

October 20, 2016

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

**California Department of Transportation  
State Route 1 Anchor Bay Downdrain Reconstruction Project  
38.8029, -123.5774<sup>1</sup>  
WDID No. 1B161050WNME, ECM PIN CW-827090  
Caltrans EA No. 01-44650, EFIS No. 01-0000-0209**

**Mendocino County**

On August 1, 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 1 Anchor Bay Downdrain Reconstruction Project (Project).

**Project Description**

The purpose of the proposed project is to address erosion issues caused by an existing culvert downdrain located on State Route 1 in Mendocino County. The existing culvert downdrain is too short and lacks an energy dissipater, which is causing erosion and scouring at the downdrain outlet. The existing 43-foot long culvert will be removed and replaced with a 75-foot long plastic pipe downdrain that will outlet to a new rock-lined watercourse. Rock-lining the watercourse will repair the area that has been eroding and shall contain two pools to provide frog habitat. Additionally, willow pole plantings will be placed between the rocks along the length of the watercourse to provide bank stability and shade to the watercourse.

**Impacts**

The proposed Project would result in approximately 138 linear feet (0.028 acres) of permanent impacts and 141 linear feet (0.024 acres) of temporary impacts to an unnamed, ephemeral watercourse that discharges into the Pacific Ocean as a result of culvert extension and rock slope protection (RSP) placement at the outlets. The proposed Project would have 0.0162 acres of permanent impacts to wetlands.

**Proposed Mitigation**

Caltrans shall mitigate for permanent impacts by providing 0.06 acres of restored wetlands at MacKerricher State Park, immediately north of Fort Bragg. Mitigation shall be completed consistent with the April 2013, Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dune Natural Preserve Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, prepared by Caltrans. Caltrans will mitigate for riparian and channel impacts by incorporating willow plantings within the proposed rock-lined watercourse.

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<sup>1</sup> WGS84 datum

### **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 15 days of construction. The Project is proposed to begin on the June 15, 2017, and be completed on October 15, 2017.

### **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.

### **Other Agency Permits**

Caltrans has applied for coverage under a reporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reporting Nationwide Permit No. 14, *Linear Transportation Projects*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Caltrans has applied for a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Caltrans has also received a Biological Assessment from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS has determined that the proposed culvert repair activities may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the California red-legged frog.

### **CEQA Compliance**

On January 27, 2010, Caltrans signed a Notice of Determination approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2010022019) in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

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.