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SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 21, 2012

Mr. Scott Quinnell
California Department of Transportation – District 8
464 West 4th Street
San Bernardino, California 92401

**RE: ORDER FOR TECHNICALLY-CONDITIONED CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION
401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR DISCHARGE OF DREDGED
AND/OR FILL MATERIALS**

PROJECT: California Department of Transportation – District 8, Caltrans US-95 Curve
Realignment Project, WDID No. 7B363028001

APPLICANT: California Department of Transportation – District 8

- ACTION:**
- 1. Order for Standard Certification
 - 2. Order for Technically-Conditioned Certification
 - 3. Order for Denial of Certification

STANDARD CONDITIONS:

The following standard conditions apply to all certification actions, except as noted above under Action 3 for denials.

- 1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to section 13330 of the California Water Code and section 3867 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR).
- 2. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR section 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

ELLEN WAY, CHAIR | ROBERT PERDUE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3. The validity of any non-denial certification action (Actions 1 and 2) shall be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required under 23 CCR section 3833, unless otherwise stated in writing by the certifying agency.
4. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions as provided for under State law. For purposes of Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401(d), the applicability of any State law authorizing remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Water Quality Certification (WQC).
 - a. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this WQC, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Regional Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including cost of the reports, shall be in reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
 - b. In response to any violation of the conditions of this WQC, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

The following additional conditions apply to this certification:

1. This WQC applies towards the proposed project (Project) as described in the 401 application received by the Regional Water Board on October 10, 2012 and additional information was received on November 16, 2012.
2. The Applicant shall provide the Regional Water Board and other interested agencies with written notification of any significant modifications made to the Project prior to implementation of the modifications.
3. This WQC does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
4. This WQC does not authorize the Applicant or any associated party to trespass on any land or property unless the applicant has obtained written authorization or acquired a special use authorization permit from the land or property owner.

5. A copy of this WQC shall be provided to the appropriate onsite Supervisor for the Project. All personnel performing work on the proposed Project shall be familiar with the content of this WQC. Copies of the WQC shall be readily available at the Project site at all times during periods of active work and shall be presented to regulatory agency representatives upon request.
6. The Applicant shall grant Regional Water Board staff, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to enter the Project site at reasonable times, to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of this WQC and/or to determine the impacts the Project may have on waters of the United States.
7. The proposed Project shall not be enlarged or extend beyond the proposed Project impact area. The Applicant shall delineate the Project boundaries and staging areas with stakes, flags and/or temporary construction fencing.
8. The area of vegetation and soil disturbance shall be restricted to the smallest extent possible.
9. The Project shall not discharge substances in concentrations toxic to human, plant, animal, or aquatic life or that produce detrimental physiological responses.
10. The Project shall not discharge waste classified as "hazardous" as defined in Title 23 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 2521, California Health and Safety Code section 25140, and Title 22, CCR, section 66260.10 et seq.
11. No oil, petroleum products, or rubbish shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into waters of the United States.
12. No equipment maintenance will be done within or near any stream channel where petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter waters of the United States.
13. Equipment refueling shall not occur within waters of the United States.
14. Any oil or grease leaks shall be immediately cleaned up.
15. The Applicant shall ensure that all contaminated material and/or contaminated soil removed or excavated from the Project site is properly loaded, transported, and disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations.
16. Staging/storage areas for equipment and materials shall be located outside of waters of the United States.

