

November 9, 2016

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

**California Department of Transportation  
State Route 101 Three MEN Bridges Scour Repair Project  
WDID No. 1B161422WNME, ECM PIN CW-828827  
Caltrans EA No. 01-0C430, EFIS No. 01-1200-0293**

**Mendocino County**

On October 4, 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 Three MEN Bridges Scour Repair Project (Project).

**Project Description**

The purpose of the proposed project is to preserve the integrity of existing bridge structures by performing necessary maintenance, repair, and protection work at three bridges in Mendocino County. The location and project activities are as follows:

Baechtel Creek: HWY 101 - post mile (PM) 45.89

- Repair erosion along the south side of pier 3 with ½ ton rock slope protection (RSP). To facilitate the work, a temporary access road will be constructed to access the south side of pier 3, at the north bank of the creek at the downstream edge of the bridge. The creek bank will be restored to its original condition after the work is complete. Temporary water diversion may be necessary to install the RSP at pier 3. All disturbed areas will be revegetated appropriately.

Beebe Creek: HWY 128 - PM 38.8

- Repair the slip-out and erosion of the creek bank by placement of RSP to the south of abutment 1, a length of 35' beginning at the wingwall. The RSP will also be placed to the north of the abutment 1 for a length of 39' beginning at the wingwall. Two temporary access roads are proposed to be built to facilitate the construction of the RSPs mentioned above at the west end of the bridge. All disturbed areas will be revegetated appropriately.

North Fork Cold Creek: HWY 20 – PM 41.87

- Repair/replace the existing energy dissipater, and repair cracks between headwall wings and the inlet apron of the culvert. Caltrans will facilitate the construction of an access road beginning from the pullout to access the creek bed. After the completion of the work, graded areas will be restored to original condition. All access roads will be treated with erosion control seed

mixture. All staging areas are previously disturbed, paved or graveled turnouts or parking lots. All disturbed areas will be revegetated appropriately.

### **Impacts**

The proposed Project would result in approximately 186 linear feet (0.035 acres) of permanent impacts to stream channels as a result of culvert extension and rock slope protection (RSP) placement at the three bridge locations and 154 linear feet (0.068 acres) of temporary impacts as a result of water diversion and access road installation within riparian areas. The proposed Project would have no permanent or temporary impacts to wetlands.

### **Proposed Mitigation**

Caltrans will mitigate for permanent impacts to stream banks by incorporating willow plantings into the RSP at each bridge location. All temporary impacts to riparian areas and stream beds will be revegetated as stated in the *Simple Revegetation Plan*, dated October 2016.

### **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 project locations.

### **Construction Timing**

The Project is expected to require 44 days of construction. The Project is proposed to begin in April, 2018, and be completed by October 15, 2020.

### **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 Upper Eel River and Navarro River are listed as impaired for 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. Activities that will be authorized by this certification are designed to reduce removal of riparian vegetation, and reduce sediment discharges from bank erosion. 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 Upper Eel River and Navarro River sediment and temperature impairment.

The Russian 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 and non-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 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and a Biological Opinion from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service.

### **CEQA Compliance**

On October 24, 2016, Caltrans signed a Notice of Determination approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2016052075) 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.