



Matt Rodriguez
Secretary for
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**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Geoffrey M. Hales, Chairman**

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

August 03, 2011

In the Matter of

Water Quality Certification

For the

**Sonoma County Water Agency
Airport Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Treatment Facility
Modifications and Construction of Fleet Services Building Project
WDID No. 1B11063WNSO**

APPLICANT: Sonoma County Water Agency
RECEIVING WATER: Redwood Creek
HYDROLOGIC AREA: Mark West Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.23, Russian River
Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00
COUNTY: Sonoma
FILE NAME: SCWA, Airport Larkfield-Wikiup Treatment Facility
Modification and Construction of Fleet Services Building

BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

1. On May 4, 2011, Ms. Yvette O'Keefe of the Sonoma County Water Agency (Applicant), filed an application for water quality certification (certification) under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) for activities associated with the Airport Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Treatment Facility Modifications and Construction of Fleet Services Building Project (project). The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858 on June 6, 2011, and posted information describing the project on the Regional Water Board's website. Several comments were received, with suggested improvements for the project. Regional Water Board carefully considered all comments received.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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2. The project site is located at the Sonoma County Water Agency Airport Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Treatment Facility, 2025 Aviation Boulevard in the City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California (APN 059-271-002).
3. The purpose of the project is to construct a new fleet vehicle service center building and other facilities, modify existing structures, resurface paved areas, and increase available parking space. All construction will be conducted within the footprint of the existing treatment facility, in developed and previously disturbed areas. Construction is planned to last approximately 2 weeks and is expected to take place during Fall of 2011, when there is no flow present.
4. South east of the treatment facility buildings, 3.280 acres of open field will be converted into a gravel parking area (Parking Area B) and Storage Area. Parallel to the open field is a previously constructed and maintained drainage. Flows from the maintained drainage enter a culvert which flows into the adjacent Redwood Creek. 0.2166 acres of linear wetlands were identified within the maintained drainage of which, 0.021 acre (900 square feet) will be modified by; extending/replacing the existing 20-foot culvert with a 60-foot, 24-inch, high-density polyethylene culvert, filling a portion of the drainage with native soil, and installing two storm water inlet structures. The purpose of the maintained drainage modification is for improvement of flood control.
5. Mitigation will include post-construction stormwater treatment features for the gravel parking area with the incorporation of a 30-foot setback from the top of the modified drainage. The 30-foot setback will be a vegetated buffer strip (grass) to filter stormwater run-off from the gravel parking area before it enters the maintained drainage; therefore, the area will be graded to allow stormwater run-off to flow to the vegetated buffer strip treatment prior to entering the maintained drainage.
6. The Sonoma County Water Agency will implement applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs), as outlined in their *Stream Maintenance Program Manual* (SCWA, 2009), to avoid or minimize potential construction impacts. The work area will be isolated within the footprint of the maintained drainage using silt fencing and wattles. Non-compensatory mitigation for this project includes re-vegetation of disturbed areas as appropriate, the use of BMPs for sediment and turbidity control, to ensure that materials do not enter the waterway, and the removal of non-native riparian vegetation.
7. New building construction (6,375 square foot) will be limited to areas of existing hardscape and will incorporate landscape based Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater features for the purpose of treating stormwater runoff.

8. Drainage from the equipment wash pad and grease trap will be directed to the sanitary sewer.
9. The Applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (File number 2011-00133N) to perform the project under an individual permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404.
10. The California Department of Fish and Game indicated a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement is not required for the project.
11. The project is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b). The project meets the exemption criteria under title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15301 [Existing Facilities]; section 15302 [Replacement or Reconstruction]; 15303 [New Construction]; 15304 [Minor Alterations to Land; and section 15311 [Accessory Structures]. The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15062 after issuance of this order.

Because the Project involves construction that may adversely affect waters of the State, the Regional Water Board has regulatory jurisdiction under Water Code Section 13269.

Receiving Waters: Unnamed tributary to Redwood Creek, Mark West
Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.23, Russian River Hydrologic
Unit No. 114.00

Filled or Excavated Area: Permanent Impacts to 0.021 acres/40 linear feet of linear
drainage

Latitude/Longitude: 38.51665° N/122.805378° W

Accordingly, based on its independent review of the record, the Regional Water Board certifies that the Sonoma County Water Agency Airport Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Treatment Facility Modifications and Construction of Fleet Services Building Project (WDID No.1B11063WNSO), as described in the application, will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of state law, provided that the Applicant complies with the following terms and conditions:

