
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

15 April 2016

Ms. Sheryl Carter
1243 N Street
Fresno, CA 93721-1813

APPROVAL OF THE GRASSLAND BYPASS PROJECT SEDIMENT MONITORING PLAN

Thank you for submitting the Grassland Bypass Project Sediment Monitoring Plan, as required by Order R5-2015-0094 (Order) Waste Discharge Requirements for San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Water Authority) and United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) Surface Water Discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project, on 4 January 2016 (revised on 15 March 2016). The Order requires that the Bureau and Water Authority submit a sediment monitoring plan that details plans to monitor sediment at Station D, Mud Slough (North) downstream of the San Luis Drain, biannually, for sediment toxicity to *Hyalella azteca*, total organic carbon, and grain size.

Based on the information provided in the Sediment Monitoring Plan and the enclosed staff memorandum, I approve your Sediment Monitoring Plan.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Ashley Shaddy at (916) 464-4857 or by email at Ashley.Shaddy@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

CC: Mr. Joseph McGahan, Summers Engineering, Hanford
Ms. Stacy Brown, Bureau of Reclamation, Fresno

Enclosure: Staff Review of Grassland Bypass Project Sediment Monitoring Plan – U.S.
Bureau of Reclamation and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Susan Fregien
Senior Environmental Scientist
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

FROM: Ashley Shaddy, PE
Water Resource Control Engineer
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

DATE: 22 March 2016

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF GRASSLAND BYPASS PROJECT SEDIMENT MONITORING
PLAN – U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND SAN LUIS & DELTA-
MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY

In accordance with Order R5-2015-0094 (Order) Waste Discharge Requirements for San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Water Authority) and United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) Surface Water Discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project, the Bureau and Water Authority submitted a sediment monitoring plan (SMP) on 4 January 2016. A revised plan was submitted on 15 March 2016. The Grassland Bypass Project SMP identifies the constituents to be analyzed and the schedule for sediment monitoring.

Staff reviewed the SMP for compliance with the requirements of the Order and the Monitoring and Reporting Program Attachment B to the Order.

The SMP prepared by the Bureau and Water Authority identifies the location, frequency, and constituents that will be monitored on a biannual basis in compliance with the Order. Station D, Mud Slough (North) downstream of the San Luis Drain, is the only location that must be monitored under the Order. The Bureau and Water Authority plan to monitor Station D twice a year, between 1 March and 30 April and between 15 August and 15 October, for sediment toxicity to *Hyalella azteca*, total organic carbon, and grain size. If sediment toxicity results in a 20 percent or greater reduction in the species, additional analyses will be performed for pesticides.

Monitoring and reporting efforts for the SMP will be performed primarily by the Bureau and the Grassland Area Farmers. The results of sediment monitoring will be provided to the Central Valley Water Board in semi-annual data reports and the annual monitoring report for the Grassland Bypass Project.

Staff believes that the Bureau and Water Authority have adequately detailed their plans for sediment monitoring and that the plan satisfies all of the Order requirements. Therefore, Staff recommends the SMP for approval by the Executive Officer.