



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Santa Ana Region



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

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

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

August 29, 2011

Rich Haller  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
11615 Sterling Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92503

**AMENDMENT OF CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS CERTIFICATION: SANTA ANA REGIONAL INTERCEPTOR (SARI) REPAIRS UPSTREAM OF PRADO DAM (REACHES IV-A AND IV-B) PROJECT, PRADO DAM AREA, COUNTIES OF RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA (Our File No. 33-2009-14)**

Dear Mr. Haller:

This is in reply to your August 11, 2011, request to amend the December 21, 2010, Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality standards certification (401 Certification), No. 33-2009-14 for the SARI Reaches IV-A and IV-B repair project. The project receiving 401 Certification is for the repair and strengthening of the SARI pipeline in the area behind Prado Dam.

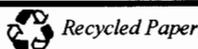
You have requested the amendment to allow approximately 2,000 feet of the project's 20-foot wide access roads to be raised by a maximum of 3 feet. Approximately 1,000 cubic yards of fill material will be placed and compacted to raise the road. This road work is needed to prevent flooding of SARI repair work sites caused by rising water levels on Chino Creek. A July 31, 2011 monsoon rain caused the creek to rise, flooding the access road in certain sections, as shown in photographs that were submitted with the amendment request. The photographs and map submitted by SAWPA show that the flooded access road section is just north of the base of Prado Dam, along Chino Creek.

The fill material will be taken from several small knolls located at the base of the dam near the section of access road that is to be raised. The access road width footprint will remain the same as identified in the original project description. Once the project is completed, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) will ensure that temporarily widened roads are re-vegetated<sup>1</sup>, as required for the original project by the resource agencies.

You have stated that environmental impacts associated with the project will be negligible, as prior biological surveys in this area indicate no suitable habitat for listed species. Regional Board staff noted that the submitted photographs show that much of

<sup>1</sup> The original project required that the roads be initially constructed 20 ft. wide and then to allow vegetation to grow back or re-vegetate so the roads will be 10 ft. wide after the repair of the SARI line.

**California Environmental Protection Agency**



the area directly behind the dam currently exhibits low growing vegetation free of riparian trees. A photograph also shows that the small knolls proposed as borrow sites have little or no vegetation. Carlos Quintero of your agency recently reported to Regional Board Staff that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is requiring an informal consultation concerning the change to the project that involves raising the access road.

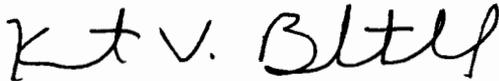
This letter constitutes an amendment to the 401 Certification referenced above. The discharge of fill described above is hereby included in the 401 certification for the project.

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

1. During project construction, the project proponent is required to utilize Best Management Practices to minimize the controllable discharges of sediment to drainage systems or other waters of the state and of the United States;
2. This amendment applies only to the proposed project and all other terms and conditions of the subject 401 Certification remain in effect.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Woelfel at [dwoelfel@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwoelfel@waterboards.ca.gov) or (951) 321-4584 or Mark Adelson at [madelson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:madelson@waterboards.ca.gov) or (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  
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel – David Rice  
State Water Resources Control Board DWQ – Water Quality Certification Unit  
California Department of Fish and Game – Kim Freeburn