



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Diego Region

Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

Over 50 Years Serving San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties  
Recipient of the 2004 Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement from USEPA



Arnold  
Schwarzenegger  
Governor

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123-4340  
(858) 467-2952 • Fax (858) 571-6972  
[http:// www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego)

October 14, 2010

In reply refer to:  
755453: jebesen

Kris McFadden  
City of San Diego, Storm Water Department  
9370 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Mr. McFadden:

**SUBJECT: Action on Request for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Routine Maintenance of Storm Water Facility Map 134 Project, 10C-059, in the community of Nestor within the City of San Diego**

Enclosed find Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) with acknowledgment of enrollment under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-017 DWQ for Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have received State Water Quality Certification for the Routine Maintenance of Storm Water Facility Map 134 Project. A description of the project can be found in the project information sheet and on location and site maps compiled by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board), which are included as Attachments 1 through 6.

Any petition for reconsideration of this Certification must be filed with the State Water Resources Control Board within 30 days of certification action (23 CCR § 3867). If no petition is received, it will be assumed that you have accepted and will comply with all the conditions of this Certification.

Failure to comply with all conditions of this Certification may subject you to enforcement actions by the San Diego Water Board including administrative enforcement orders requiring you to cease and desist from violations, or to clean up waste and abate existing or threatened conditions of pollution or nuisance; administrative civil liability, referral to the State Attorney General for injunctive relief; and, referral to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.*

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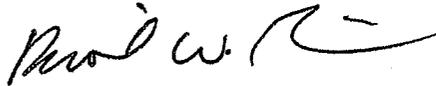
Kris McFadden  
City of San Diego  
401 Certification 10C-059

- 2 -

October 14, 2010

In the subject line of any response, please include the requested "In reply refer to:" information located in the heading of this letter. If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact Ms. Jody Ebsen directly at 858-636-3146 or by email via [jebsen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jebsen@waterboards.ca.gov).

Respectfully,



DAVID W. GIBSON  
Executive Officer

Enclosure:

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. 10C-059 for Routine Maintenance of Storm Water Facility Map 134 Project, with 6 attachments

cc: Refer to Attachment 2 of Certification for Distribution List.

Tech Staff Info & Use	
File No.	10C-059
WDID	9000002107
Reg. Measure ID	375174
Place ID	755453
Party ID	357778
Person ID	523619



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

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### Action on Request for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge of Dredged and/or Fill Materials

**PROJECT:** Routine Maintenance of Storm Water  
Facility Map 134, Certification No. 10C-059,  
WDID: 9000002107

**APPLICANT:** City of San Diego  
Kris McFadden  
Storm Water Department  
9370 Chesapeake Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

CIWQS Reg. Meas. ID: 375174 Place ID: 755453 Party ID: 357778
--

**ACTION:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Order for Low Impact Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> Order for Denial of Certification
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order for Technically-conditioned Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrollment in SWRCB GWDR Order No. 2003-017 DWQ	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment in Isolated Waters Order No. 2004-004 DWQ

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The City of San Diego is proposing to maintain a concrete lined streambed of an unnamed tributary to the Otay River through periodic removal of trash, debris, hydrophytic vegetation, and accumulated sediments for the purpose of flood control protection. This will create recurring temporary impacts to 0.12 acres (603 linear feet) of wetlands. The tributary is located in the community of Nestor within the City of San Diego, west of Thermal Avenue with the majority of work to be done north of Palm Avenue.

The initial maintenance work will increase the flood capacity to accommodate 10 to 25 year storm events (440cfs to 640cfs) with a roughness coefficient of 0.018. Annual visual inspections of the vegetation re-growth will be performed. When it has been determined that the vegetation has increased the roughness coefficient to 0.045, hence lowering the flood capacity to only accommodate 5 to 10 year storm events (360cfs to 440cfs), then active clearing will occur.

**California Environmental Protection Agency**

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.*

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**STANDARD CONDITIONS:**

The following three standard conditions apply to all Certification actions, except as noted under Condition 3 for denials (Action 3).

