

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT
STAFF: Carmen R. Fewless
MEETING DATE: March 16, 2005

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
DEVIL'S SLIDE TUNNEL PROJECT, SAN MATEO COUNTY**

DISCUSSION: The Devil's Slide Tunnel Project (the Project) is located on the San Mateo County coast between the Town of Montara and Rockaway Beach in the City of Pacifica (Figure 1). The Project, under the lead of the California Department of Transportation, will bypass the geologically unstable area of Route 1 at Devil's Slide with twin bridges and a 4,000-foot long double bore tunnel through San Pedro Mountain with connections to the existing Route 1 at each end (Figure 2).

The Project will impact approximately 0.97 acres of waters of the State. These impacts occur in wetlands, sub-surface seepages and intermittent coastal drainages. Due to possible impacts to the California Red Legged Frog, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested that Caltrans build a new frog pond and relocate frogs from the existing pond to the newly created pond. In October 2000, Caltrans created a new 0.04-acre pond and relocated frogs. On June 16, 2004, the Board issued Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and a Water Quality Certification for the Project.

SCHEDULE: Caltrans has indicated it is on schedule, and has planned a formal groundbreaking ceremony for May 6. The Project is split into seven contracts with the following anticipated start dates:

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Anticipated Start Date</u>
1. South Rock Cut	April 2005
2. Mitigation Project for permanent and temporal impacts to wetlands	July 2005
3. Bridge Contract	September 2005
4. Tunnel Contract	April 2006
5. Operation & Maintenance Center (OMC) site	April 2006
6. Mitigation Contract for temporary impacts to wetlands related to tunnel excavation, OMC building, and North and South Portals	October 2008
7. Mitigation Contract for temporary impacts to wetlands related to Bridge construction; Shamrock Ranch dam repairs	July 2009

Wetlands creation is scheduled to begin in July 2005. According to Caltrans' construction schedule, the grading for the wetlands should be completed by the end of September or the beginning of October 2005, prior to the winter rains. Caltrans is targeting the installation of wetland and riparian plant species at the earliest time possible that is conducive to planting (January 2006). In accordance with Discharge Provision C.7 of the WDRs, Caltrans has been negotiating with the Peninsula Open Space Trust for legal authority over the land at the proposed Charthouse Mitigation site located near Montara Mountain. The parties are evaluating both Condemnation and Possession of Use alternatives for gaining legal right over the property; Caltrans would prefer the Possession of Use alternative. No wetland impacts will occur in excess of the 0.18-acre requirement as outlined in the WDR provision prior to securing legal authority over this property.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed for the South Rock Cut and for each of the related tunnel projects thereafter, and submitted to the Board prior to beginning work under each contract. Board staff expects Caltrans' submittal of the SWPPP for the South Rock Cut on March 22, 2005.

RECOMMEND- No action required.
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FILE No. 2179.7186 (CRF)

APPENDIX: Figures 1 and 2 showing Project Location Map, and Project Elements

APPENDIX

Figures

Figure Number	Title	Description
1	Devil's Slide Tunnel Project Location Map	
2	Project Elements	