
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 19, 2016

Mr. Warren D. Williams
Riverside County Flood Control and
Water Conservation District
1995 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501

**REVISED CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR SANTA ANA CANYON BELOW PRADO, INLAND EMPIRE
BRINE LINE PROTECTION PROJECT, CORONA, RIVERSIDE COUNTY (USACE
FILE NO. NOT AVAILABLE) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 332013-16)**

Dear Mr. Williams,

We received your April 18, 2016 request to revise the April 29, 2014 Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification (Certification) for the subject project. We considered your request, and revised the Certification accordingly. Revisions are shown by striking out removed text and underlining added text. Text that is neither stricken nor underlined remains unchanged. This amended Certification replaces the Certification for this project dated April 29, 2014.

On September 18, 2013, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for a project in the Santa Ana Canyon area of Corona, Riverside County. The project will reduce the risk of damage to the Santa Ana River Interceptor (SARI) Line during operation of the Santa Ana River Mainstem project. The applicant has also submitted a filing fee of \$1,440.00, which satisfies fee requirement for consideration of a 401 Certification for this project. This fee amount was determined using the Dredge and Fill Fee Calculator on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) web site, which is based on the most current iteration of California Code of Regulations, Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1, section 2200 (a) (3). 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 project entails installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet (LF) of AZ28-700 steel sheet pile to protect the existing SARI line. Construction will occur in two different locations along the existing Santa Ana River (SAR) Trail. The

easternmost portion, nearest to Prado Dam, will extend westerly approximately 2,300 linear feet, starting from a point approximately one-half mile from the USGS gauging station. The westernmost portion, approximately 3,500 feet from end of the easternmost portion, will extend approximately 200 linear feet across the outlet of Aliso Canyon.

At the Aliso Canyon stream crossing, the excavation area will be 20 feet by 30 feet. After the sheet pile is installed, rip-rap will be placed on top to within two feet of the surface. The rip-rap will then be covered with approximately two feet of earthen fill to re-create the streambed surface. To provide temporary detour access through the Project site, an access road will be graded within Aliso Creek just upstream of the Project area.

The sheet piles will be placed along the southerly edge of the SAR Trail. The sheet pile to be utilized will have a width of approximately two feet and an average toe depth of 55 feet (15 feet below scour depth). Also, as part of the project, tiebacks will be installed into the slope to secure the sheet pile. The anticipated construction footprint is 25 to 30 feet on either side of the existing SARI Line access/maintenance road, encompassing approximately 1.69 acres (for both locations).

Site access will occur from the northbound State Highway 71, via an offramp that provides access under the highway. The work will take place within Section 30 of Township 3 South, Range 7 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Prado Dam* 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map (33.884048° N/ -117.67006° W).

Receiving water:

Aliso Canyon, tributary to Santa Ana River, which has designated beneficial uses (existing or potential) that include: municipal and domestic supply (MUN), groundwater recharge ((GWR), contact recreation (REC1), non-contact recreation (REC2), warm freshwater habitat (WARM), wildlife habitat (WILD), and Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species (RARE).

Fill area:

Temporary impact to Riparian Habitat	0.043 0.055 acre	47 89 linear feet
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Dredge/Fill volume: 400 cubic yards

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit Nationwide 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.
- Following the completion of the activity, the streambed within Aliso Canyon will be restored to pre-construction contours. As noted above, approximately two feet of earthen fill will be placed on top of the installed sheet piling and rip-rap to re-create the streambed surface. Riparian vegetation removed as a result of activities along the edge of the Santa Ana River will be re-planted following the completion of Project activities.
- Prepare and implement a Regional Board approved Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) for the Aliso Canyon streambed area impacted by the temporary detour access road.

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 Wildlife 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 Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, commonly known as the State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, and subsequent iterations thereof.

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 conditions contained in any other permit or approval for this project issued by the State of California, or any subdivision thereof, may result in appropriate enforcement action, including imposition of administrative civil liability.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15096, as a responsible agency, the Regional Board is required to consider an EIR or Negative Declaration prepared by the lead agency in determining whether to approve a project. A responsible agency has responsibility for mitigating and avoiding only the direct and indirect environmental effects of those parts of the project which it decides to carry out, finance, or approve. Further, the responsible agency must make findings as required by Sections 15091 and, if necessary, 15093, for each and every significant impact of the project.

As required by Section 15096, the Regional Board has considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared for the proposed project and filed on July 3, 2013, and information provided subsequently in the applicant's application, in approving this Certification. More specifically, the Regional Board has considered those sections of the MND relating to water quality. Based on the mitigation proposed in the MND, and the conditions set forth in this Certification, impacts to water quality will be reduced to a less than significant level and beneficial uses will be protected. Thus, the Regional Board independently finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the project, which avoid or mitigate impacts to water quality to a less than significant level.

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) Proposed mitigation shall be timely implemented. Materials documenting the purchase of necessary mitigation credits shall be provided to this office prior to the discharge of fill to, or the dredging or excavation of material from, waters of the state.
- 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 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.
- 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 from the project site.

- 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) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.
- 9) Construction de-watering discharges, including temporary stream diversions necessary for project construction may be regulated under Regional Board Order No. ~~R8-2009-0003~~R8-2015-0004, 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~~R8-2015-0004 at www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/
- 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.
- 11) The applicant shall submit the HMMP prepared for the Aliso Canyon area impacts (Mitigation Area) to the Regional Board for approval. The HMMP shall include the following information: (a), a plan for management actions to occur in the Mitigation Area, including but not limited to, restoration plantings, the removal of nonnative plant species and any re-contouring of the streambed; (b), a restoration schedule including monitoring and maintenance measures; (c), the establishment of fixed photographic monitoring locations; and (d), mitigation success standards and contingency measures.
- 12) Monitoring and maintenance of the Mitigation Area shall be conducted for a minimum of five years, or until the Regional Board determines the Mitigation Area has met the performance criteria of successful restoration as set forth in the Regional Board approved HMMP. After the Mitigation Area has been completely installed, the Applicant shall submit quarterly monitoring reports to the Regional Board for the first year, and annual monitoring reports for an additional four years. The first report summarizing annual maintenance activities is due to the Regional Board no later than April 1 of the year following

the beginning of Project activities. The report shall include: (a) a summary of the annual restoration activities conducted; (b) an analysis of the changes to the vegetative community (including species present; percent cover, stem density of riparian trees and shrubs); and (c) photographs taken at the fixed monitoring locations detailed in the HMMP.

- 13) The applicant shall initiate the Aliso Canyon restoration within 30 days following completion of construction activities. If restoration is not initiated within 30 days of the completion of construction, additional mitigation may be required to offset temporal loss of waters of the U.S., however, this period may be extended to accommodate proper planting times by submitting for Regional Board authorization a written request.

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.

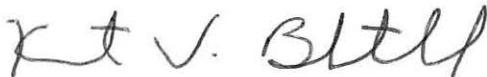
In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean 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~~ Jason Bill at (951) 321-4584 782-3295, or Mark Adelson at (951) 782-3234 Wanda Cross at (951) 782-4468.

Sincerely,



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

cc (via electronic mail):

~~Glenn Lukos Associates, Inc. — David Moskovitz —~~
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~~Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District — Mike Wong —~~
~~mwong@rcflood.org~~

~~U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office - Jason Lambert James~~
~~Mace~~

~~CA Department of Fish and Wildlife — Joanna Gibson Jeff Brandt~~

~~State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel-David Rice~~

~~State Water Resources Control Board DWQ -Water Quality Certification Unit~~

~~U.S. EPA -Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory Office WTR-8 - Jason Brush~~