1. This Certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to section 13330 of the California Water Code and section 3867 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR).
2. This Certification action is not intended and must not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent Certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR subsection 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
3. The validity of any non-denial Certification action (Actions 1 and 2) must be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required under 23 CCR section 3833, unless otherwise stated in writing by the certifying agency.

**ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:**

In addition to the three standard conditions, City of San Diego must satisfy the following:

**A. GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

1. City of San Diego must, at all times, fully comply with the engineering plans, specifications and technical reports submitted to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board), to support this Certification and all subsequent submittals required as part of this Certification and as described in Attachment 1. The conditions within this Certification must supersede conflicting provisions within such plans submitted prior to the Certification action. Any modifications thereto, would require notification to the San Diego Water Board and reevaluation for individual Waste Discharge Requirements and/or Certification amendment.
2. During maintenance activities, City of San Diego must maintain a copy of this Certification at the project site so as to be available at all times to site personnel and agencies.
3. City of San Diego must permit the San Diego Water Board or its authorized representative at all times, upon presentation of credentials:

- a. Entry onto project premises, including all areas on which wetland fill or wetland mitigation is located or in which records are kept.
  - b. Access to copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this Certification.
  - c. Inspection of any treatment equipment, monitoring equipment, or monitoring method required by this Certification.
  - d. Sampling of any discharge or surface water covered by this Order.
4. City of San Diego must notify the San Diego Water Board within **24 hours** of any unauthorized discharge, including hazardous or toxic materials, to waters of the U.S. and/or State; measures that were implemented to stop and contain the discharge; measures implemented to clean-up the discharge; the volume and type of materials discharged and recovered; and additional best management practices (BMPs) or other measures that will be implemented to prevent future discharges.
5. City of San Diego must, at all times, maintain appropriate types and sufficient quantities of materials onsite to contain any spill or inadvertent release of materials that may cause a condition of pollution or nuisance if the materials reach waters of the U.S. and/or State.
6. This Certification is not transferable in its entirety or in part to any person except after notice to the Executive Officer of the San Diego Water Board in accordance with the following terms.
- a. **Transfer of Property Ownership:** City of San Diego must notify the San Diego Water Board of any change in ownership of the project area. Notification of change in ownership must include, but not be limited to, a statement that City of San Diego has provided the purchaser with a copy of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification and that the purchaser understands and accepts the certification requirements and the obligation to implement them or be subject to liability for failure to do so; the seller and purchaser must sign and date the notification and provide such notification to the Executive officer of the San Diego Water Board within **10 days** of the transfer of ownership.
  - b. **Transfer of Mitigation Responsibility:** Any notification of transfer of responsibilities to satisfy the mitigation requirements shall include a signed statement from an authorized representative of the new party (transferee) demonstrating acceptance and understanding of the responsibility to comply with and fully satisfy the mitigation conditions and agreement that failure to comply with the mitigation conditions and associated requirements may subject the transferee to enforcement by the San Diego Water Board under Water Code section 13385, subdivision (a). Notification of transfer of responsibilities meeting the

above conditions must be provided to the San Diego Water Board within **10 days** of the transfer date.

7. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Certification, the violation or threatened violation must 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.
8. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, the San Diego Water Board may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this Certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the San Diego Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports must bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
9. In response to any violation of the conditions of this Certification, the San Diego Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
10. Water Quality Certification 10C-059 expires on **October 1, 2013**, unless renewed by the San Diego Water Board or superseded by a programmatic Water Quality Certification for all channel maintenance projects.

**B. PROJECT CONDITIONS:**

1. Prior to the start of the project, and annually thereafter, City of San Diego must educate all personnel on the requirements in this Certification, pollution prevention measures, spill response, and BMP implementation and maintenance.
2. City of San Diego must comply with the requirements of State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges of dredged or fill material that have received State Water Quality Certification. These General Waste Discharge Requirements are accessible at:  
*[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/general\\_orders/go\\_wdr401regulated\\_projects.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/general_orders/go_wdr401regulated_projects.pdf)*.

