



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 10, 2016

Mr. Fermin Preciado
City Engineer
City of Yucaipa
34272 Yucaipa Blvd.
Yucaipa, CA 92399

fpreciado@yucaipa.org

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR THE 5TH STREET WIDENING PROJECT, CITY OF YUCAIPA,
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA (USACE FILE NO. NOT
AVAILABLE) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 362016-12)**

Dear Mr. Preciado,

On April 20, 2016, we received from Ruth Villalobos & Associates on behalf of the City of Yucaipa (Applicant) an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") for a project to replace an existing culvert that crosses under 5th Street to convey Chicken Springs Wash with two longer culverts to allow 5th Street to be widened, and sidewalks, curbs and gutters constructed (Project). The Applicant submitted \$3,713.00 along with the original Certification application materials, which satisfied the Project filing fee requirement for consideration of a 401 Certification. This fee amount of \$3,713.00 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 Applicant proposes to widen the 5th Street Crossing over Chicken Springs Wash to provide curb and gutter and sidewalk improvements. An existing 48-inch culvert that conveys Chicken Springs Wash under 5th Street will be replaced with two 60-inch culverts. An inlet structure with a

headwall and wingwalls, and a concrete transition structure at the outlet of the culverts will also be constructed, and channel lining and rip-rap slope and scour protection installed. Permanent impacts to Chicken Springs Wash will extend 140 feet upstream and 105 feet downstream of 5th Street. Temporary construction impacts will occur an additional 15 feet upstream and downstream of the permanent impact areas. Maintenance activities to be performed after construction of the Project will include repair of the structures (culverts, wingwalls, headwalls, and rip-rap), and removal of accumulated sediment in the permanently impacted area.

The work will take place along 5th Street between Yucaipa Boulevard and Avenue E in the city of Yucaipa, San Bernardino County, in Section 2 of Township 2 South, Range 2 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey Yucaipa 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map (34.028548° N, - 117.056244° W).

Receiving water: Chicken Springs Wash, a tributary to Oak Glen Creek, Valley Reach. Oak Glen Creek, Valley Reach, 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), and wildlife habitat (WILD).

Fill area:

Permanent Impact to Waters of the U.S.	0.05 acre	245 linear feet
Temporary Impact to Waters of the U.S.	0.01 acre	30 linear feet

Dredge/Fill volume: Not Applicable

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit No. 14 – Linear Transportation Projects

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:

- The Applicant will enhance 0.14 acre in the City of Yucaipa El Dorado Conservation Area as guided by a Regional Board approved Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP). The 0.14 acre shall be preserved in perpetuity through an appropriate Regional Board-approved agreement such as a conservation easement, restrictive covenant, or other legal conservation mechanism.

Should the proposed Project have the potential to impact State- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, implementation of measures identified in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and 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 per the requirements of Regional Board Order No. R8-2010-0036 (NPDES Permit No. CAS618036), commonly known as the San Bernardino County Municipal Storm Water Permit, and subsequent iterations thereof. Order No. R8-2010-0036 requires that you substantially comply with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit For Storm Water Discharges Associated With Construction And Land Disturbance Activities, Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Applicant filed a CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 "Class 1" Categorical Exemption with the San Bernardino County Clerk/Recorder on October 15, 2015, which declares the proposed Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The Regional Board has independently considered the Applicant's Categorical Exemption in the issuance of this Certification and finds that no changes or alterations to the proposed Project are necessary to 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) This Order for Water Quality Certification will remain valid until the USACE 2012 Nationwide permits expire on March 18, 2017, or through an extended period beyond the expiration date that is authorized in writing by the USACE.

- 2) The Applicant must comply with the requirements of the applicable Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.
- 3) The Applicant shall ensure that all fees associated with this Project shall be paid to each respective agency prior to conducting any onsite construction activities.
- 4) A copy of this Certification and any subsequent amendments must be maintained onsite for the duration of work as a denoted element of any Project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP).
- 5) Prior to the initiation of Project activities, the Applicant shall submit the HMMP prepared for the 0.14 acre mitigation parcel within the City of Yucaipa El Dorado Conservation Area (the mitigation area) to the Regional Board for approval. The HMMP shall include the following information: (a), a description of the existing physical and biological conditions of the mitigation area, including an evaluation of present and potential beneficial uses; (b), a plan for management actions to occur in the mitigation area, including but not limited to, restoration plantings and the removal of nonnative plant species; (c), a restoration schedule including monitoring and maintenance measures; (d), the establishment of fixed photographic monitoring locations; and (e), mitigation success standards and contingency measures.
- 6) Monitoring and maintenance of the mitigation area shall be conducted for a minimum of five years, or until the Regional Board determines the area has met the performance criteria of successful restoration as set forth in the Regional Board approved HMMP. After installation of the mitigation area, the Applicant shall submit an annual monitoring report to the Regional Board each year, for a minimum of five 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.
- 7) Within one year of the discharge of fill to waters of the U.S., the Regional Board-approved conservation easement, restrictive covenant, or other appropriate legal conservation mechanism shall be placed on the 0.14 acre mitigation parcel. The conservation mechanism will provide for the continued protection of beneficial uses of the waters located in the parcel in perpetuity.
- 8) Effective perimeter control BMPs must be in place at all times to control the discharge of pollutants from the Project site during construction. Construction waste must be contained and protected against wind and exposure to storm water at all times unless being actively handled. Chemical, fuel, and lubricant containers must be kept closed and protected from damage or upset at all times unless being actively used. Dirt and landscaping material stockpiles may not be located in waters of the United States, and must have effective erosion

control BMPs in place to prevent their transport in storm water or directly into the channel. Discharges of wastewater from the site are prohibited.

- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) 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 onsite, except as necessary to complete the proposed Project. No equipment shall be operated in areas of flowing water.
- 12) Construction dewatering discharges, including temporary stream diversions necessary to carry out the Project, are subject to regulation by Regional Board Order No. R8-2015-0004, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters that Pose an Insignificant (De Minimis) Threat to Water Quality. For more information, please review Order No. R8-2015-0004 at www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/
- 13) 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 revocation of this Certification and imposition of administrative civil or criminal liability.

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 that the Applicant 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 certify 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 Jason Bill at (951) 782-3295 or Jason.Bill@waterboards.ca.gov, or Wanda Cross at (951) 782-4468 or wanda.cross@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer

cc (via electronic mail):

Ruth Villalobos & Associates - Ruth Villalobos – rvillalobos@rvacorp.com
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office - Daniel P. Swenson
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife – 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, Region 9 – Wetlands Regulatory Office – Melissa Scianni
U.S. EPA, Region 9 – Wetlands Regulatory Office - Elizabeth Goldmann