
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 9, 2012

Mr. Donald Vargas, Environmental Specialist
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
Imperial, CA 92251-1773

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

PROJECT: This federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) (33 U.S.C. § 1341) is written for the Imperial Irrigation District - The 230-kV Transmission Imperial Valley to Dixieland Line and Expansion of Substations Project (WDID No. 7A133124001)

APPLICANT: Imperial Irrigation District

- 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.

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 projects (Project) as described in the 401 applications received by the Regional Water Board on December 22, 2011. The complete application was received on April 3, 2012.

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.

2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The area of vegetation and soil disturbance shall be restricted to the smallest extent possible.
8. The Project shall not discharge substances in concentrations toxic to human, plant, animal, or aquatic life or that produce detrimental physiological responses.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Equipment refueling shall not occur within waters of the United States.
13. Any oil or grease leaks shall be immediately cleaned up.
14. 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.
15. Staging/storage areas for equipment and materials shall be located outside of waters of the United States.

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. The Applicant shall restore drainages, to the greatest extent possible, to the original bank configuration, stream bottom width, and channel gradient.
19. All temporary facilities and impacts shall be removed and restored to the preexisting conditions and contours to the extent practicable.
20. Construction related materials and wastes shall be removed from the Project site upon completion of the Project.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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: Shanti Santulli, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Diego Section
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: Imperial Irrigation District - The 230-kV Transmission Imperial Valley to Dixieland Line and Expansion of Substations Project, WDID No. 7A133124001

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Note: (*) will e-mail electronic copy

PROJECT INFORMATION

Application Date: Applications were received on December 22, 2011.
The complete application was received on April 3, 2012.

Applicant: Imperial Irrigation District
Contact: Donald Vargas, (760) 482-3609

Applicant Representative: AECOM
Joshua Zinn, (619) 764-6829

Project Name: Imperial Irrigation District - The 230-kV Transmission
Imperial Valley to Dixieland Line and Expansion of
Substations Project, WDID No. 7A133124001

Project Start and Completion: Construction will occur between April 30, 2012 and October 1, 2012.

Project Description (purpose/goal):

Currently, the Imperial irrigation District (IID) maintains a single interconnection between the electrical transmission systems maintained by IID and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). This interconnection occurs via IID's "S" Line, which is a 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line extending between SDG&E's Imperial Valley (IV) Substation and IID's El Centro Switching Station. The El Centro Switching Station is located within the city limits of El Centro, approximately 12 miles northeast of the project. This is the only transmission line that connects IID's power-generation resources with SDG&E's transmission system. The proposed double-circuit 230-kV transmission line between the IV and Dixieland Substations will provide a second interconnection between the IID and SDG&E systems, which will improve reliability through redundancy.

The IID project would be implemented to improve interconnection of the electrical transmission system in Imperial Valley by constructing a 230-kV transmission line between the IV and Dixieland Substations. In addition to the transmission lines, a new Liebert Substation would be constructed along the transmission line route just north of the IV Substation, and the Dixieland Substation would be expanded.

Project Location:

City or area: El Centro, Imperial County, California
Longitude/ Latitude: 32° 44' 22.46"N -115° 45' 49.54"W
Township/Range:
T 16 ½ S/ R 12 E/ Section 3, T 16 S/ R12 E/Section 34, T 16
S/ R12 E/Section 33, T 16 S/ R12 E/Section 32, T 16 S/ R12
E/Section 30, T 16 S/ R12 E/Section 19, T 16 S/ R12
E/Section 24, T 16 S/ R12 E/Section 13, T 16 S/ R11
E/Section 12, T 16 S/ R12 E/Section 7

Fill/Excavation Area (acres):

0.0002 acre (5 linear feet) permanent and 0.32 acre (1150 linear feet) temporary of waters of the United States will be impacted during this activity.

Receiving Water(s): The Yuha Wash (indirect) and the Westside Main Canal (indirect)

Dredge Volume (cy): 3.30 cubic yards

Best Management Practices:

1. No creation of maintenance roads would occur (no new grading in jurisdictional waters).
 2. No grading of access roads that traverse jurisdictional waters of the U.S. would occur.
 3. Cribbing (or other suitable material) would be placed in jurisdictional waters during the construction phase (for heavy equipment to cross) to minimize temporary impacts to unvegetated ephemeral washes.
 4. Avoidance of jurisdictional waters has been incorporated into the construction phase, as established roads, which are outside of jurisdictional waters, will be used. This would create a detour around ephemeral washes
 5. Placement of new utility poles was designed to avoid jurisdictional waters to the greatest extent practicable.
- The project does not propose to discharge pollutants into any surface or ground waters.

Measures outlined in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be incorporated during the construction process to avoid potential temporarily impact to

water quality. To avoid and minimize impacts to water quality, the proposed project would be required to incorporate best management practices into the project design, which would be part of the project's SWPPP. Construction BMPs would be specifically developed to control the effects of construction related project activities and equipment operations and maintenance to regulate disturbances to limited upland work areas.

The following BMPs would be implemented during project construction activities:

- Detention basin (sediment catch basin)
- Pumped water filter bags
- Catch basin inserts
- Filter fabric fencing
- Tire washes
- Sandbag flow diverter berms
- Interceptor swales

The following administrative measures would also be employed:

- Construction near or within ephemeral washes and swale features would occur during the dry season.
- Mud and soil tracked onto roadways would be removed daily.
- Sediment-laden groundwater encountered during trenching, boring, or other excavation activities would be pumped to a water filter bag prior to being discharged into a swale or inlet.
- Where construction or land-disturbing activity will or has temporarily been ceased on any portion of a site, temporary site stabilization measures would be required as soon as practicable, but no later than 14 days after the activity has ceased.
- Dust-suppression techniques would be in place during demolition and construction events to minimize tracking and broadcasting of fugitive particulate emissions onto public roadways and across property lines.
- As construction progresses and seasonal conditions dictate, the temporary erosion-control facilities and devices would be maintained and/or altered, as required, to ensure continuing erosion and sedimentation control.

A SWPPP would be prepared by the contractor prior to construction of this. The SWPPP would identify project design features and BMPs to effectively manage drainage-related issues (e.g., erosion and sedimentation) during

construction grading and for long-term operations. These BMPs would include the following:

- Employee training program
- Erosion and sediment control
- Good housekeeping programs
- Preventive maintenance programs
- Structural BMPs
- Equipment and vehicle management practices
- Spill prevention and response programs
- Inspection programs

The project avoided impacts to washes through avoidance design. Washes and swales were avoided to the maximum extent possible. Established access roads (creating a significant detour) would be used rather than driving through desert aquatic features where applicable (Attachment 2). Grading and/or creation of a permanent maintenance road would not be conducted within wash or swale features. Cribbing or suitable material would be placed into desert aquatic features during construction to minimize and avoid impacts to jurisdictional features from repeated crossing of heavy construction equipment.

Federal Permit(s):

This Project was determined to fall under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit Number 12 (Utility Line Activities).

Status of CEQA:

A Notice of Determination was prepared for this Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA on November 15, 2011. Lead Agency: Imperial Irrigation District, State Clearinghouse Number: 2010121019.

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