3. City of San Diego must notify the San Diego Water Board in writing at least **5 days** prior to the actual project commencement.
4. The treatment, storage, and disposal of wastewater during the life of the project must be done in accordance with waste discharge requirements established by the San Diego Water Board pursuant to CWC § 13260.
5. Discharges of concentrated flow during construction or after completion must not cause downstream erosion or damage to properties or stream habitat.
6. Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from equipment washing or other activities, must not be discharged to waters of the United States and/or the State or placed in locations that may be subjected to storm flows. Pollutants discharged to areas within a stream diversion area must be removed at the end of each work day or sooner if rain is predicted.
7. Substances hazardous to aquatic life including, but not limited to, petroleum products, raw cement/concrete, asphalt, and coating materials, must be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering waters of the United States and/or State. BMPs must be implemented to prevent such discharges during each project activity involving hazardous materials.
8. After the initial maintenance activities, annual visual inspections of the vegetation re-growth will be performed. Recurring temporary impacts shall only occur when it has been determined that the vegetation has increased the roughness coefficient to 0.045, hence lowering the flood capacity to only accommodate 5 to 10 year storm events (360cfs to 440cfs). Then active clearing will occur to increase the flood capacity to accommodate 10 to 25 year storm events (440cfs to 640cfs) with a roughness coefficient of 0.018.

#### **C. CONSTRUCTION AND POST-CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

1. Proposed construction Best Management Practices (BMPs), as described in the application, must include, but not be limited to:
  - a) Minimize new ground disturbance to the maximum extent feasible, through efforts such as limiting grading to the minimum area required, and restricting vehicle access and maneuvering to designated areas (with an emphasis on using existing roads).
  - b) Minimize maintenance operations during the rainy season (October 1 to April 30).
  - c) When maintenance cannot be avoided during the rainy season, prepare and implement a weather triggered action plan for activities to

provide enhanced erosion and sediment control measures prior to predicted storm events (i.e., 40 percent or greater chance of rain).

- d) Install sediment controls within storm water facilities, access paths and staging areas to prevent off-site sediment transport, including measures such as silt fence, fiber rolls, gravel bags, temporary sediment basins, stabilized construction access points (e.g., shaker plates), containment barriers (e.g., silt fence, fiber rolls and/or berms) for material stockpiles, and properly fitted covers for material transport vehicles. Remove temporary erosion control measures upon completion of maintenance.
- e) Adequate BMP materials are to be stored on-site to provide "standby" capacity to provide complete protection of exposed areas and prevent off-site sediment transport.
- f) Provide appropriate training for personnel responsible for BMP installation and maintenance.
- g) Monitor erosion control measures during the rainy season to ensure their effectiveness.
- h) Implement sampling and analysis, monitoring and reporting, and post-construction management programs per National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and/or City of San Diego requirements.
- i) Control dust by including measures such as material stockpile and transport vehicle control (as noted above), regular watering or use of soil binders, and restriction of grading during high winds.
- j) Store on-site hazardous materials at least 50 feet from storm drains and surface waters.
- k) Store construction-related trash in areas at least 50 feet from storm drains and surface waters, and implement regular (at least weekly) removal of trash by a licensed operator for disposal at an approved site.
- l) Cover and/or enclose storage facilities for hazardous materials and trash, and maintain accurate and up-to-date written hazardous material inventories.
- m) Store hazardous materials off the ground surface (e.g., on pallets) and in their original containers, with the legibility of labels protected.

2. All storm drain inlet structures within the project boundaries must be stamped and/or stenciled (or equivalent) with appropriate language prohibiting non-storm water discharges.

**D. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR LOSS OF WATERS OF THE U.S./STATE**

1. Biologic (habitat) mitigation for recurring temporary impacts to 0.12 acres (603 linear feet) of wetlands in this concrete lined streambed will not be required by the San Diego Water Board. However, mitigation is required for the temporal loss of pollution assimilation functions provided by the wetlands in the channel that drains developed (residential and commercial uses) impervious areas. Pollutants that are removed or transformed by the hydrophytic vegetation include petroleum hydrocarbons, metals (dissolved, metallic and oxidized), pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and fine-grained sediment.
2. The loss of pollution assimilation functions will be mitigated by retrofitting an existing storm drain with a curb inlet filter along Palm Avenue located just east of Thermal Avenue which receives storm water runoff from the surrounding neighborhood. City of San Diego has proposed installing a Bio Clean Curb Inlet Filter basket with High Rate Media. At a minimum the pollutant removal efficiency provided by the curb inlet filter shall be:

<b>POLLUTANT</b>	<b>Curb Inlet Basket</b>
Turbidity	84%
Total Nitrates	85%
Total Iron	64%
Zinc	79%
Trash & Litter	90 to 95%
Oil & Grease	54 to 96%
Sediments/TSS	93.54%
Organics	79.3%
Total Nitrogen	65 to 96%
Total Phosphorus	71 to 96%

Any deviations from this proposal must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board for approval prior to installation.

