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Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 13, 2012

Loanna Huynh
California Department of Transportation
3347 Michelson Drive Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92612

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS CERTIFICATION FOR THE SR-55 AND I-405 DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROJECT, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (ACOE REFERENCE NO. NOT AVAILABLE) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 302012-02)

Dear Ms. Huynh:

On January 23, 2012, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from the California Department of Transportation for projects to repair and maintain structural integrity and capacity of concrete lined drainage ditches and channels along SR-55 and I-405, in Orange County. 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: The proposed project scope is to remove broken sections of concrete drainage ditches and channels, and replace with new concrete. The proposed dimensions and locations are:

Drainage 1: 0.027 acre; located on southbound State Route 55 north of Main Street.

Drainage 2: 0.0028 acre; located on southbound Interstate Freeway 405 at State Route 55 connector road.

Drainage 3: 0.0058 acre; located on southbound Interstate Freeway 405 at Mac Arthur Boulevard on-ramp.

Drainage 4: 0.0057 acre; located on northbound Interstate Freeway 405 at Irvine Center Drive on-ramp.

CAROLE H. BESWICK, CHAIR | KURT V. BERCHTOLD, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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The work will take place within the Section 9 of Township 5 South, Range 9 West of the U.S. Geological Survey *Tustin* quadrangle map (33° 41' 22.10" N/ -117° 52' 16.77" W).

Receiving water:	Un-named concrete lined ditches and channels tributary to Delhi Channel, Lane Channel, and San Diego Creek
Fill area:	0.041 acres of temporary impact to poor quality aquatic habitat (concrete-lined drainage ditches and channels)
Dredge/Fill volume:	N/A
Federal permit:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 33

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, including the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP).

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Department of Transportation has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from provisions of CEQA according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 exemption) for maintenance that does not expand existing uses. The Regional Board has independently evaluated the applicability of a Class 1 CEQA exemption to this project, and is in agreement that the project qualifies for this exemption.

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) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) If construction dewatering is necessary to carry out this project, the applicant shall enroll in and comply with Regional Board Order No. 2009-0003, NPDES No. CAG998001, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters that Pose an Insignificant Threat to Water Quality (DeMinimus Permit for Discharge to Surface Waters). This Order is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders/2009/09_003_deminimus_permit_wdr.pdf.
- 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) A copy of this Certification and any subsequent amendments must be maintained on site for the duration of work as a denoted element of any project SWPPP or WQMP.
- 9) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.

- 10) Applicant shall ensure that all fees associated with this project shall be paid to each respective agency prior to conducting any on-site construction activities.

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.

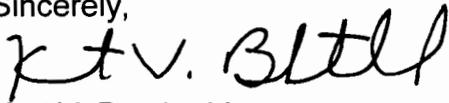
This letter constitutes a Water Quality Standards Certification issued pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced project will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related 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- Jason Lambert

State Water Resources Control Board, OCC - David Rice

California Department of Fish and Game - Russell Barabe

State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ-Water Quality Certification Unit Bill

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California Department of Transportation, District Biologist – Kedest Ketsela