmed to the minimum extent necessary to access the Project area.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

Because an approximately 135-square foot concrete apron would be removed from the Parker Creek stream channel above the inlet, and because there would be no permanent impacts associated with the Project, mitigation is not required.

Other Agency Actions

The Applicant has claimed coverage under United States Army Corps of Engineers non-reporting Nationwide Permit no. 3, *Maintenance*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Applicant has applied for a 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

CEQA Compliance

The Regional Water Board has determined that the Project qualifies for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Categorical Exemption (CEQA section 15301, *Replacement and Reconstruction*).

Public Comments

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.

Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." The Project is scheduled to start and be completed before October 15, 2016, to prevent significant erosion, sediment discharge to state waters, and possible infiltration of septic waste into the broken culvert from the adjacent septic leach field. Due to the likelihood of potential water quality impacts should the Project not be implemented before the 2016-17 rainy season, certification will be issued during the public comment period. A Public Notice was previously issued for this Project on September 23, 2016. Staff will consider all phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within a 21-day comment period that began on September 23, 2016, and ends on October 15, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Brendan Thompson at (707) 576-2699 or Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant'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.

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