3. The retrofitted curb inlet filter must be in-place and functional by **December 1, 2010**.
4. As-built construction report (no larger than 11x17) of the retrofitted storm drain with the curb inlet filter must be submitted by **December 31, 2010**.

5. Retrofitted curb inlet filtration must be inspected, serviced, and maintained per manufacturer's specifications or by industry standards, whichever is more rigorous, in perpetuity.
6. The City of San Diego must create and maintain, in perpetuity, an internet website page that describes and graphically shows the mitigation locations for this project and any other permitted City of San Diego storm channel maintenance projects. The website must be published by **December 1, 2010**. The website must also include inspection, service, and maintenance records. The website must be available to the public.

#### **E. MONITORING**

1. A functional assessment using the California Rapid Assessment Method must be done downstream from the site before and after each maintenance event when active channel clearing is performed and reported to the San Diego Water Board no later than **December 31 2010**, thereafter as necessary in the annual report.
2. If active channel maintenance occurs when flowing water is present monitoring for turbidity and total suspended solids must be performed and the results reported to the San Diego Water Board, as necessary.

#### **F. PRE-PROJECT AND POST-PROJECT PHOTO DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURE**

1. City of San Diego must conduct photo documentation of project areas before and after construction activities, including the retrofitted storm drain. Photo-documentation must be modeled after the State Water Resources Control Board Standard Operating Procedure for Stream Photo Documentation Procedure, included as Attachment 6. In addition, photo documentation must include Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for each of the photo points referenced and for the retrofitted storm drain location. City of San Diego must submit this information with a project report to the San Diego Water Board no later than **December 31 2010**. The report must include a compact disc that contains digital files of all the photos (jpeg file type or similar).

#### **G. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM REPORTING**

1. City of San Diego must submit Geographic Information System (GIS) shape files of the impact site and the position of the retrofitted storm drain. All impact and mitigation area shapefiles must be polygons. Two GPS readings (points) must be taken on each line of the polygon and the polygon must have

a minimum of 10 points. GIS metadata must also be submitted with a project report due no later than **December 31, 2010**.

#### H. REPORTING:

1. All information requested in this Certification is pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13267. Civil liability may be administratively imposed by the San Diego Water Board for failure to furnish requested information pursuant to CWC section 13268.
2. All reports and information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be submitted in both hardcopy and electronic format. The preferred electronic format for each report submission is one file in PDF format that is also Optical Character Recognition (OCR) capable.
3. City of San Diego must submit a project completion report to the San Diego Water Board by **December 31, 2010** to document completed channel maintenance activities performed and provide documentation of BMP installation and descriptions of the pollutant efficiencies provided by the media filter. The report should include as-built drawings no bigger than 11" x 17", photo-documentation of the completed project and storm drain retrofit, and the GIS shapefiles.
4. Annual project reports are due by December 31 each year. The reports shall describe all maintenance activities for the year for the entire site and mitigation area.
5. After the first active maintenance event occurs, City of San Diego must submit notification 30 days prior to any additional active maintenance events deemed necessary. The notification must include evidence collected that are used to determine the need for active channel maintenance.
6. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be signed and certified as follows:
  - a. For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer of at least the level of vice president.
  - b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or proprietor, respectively.
  - c. For a municipality, or a state, federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
7. A duly authorized representative of a person designated in Items 4.a. through 4.c. above may sign documents if:

- a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described in Items 4.a. through 4.c. above.
  - b. The authorization specifies either an individual or position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated activity.
  - c. The written authorization is submitted to the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer.
8. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be signed and certified as follows:

*"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."*

9. City of San Diego must submit reports required under this Certification, or other information required by the San Diego Water Board, to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region  
Attn: 401 Certification; Project No. 10C-059  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92123

8. Required Reports: The following list summarizes the reports required per the conditions of this Certification to be submitted to the San Diego Water Board.

