

September 21, 2017

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

**Davis Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0113) Replacement Project
WDID No. 1B161425WNME**

Mendocino County

On October 5, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Mendocino County Department of Transportation (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the Davis Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0113) Replacement Project (Project).

Project Location

The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Davis Creek within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.61. The Project is located approximately two miles southeast of Willits where East Hill Road crosses Davis Creek, Willits, Mendocino County, at latitude 39.391380°N, and longitude 123.30952°W.

Proposed Project Impacts

Proposed permanent impacts to waters of the state include approximately 74 linear feet of creek channel and 0.199 acres of Riparian wetlands, vegetation and channel. Temporary impacts to waters of the state include approximately 140 linear feet of stream bed and bank and approximately 0.366 acres of Riparian wetlands, vegetation and channel.

Project Description

The primary purpose of the Project is to replace the existing bridge that has been determined to be structural deficient. The existing structure constructed in 1962 is 130 feet long and 18 feet wide and would be replaced by a single span, cast-in-place, pre-stressed, concrete box-girder bridge, 182 feet long by 40 feet wide. The new bridge will be constructed adjacent to the existing bridge to allow for traffic passage during construction. The proposed Project would include construction of new roadway approaches and abutments constructed from cast-in-place concrete founded on driven piles. A series of culverts (spanning approximately 140 linear feet) topped with cleaned spawning gravel are proposed to be installed in the active channel to allow creek flows and temporary work access during construction, all temporary access materials will be removed upon completion of the project restored to pre-project condition. The new bridge will be built on falsework supported in the temporary work access area. Scour protection for the new abutments would consist of 2-foot thick, 75 pound rock slope protection along approximately 80 linear feet of the banks of Davis Creek. After completion of the new bridge the existing bridge would be dismantled using a crane and abutment footings would be excavated and channel banks restored. The project includes plans for containment and disposal of the lead paint matrix to avoiding discharge to surface waters.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

The proposed Project includes a plan to revegetate disturbed areas, including restoring temporary impact areas 0.366 acres and enhancing 0.238 acres Riparian areas to offset permanent impacts. The plan includes native species to be planted, bioengineered rock/willow inter-plantings where feasible, monitoring for 5 years, annual plant maintenance and success criteria. Additionally, the Applicant proposes to plant upland areas with native plants in accordance with the request of the Sherwood Valley Rancheria. The Project proposes to employ best management practices to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction including sediment and lead-based paint from the existing bridge structure to be demolished.

Construction Timing

The Project is planned to begin in the spring of 2018 through October of 2018 with construction work planned to last approximately 145 days.

Other Agency Permits

The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act, section 404, under Nationwide Permit No. 14. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

CEQA

On February 12, 2015, Mendocino County, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has produced an Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2013112036), pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Public Comments

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed Project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

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 comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during 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, please contact staff member Gil Falcone gil.falcone@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2830 or Stephen Bargsten stephen.bargsten@waterboards.ca.gov at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.