1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review; including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3867.
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 title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3855, subdivision (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 this certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3833, and owed by the Applicant.
4. The Regional Water Board staff shall be notified in writing at least five working days (working days are Monday – Friday) prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities, with details regarding the construction schedule, in order to allow staff to be present onsite during construction, and to answer any public inquiries that may arise regarding the project.
5. The Applicant shall provide Regional Water Board staff access to the project site to document compliance with this certification.
6. Construction access will be limited to existing hardscape and upland grass areas.
7. The Russian River is identified as impaired on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. The Russian River is listed as impaired for sediment and temperature. At present, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) have not been established for this water body. If TMDLs are established and implementation plans are adopted for this watershed prior to the expiration date of this Order, the Regional Water Board may revise the provisions of this Order to address actions identified in such action plans. Roads and bank erosion are identified as sources contributing to the sediment impairment. Removal of riparian vegetation is identified as a source contributing to temperature impairment. Actions authorized by this Order require implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment control at the project site. Accordingly, this Order is consistent with, and implements BMPs that would attenuate sediment adverse impacts.
8. Pursuant to Regional Water Board Resolution R1-2004-0087, Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Policy Statement for Sediment-Impaired Receiving Waters within the North Coast Region (Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy), the Executive Officer is directed to “rely on the use of all available authorities, including existing regulatory standards, and permitting and enforcement tools to more effectively and efficaciously pursue compliance with sediment-related standards by all dischargers of sediment waste.”
9. The federal antidegradation policy requires that state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State

Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Resolution No. 68-16 incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Regional Water Board's Basin Plan implements, and incorporates by reference, both the state and federal antidegradation policies. This Order is consistent with applicable federal and state antidegradation policies, as it does not authorize the discharge of increased concentrations of pollutants or increased volumes of treated wastewater, and does not otherwise authorize degradation of the waters affected by this project.

10. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification," which requires compliance with all conditions of this water quality certification (Enclosed).
11. Prior to implementing any change to the project that may have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Order, the Applicant shall obtain the written approval of the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. If the Regional Water Board is not notified of a significant alteration to the project, it will be considered a violation of this Order, and the Applicant may be subject to Regional Water Board enforcement action(s).
12. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Order and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ to any contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility company(ies) conducting work on the project, and shall require that copies remain in their possession at the work site. The Applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all work conducted by its contractor(s), subcontractor(s), and utility companies is performed in accordance with the information provided by the Applicant to the Regional Water Board.
13. The Applicant shall construct the project in accordance with the project described in the application and the findings above, and shall comply with all applicable water quality standards as detailed in the Basin Plan.
14. BMPs for erosion, sediment and turbidity control shall be implemented and in place at commencement of, during and after any ground clearing activities or any other project activities that could result in erosion or sediment discharges to surface waters. All BMPs shall be installed properly and in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
15. The Applicant shall prioritize the use of wildlife-friendly biodegradable (not photo-degradable) erosion control products wherever feasible. The Applicant shall not use or allow the use of erosion control products that contain synthetic materials

within waters of the United States or waters of the State at any time. The Applicant shall not use or allow the use of erosion control products that contain synthetic netting for permanent erosion control (i.e. erosion control materials to be left in place for two years or after the completion date of the project). If the Applicant finds that erosion control netting or products have entrapped or harmed wildlife, personnel shall remove the netting or product and replace it with wildlife-friendly biodegradable products. The Applicant shall request approval from the Regional Water Board if an exception from this requirement is needed for a specific location.

16. Disturbance or removal of existing vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the project.
17. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete washings, oil or petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature, other than that authorized by this Order, shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall into waters of the State. When operations are completed, any excess material or debris shall be removed from the work area.
18. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or threatened discharge to any waters of the State including dry portions of the streambank and streambed. At no time shall the Applicant or its contractors allow use of any vehicle or equipment, which leaks any substance that may impact water quality.
19. If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface water (including wetlands, rivers or streams) occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented including stopping work. The Regional Water Board shall be notified promptly and in no case more than 24 hours after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
20. The Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order, as appropriate, to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted and approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
21. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under applicable state or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, 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

Order. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the State Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this Order to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the State Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In response to any violation of the conditions of this Order, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Order as appropriate to ensure compliance.

22. In the event of any change in control of ownership of land presently owned or controlled by the Applicant, the Applicant shall notify the successor-in-interest of the existence of this Order by letter and shall forward a copy of the letter to the Regional Water Board at the above address.

To discharge dredged or fill material under this Order, the successor-in-interest must send to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer a written request for transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, and the address and telephone number of the person(s) responsible for contact with the Regional Water Board. The request must also describe any changes to the project proposed by the successor-in-interest or confirm that the successor-in-interest intends to implement the project as described in this Order.

23. Except as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on: a) the discharge being limited to and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the Applicant's project description, and b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).
24. The authorization of this certification for any dredge and fill activities expires on August 3, 2016. Conditions and monitoring requirements outlined in this Order are not subject to the expiration date outlined above, and remain in full effect and are enforceable.

If you have any questions or comments please call Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653.

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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Weblink: State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017 -DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification can be found at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

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