



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Santa Ana Region



3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, California 92501-3348  
(951) 782-4130 • FAX (951) 781-6288  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana>

Matthew Rodriguez  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

October 12, 2011

Jeremy Hampton  
Orange County Parks  
13042 Old Myford Road  
Irvine, CA 92602-2304

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS  
CERTIFICATION FOR THE LOFTUS BASIN MAINTENANCE PROJECT, COUNTY  
OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA (ACOE REFERENCE NO. NOT AVAILABLE)  
(SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 302011-20)**

Dear Mr. Hampton:

On May 23, 2011, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from Orange County Parks for various maintenance activities within Loftus Basin. This letter responds to your request for certification that the proposed project, described in your application and summarized below, will comply with State water quality standards outlined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (1995) (Basin Plan) and subsequent Basin Plan amendments:

**Project Description:** Maintenance operations would consist of construction equipment entering the basin from existing access roads and removing the sediment in order to achieve the design grade elevations. Excessive sediment and debris has accumulated as a result of heavy seasonal rains. The project will restore flood storage capacity in Loftus Basin, prevent downstream recreation waters from experiencing increased sedimentation, and prevent accumulation of sediment from interfering with operations of Fullerton Dam. The work will take place within Section 13 of Township 3 South, Range 10 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *La Habra* quadrangle map (33° 54' 30" N/ 117° 52' 53" W).

**Receiving water:** Loftus Basin, Craig Regional Park Lake, Fullerton Creek, Coyote Creek, San Gabriel River

*California Environmental Protection Agency*

Fill area: 0.10 acres of temporary impact to wetland habitat; 3.15 acres of temporary impact to streambed habitat

Dredge/Fill volume: 17,376 cubic yards

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 31

You have proposed to mitigate water quality impacts as described in your Certification application. The proposed mitigation is summarized below:

Onsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- Standard water quality related best management practices (BMPs) will be employed during construction activities.

Offsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- None

Should the proposed project impact state- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, implementation of measures identified in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game will ensure those impacts are mitigated to an acceptable level. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented to reduce construction-related impacts to Waters of the State according to the requirements of Order No. R8-2009-0030 (NPDES Permit No. CAS618030), commonly known as the Orange County Municipal Storm Water Permit, and subsequent iterations thereof. Order No. R8-2009-0030 requires that you substantially comply with the requirements of State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Orange County Parks and the Regional Board have determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from provisions of CEQA according to Guidelines Section 15301 for maintenance of existing facilities that does not expand existing uses.

**This 401 Certification is contingent upon the execution of the following conditions:**

- 1) The applicant must comply with the requirements of the applicable Clean Water Act section 404 permit.
- 2) Temporarily impacted wetland and streambed habitats shall be allowed to revegetate through passive, natural recruitment of emergent native riparian species and periodic removal of non-native and/or invasive plant species.
- 3) All materials generated from construction activities associated with this project shall be managed appropriately. This shall include identifying all potential pollution sources within the scope of work of this project, and incorporating all necessary pollution prevention BMPs as they relate to each potential pollution source identified.
- 4) The project proponent shall utilize Best Management Practices during project construction to minimize the controllable discharges of sediment and other wastes to drainage systems or other waters of the state and of the United States.
- 5) Substances resulting from project-related activities that could be harmful to aquatic life, including, but not limited to, petroleum lubricants and fuels, cured and uncured cements, epoxies, paints and other protective coating materials, portland cement concrete or asphalt concrete, and washings and cuttings thereof, shall not be discharged to soils or waters of the state. All waste concrete shall be removed.
- 6) Motorized equipment shall not be maintained or parked within or near any stream crossing, channel or lake margin in such a manner that petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas under any flow conditions. Vehicles shall not be driven or equipment operated in waters of the state on-site, except as necessary to complete the proposed project. No equipment shall be operated in areas of flowing water.

Under California Water Code, Section 1058, and Pursuant to 23 CCR §3860, the following shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions:

- (a) Every certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section §13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with Section 3867) of this Chapter.

(b) Certification is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to Subsection §3855(b) of this Chapter and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

(c) Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under this Chapter and owed by the applicant.

If the above stated conditions are changed, any of the criteria or conditions as previously described are not met, or new information becomes available that indicates a water quality problem, the Regional Board may require the applicant to submit a report of waste discharge and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements.

In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For 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 certification. Violations of the conditions of this certification may subject the applicant to civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 13350 and/or 13385.

This letter constitutes a Water Quality Standards Certification issued pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. 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. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ (Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ), "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Standards Certification. Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ is available at:  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2003/wqo/wqo\\_2003-0017.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo_2003-0017.pdf)

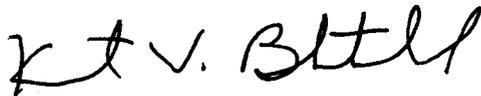
Jeremy Hampton  
Orange County Parks

- 5 -

October 12, 2011

Should there be any questions, please contact Marc Brown at (951) 321-4584, or Mark Adelson at (951) 782-3234.

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold  
Executive Officer  
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

cc (via electronic mail):

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office – Jason Lambert  
Department of Fish and Game – Russell Barabe  
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel – David Rice  
U.S. EPA – Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory Office WTR- 8  
State Water Resources Control Board DWQ – Water Quality Certification Unit  
RBF Consulting – Chris Johnson – [chrisjohnson@rbf.com](mailto:chrisjohnson@rbf.com)

x:\401\certifications\loftus\_basin\_maintenance\_302011-20\_12oct11.doc