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

California Department of Transportation
State Route 162 Repair Drainage Systems Project
39.5596, -123.41231
WDID No. 1B170050WNME, ECM PIN CW-832415
Caltrans EA No. 01-0E3804, EFIS No. 01-1400-0041

Mendocino County

On January 30, 2017, 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 162 Repair Drainage Systems Project (Project).

Project Description

The purpose of the proposed project is to rehabilitate 15 deteriorated culverts that Caltrans has determined to have reached life expectancy, thus preventing highway damage from potential culvert failure. The Project area is on State Route 162 between Post Miles (PM) 1.26 and 33.94 in Mendocino County.

DS 1 – PM 1.26
The existing 18” x 34’ corrugated steel pipe (CSP) culvert and associated drainage inlet will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 34’ CSP and a new drainage drop inlet.

DS 2 – PM 1.79
The existing 18” x 51’ CSP culvert, 18” x 20’ downdrain, and associated drainage inlet headwall will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 48’ CSP culvert, 24” x 22’ downdrain, and new drainage inlet headwall.

DS 3 – PM 3.52
To protect against scour at the culvert inlet, Caltrans will install a 4’ long, 12’ wide concrete headwall at the culvert inlet. Culvert replacement is not necessary at this location.

DS 4 – PM 3.70
The existing 30” x 47’ CSP culvert, 30” x 12’ downdrain, and associated drainage inlet headwall will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and

1 WGS84 datum
replaced with a 30” x 46’ CSP culvert, 30” x 14’ downdrain, and new drainage inlet headwall.

**DS 5 – PM 6.12**
The existing 18” x 51’ CSP culvert and associated drainage inlet headwall will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 50’ CSP culvert, 24” x 14’ downdrain, and a new drainage inlet headwall.

**DS 6 – PM 7.20**
The existing 18” x 42’ CSP culvert and associated drainage drop inlet will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 42’ CSP culvert and new drainage drop inlet.

**DS 7 – PM 9.87**
The existing 18” x 48’ CSP culvert and associated drainage inlet will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 46’ CSP culvert, 24” x 22’ downdrain, and a new flared end section at the drainage inlet.

**DS 8 – PM 11.38**
The existing 24” x 57’ CSP culvert and associated drainage inlet will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 50’ CSP culvert, 24” x 18’ downdrain, and a new drainage inlet headwall.

**DS 9 – PM 14.41**
The existing 24” x 72’ CSP culvert and 24” x 48’ downdrain will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 72’ CSP culvert and 24” x 72’ downdrain.

**DS 10 – PM 15.08**
The existing 18” x 30’ CSP culvert and associated drainage inlet will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 26’ CSP culvert, 24” x 22’ downdrain, and a new drainage inlet headwall.

**DS 11 – PM 15.79**
The existing 24” x 44’ CSP culvert and 24” x 20’ downdrain will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 44’ CSP culvert and 24” x 20’ downdrain.

**DS 12 – PM 19.75**
The existing 18” x 58’ corrugated steel pipe (CSP) culvert and associated drainage inlet will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 60’ CSP and a new drainage drop inlet.
DS 13 – PM 21.42
Caltrans will line the existing 24" x 74’ corrugated steel pipe (CSP) culvert with a high-density polyethylene liner.

DS 14 – PM 24.09
The existing 18" x 48’ CSP culvert, 18” x 14’ downdrain, and associated drainage inlet will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 48’ CSP culvert, 24” x 18’ downdrain, and new drainage drop inlet.

DS 15 – PM 33.94
The existing 24” x 50’ CSP culvert, 24” x 14’ downdrain, and associated drainage inlet will be removed using a half-width cut and cover construction method and replaced with a 24” x 48’ CSP culvert, 24” x 18’ downdrain, and a new flared end section at the drainage inlet.

**Impacts**
The proposed Project would result in approximately 55 linear feet of permanent impacts to 15 unnamed ephemeral drainages that discharge into the Middle Fork Eel River as a result of culvert outlet extension. The proposed project would result in 235 linear feet of temporary impacts as a result of replacement and rehabilitation of the 15 culverts. The proposed Project would have no impacts on to wetlands or riparian areas.

**Proposed Mitigation**
Compensatory mitigation is not required due to the negligible impacts to jurisdictional waters. The project will improve water quality at these sites by setting culverts to grade, increasing culvert diameter, and replacing degraded culverts that are a current threat to water quality. The Project proposes to employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent or reduce any discharges during and after construction.

**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 four debris rack installation locations.

**Construction Timing**
The Project is expected to require 120 days of construction. The Project is proposed to begin on June 15, 2017, and be completed by 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 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.

**TMDL**
The Eel River is listed identified as impaired for sediment and temperature under Clean Water Act Section 303(d). A total maximum daily load (TMDL) has been established for the Eel River. 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 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 is consistent with, and implements, BMPs that would attenuate sediment and temperature adverse impacts.

**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.