17. The Applicant shall ensure that all disturbed and filled areas are adequately stabilized and protected from erosion and siltation by implementing appropriate soil stabilization, sedimentation and silt control measures.
18. Any flow diversion used during construction shall be designed in a manner to prevent pollution, minimize siltation, and shall provide flows to downstream reaches. Flows shall be maintained to support existing aquatic life and riparian wetlands and habitat that may be located upstream and downstream from any temporary diversion.
19. The Applicant shall restore drainages, to the greatest extent possible, to the original bank configuration, stream bottom width, and channel gradient.
20. All temporary facilities and impacts shall be removed and restored to the preexisting conditions and contours to the extent practicable.
21. Construction related materials and wastes shall be removed from the Project site upon completion of the Project.
22. The Applicant shall submit Notice to the Regional Water Board within 60-days of completion of the Project. The Notice shall include: 1) a detailed summary of the mitigation and restoration activities implemented during the Project and 2) provide photographic documentation that supports the information summarized in the Notice.
23. The Regional Water Board reserves the right to suspend, cancel, or modify and reissue this WQC, after providing notice to the Applicant and/or responsible Site-Supervisor, if the Regional Water Board determines that the Project fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this WQC.
24. The Applicant shall orally notify the Regional Water Board of any noncompliance that may impact the beneficial uses of waters of the United States, as soon as notification is possible and notification can be provided without substantially impeding measures necessary to address the noncompliance.

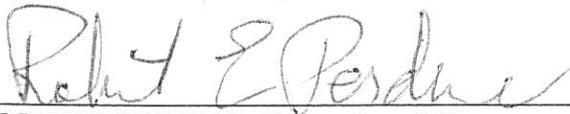
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONTACT PERSON:

If you have any questions, please contact Jay Mirpour, Water Resources Control Engineer, at (760) 776-8981 or jmirpour@waterboards.ca.gov.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:

I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced Project will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicants' Project description and the attached Project Information Sheet, and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan).



ROBERT PERDUE, Executive Officer
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

JJM/

cc: James E. Mace, USACE Los Angeles, Regulatory Division
Bill Orme, SWRCB, Division of Water Quality, Water Quality Certification Unit
Elizabeth Goldmann, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Thomas A. Vandenberg, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB

File: California Department of Transportation – District 8, Caltrans US-95 Curve
Realignment Project, WDID No. 7B363028001

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Note: (*) will e-mail electronic copy

PROJECT INFORMATION

Application Date: The original application was submitted on October 10, 2012 and additional information was received on November 16, 2012.

Applicant: California Department of Transportation – District 8
Contact: Mr. Scott Quinnell, (909) 383 6936

Applicant Representative: California Department of Transportation – District 8
Contact: Mr. Josh Jaffery, (909) 383 6386

Project Name: California Department of Transportation – District 8, Caltrans US-95 Curve Realignment Project, WDID No. 7B363028001

Start and Completion: Construction will occur between August 1, 2013 and August 1, 2014.

Project Description: To improve sight distance by eliminating crest vertical curves within the project limits (from post mile (PM) 51.22 to 51.65 and the addition of paved shoulders throughout the project limits. Under existing conditions, motorists approach the combination of horizontal and vertical curves with restricted sight distances following a long straight segment of the highway at a greater speed than the advisory warning signs posted speed (50 mph), which results in vehicle overturning, loss of control or running off the roadway. Accident rates for this segment of US-95 within the project limits are much higher than the average rate for a similar facility. Project activities will provide more space for motorists to negotiate the curve.

Caltrans proposes to construct a flatter vertical curve by realigning the highway horizontally to the east of existing US-95. The improvements will consist of constructing two 12 foot Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) lanes with two 8 foot HMA shoulders and restriping the centerline for no passing from PM 51.22 to 51.65. Caltrans will use typical equipment for the project, including excavators, backhoes, trucks, rollers, and paving machines. The existing lanes will be utilized for traffic while the new alignment is constructed.

Project Location: US-95 near Needles, San Bernardino County, California
Longitude/ Latitude: 114°36' 4.9" W; 34° 44' 46.16" N
Township/Range: S32/T8N/R23E

Acres and Linear Feet impacted:

Streambed Unvegetated (permanent) 0.13 acres and 247 linear feet

Dredge: N/A

Receiving Water(s): Ephemeral desert washes as part of a dry land fluvial system with a downstream connection to the Colorado River

Federal Permit(s): The project was determined to fall under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, Nationwide Permit (NWP) 14 – (Linear Transportation Projects).

Status of CEQA: February 6, 2012, a Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Lead Agency: Caltrans. State Clearinghouse Number: 2011111051

File: California Department of Transportation – District 8, Caltrans US-95 Curve Realignment Project, WDID No. 7B363028001