<b>Report Topic</b>	<b>Certification Condition</b>	<b>Due Date(s)</b>
Unauthorized Discharges	A.4. Report within 24 hours.	Within 24 hours.
Transfer of Ownership/Responsibility	A.6. Report with 10 days	Within 10 days
Impacts to Waters	B.3. Notify before impacting Waters of U.S. and State.	5 Days prior to impacts.
Mitigation	D.3 Install curb inlet filter.	December 1, 2010
Mitigation	D.4. Submit as-built construction report.	December 31, 2010

Mitigation	D.6. Publish on the internet a website documenting inlet filters monitoring and maintenance.	December 1, 2010
Monitoring	E.1. Submit Functional Assessment Report	December 31, 2010, thereafter as necessary in the annual report
Monitoring	E.2 Submit Turbidity and TSS Reporting	As necessary
Photo Documentation	F.1. Submit Photo-documentation of project areas.	December 31, 2010, thereafter in annual report
GIS shapefiles	G.1 Submit GIS shapefiles of impacts and mitigation areas.	December 31, 2010
Reporting	H.3. Submit final project completion report	December 31, 2010
Reporting	H.4. Submit annual report	Annually by December 31
Reporting	H.5 Submit notification of recurring channel maintenance	30 days prior to recurring channel maintenance

**CEQA FINDINGS:**

1. City of San Diego is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq., (CEQA)), and determined that the Project is Exempt under CEQA Guidelines Title 14, California Code of Regulations, 15269(b)(c). The City of San Diego has determined this action necessary to protect life, property and public safety. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) was filed with the County Clerk on September 9, 2010. No challenges to the CEQA NOE were received by the City of San Diego during the comment period.
2. The San Diego Water Board also finds that the project qualifies as an emergency and is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines, 15269(b)(c).

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT APPLICATION:**

On July 26, 2010 receipt of the project application was posted on the San Diego Water Board web site to serve as appropriate notification to the public. The San Diego Water Board received one joint, public comment on August 31, 2010, from the San Diego Coast Keeper, Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, Friends of Rose Canyon, Friends of Rose Creek, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Canyonlands, Sierra Club, and California Native Plant Society. The (one) comment recommended to "maintain the vegetation as planned". The comment supported the need for vegetation removal to increase flood channel capacity and protect near by residences.

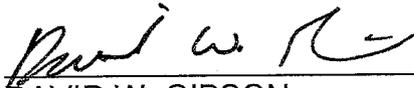
**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONTACT PERSON:**

Jody Ebsen  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123  
858-636-3146  
Jebsen@waterboards.ca.gov

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby certify that the proposed discharge from Routine Maintenance of Storm Water Facility Map 134, (Project No. 10C-059) 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. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification (General WDRs)," which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification. Please note that enrollment under Order No. 2003-017 DWQ is conditional and, should new information come to our attention that indicates a water quality problem, the San Diego Water Board may issue waste discharge requirements at that time.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all Certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicants' project description and/or on the attached Project Information Sheet, and (b) on compliance with all applicable requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin Region (9) (Basin Plan).



DAVID W. GIBSON  
Executive Officer  
Regional Water Quality Control Board

10-14-2010

Date

- Attachments:
1. Project Information
  2. Distribution List
  3. Location Map
  4. Site Maps a and b
  5. Mitigation Map
  6. Stream Photodocumentation Procedure

**ATTACHMENT 1  
PROJECT INFORMATION**

Applicant: City of San Diego,  
Attention: Kris McFadden  
Storm Water Department  
9370 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Telephone: 619-541-4320  
Email: KMcFadden@sandiego.gov

Applicant  
Representatives: Helix Environmental Planning Inc.  
Attention: Steve Neudecker  
7578 El Cajon Blvd., Suite 200  
La Mesa, CA 91942  
Telephone: 619-462-1515  
Facsimile: 619-462-0552  
Email: SteveN@helixepi.com

Project Name: Routine Maintenance of Storm Water Facility Map 134

Project Location: Latitude: 32°54'525.33" N Longitude: 117°13'54.26" W

Type of Project: Storm water channel maintenance.

