



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Santa Ana Region



Linda S. Adams
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

April 25, 2011

Zandra Marrero
Southern California Gas Company
1981 W. Lugonia Ave, SC 8031
Redlands, CA 92374

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR THE LINE 41-05, RECHE CANYON EXPOSURE PROJECT,
COLTON, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA (ACOE REFERENCE NO. NOT
AVAILABLE) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 332010-31)**

Dear Ms. Marrero:

On December 22, 2010, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from Southern California Gas Company to eliminate a 20-foot length of exposed 12-inch natural gas pipeline through an unnamed wash along Reche Canyon Road. 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: Erosion repairs are necessary to re-cover a Southern California Gas Company (SCG) owned 12-inch pipeline (Line 43-05) that crosses an unnamed creek along Reche Canyon Road. The pipeline has become exposed through natural erosion processes of the creek. SCG will install a drop-section of the pipe to protect it from further exposure and prevent potential damage to it from winter flows and debris within the flows. SCG crews will stop the flow of gas by installing a shut-off valve on the west side of the exposure site, by digging a 6-ft by 6-ft bell hole to expose the line and install the fitting. A backhoe will be used to excavate existing vegetation, which will be conserved by wrapping the root balls of the excavated plants in burlap, storing the conserved plants on site and re-planting them after the project is completed.

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Once vegetation is cleared, a backhoe will be used to expose the rest of the pipe within the creek. Crew will then cut and remove the pipe, allowing the backhoe to excavate a 2-foot wide by 10-foot deep trench through the 45-foot wide wash. A drop section of the pipe will be pre-manufactured off-site, to install after the excavation has been completed. The new section will be within the same footprint of the current line, however, 10 feet below the current bed of the creek. The work will take place within Section 18, of Township 2 South, Range 3 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Sunnymead* quadrangle map (33.99250° N/ 117.23090° W).

Receiving water:	Unnamed creek parallel to Reche Canyon Road, tributary to Santa Ana River
Fill area:	0.052 acres of temporary impact to streambed habitat (50 linear feet)
Dredge/Fill volume:	33.3 cubic yards
Federal permit:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 12

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.
- Temporarily remove approximately 28 California buckwheat plants within the 50 ft by 50 ft project area and replant each in the same location upon project completion.
- After the project is completed, the project site will be restored to pre-project conditions, which includes compaction of utility trench, re-planting of conserved vegetation and re-contouring of the channel.
- A one-year, long-term, project specific SCG Operation and Maintenance program will include maintenance and monitoring of transplanted vegetation, to ensure each plant's survival. Any transplanted plants that do not survive the first year will be replaced with 1-gallon plants (same species) and monitored for one year to ensure the community is self sustaining and stable.

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. R8-2010-0033 (NPDES Permit No. CAS618033), commonly known as the Riverside County Municipal Storm Water Permit, and subsequent iterations thereof. Order No. R8-2010-0033 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), Southern California Gas Company filed a CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 "Class1" Categorical Exemption, which declares that the project involves the operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of public/private structures that result in a negligible expansion of uses. The pipeline's configuration and uses will remain unchanged and the proposed project will not expand the pipeline beyond its original design capacity. The Regional Board has considered the SCG's Categorical Exemption in the issuance of this Certification and independently finds that a categorical exemption is appropriate for this project.

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) A copy of this Certification and any subsequent amendments must be maintained on site for the duration of work, as a denoted element of the project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP).
- 3) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.

- 4) This Water Quality Certification is subject to the acquisition of all local, regional, state, and federal permits and approvals as required by law. Failure to meet any conditions contained herein or any the conditions contained in any other permit or approval issued by the State of California or any subdivision thereof may result in the revocation of this Certification and civil or criminal liability.
- 5) 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.
- 6) The project proponent shall utilize BMPs 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.
- 7) 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, and debris from metal welding or cutting, shall not be discharged to soils or waters of the state. All waste concrete shall be removed.
- 8) 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.
- 9) Construction de-watering discharges, including temporary stream diversions necessary for project construction may be regulated under Regional Board Order No. R8-2009-0003, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters that Pose an Insignificant (De Minimus) Threat to Water Quality. For more information, please review Order No. R8-2009-0003 at www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/

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.

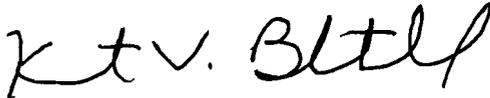
In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean 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

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 – Stephen Estes
State Water Resources Control Board, OCC – David Rice
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ – Water Quality Certification Unit
California Department of Fish and Game – Anna Milloy
U.S. EPA – Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory Office WTR- 8

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