Need for Project: To maintain existing storm water facilities by restoring their original design capacity for flood control to provide public safety and protection of property.

Project Description: The City of San Diego is proposing to maintain a concrete lined streambed of an unnamed tributary to the Otay River through periodic removal of trash, debris, hydrophytic vegetation, and accumulated sediments for the purpose of flood control protection. This will create recurring temporary impacts to 0.12 acres (603 linear feet) of wetlands. The tributary is located in the community of Nestor within the City of San Diego, west of Thermal Avenue with the majority of work to be done north of Palm Avenue.

The initial maintenance work will increase the flood capacity to accommodate 10 to 25 year storm events (440cfs to 640cfs) with a roughness coefficient of 0.018. Annual visual inspections of the vegetation re-growth will be performed. When it has been determined that the vegetation has increased the roughness coefficient to 0.045, hence lowering

the flood capacity to only accommodate 5 to 10 year storm events (360cfs to 440cfs), then active clearing will re-occur.

Federal Agency/Permit:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers §404, NWP Number 43, Robert Smith

Other Required Regulatory Approvals:

California Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement, Kelly Fisher

City of San Diego, Coastal Development Permit

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance:

Exempt per CEQA guidelines, section 15269(b)(c), City of San Diego, Notice of Exemption September 9, 2010.

Receiving Water:

Otay Hydrologic Unit, Otay Valley Hydrologic Area (910.20)

Affected Waters of the United States:

Recurring Temporary:  
Wetland: 0.12 acres, 603 linear feet

Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented by the Applicant(s):

This is one of approximately 70+ channel maintenance projects located across the City of San Diego. The City of San Diego has a pending application for a programmatic Water Quality Certification for the 70+ channel maintenance projects. The City of San Diego and the San Diego Water Board have agreed to process selected maintenance sites that require urgent maintenance in advance of processing the programmatic application.

Compensatory Mitigation:

Biologic (habitat) mitigation for recurring temporary impacts to 0.12 acres (603 linear feet) of wetlands in this concrete lined streambed will not be required by the San Diego Water Board. However, mitigation is required for the temporal loss of pollution assimilation functions provided by the wetlands in the channel that drains developed (residential and commercial uses) impervious areas. Pollutants that are removed or transformed by the hydrophytic vegetation include petroleum hydrocarbons, metals (dissolved, metallic and oxidized), pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and fine-grained sediment.

The loss of pollution assimilation functions will be mitigated by retrofitting an existing storm drain with a curb inlet filter along Palm Avenue located just east of Thermal Avenue which receives storm water runoff from the surrounding

Neighborhood. City of San Diego has proposed installing a Bio Clean Curb Inlet Filter basket with High Rate Media .

Mitigation Location: Latitude: 32°54'525.33" N Longitude: 117°13'54.26" W

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Proposed construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) are as described in the application and section C of this Certification. Post-construction BMPs include the media filtration as part of the storm drain curb inlet retrofit, and all storm drain inlet structures within the project boundaries must be stamped and/or stenciled (or equivalent) with appropriate language prohibiting non-storm water discharges.

Public Notice: On July 26, 2010 receipt of the project application was posted on the San Diego Water Board web site to serve as appropriate notification to the public. The San Diego Water Board received one joint, public comment on August 31, 2010, from the San Diego Coast Keeper, Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, Friends of Rose Canyon, Friends of Rose Creek, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Canyonlands, Sierra Club, and California Native Plant Society. The (one) comment recommended to "maintain the vegetation as planned". The comment supported the need for vegetation removal to increase flood channel capacity and protect near by residences.

Fees: Total Due: \$4,499.00  
Total Paid: \$ 640.00 (check No. 28416)  
\$3,859.00 (check No. 1078079)

CIWQS: Regulatory Measure ID: 375174  
Place ID: 755453  
Party ID: 357778

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**Distribution List**

Cc via email:

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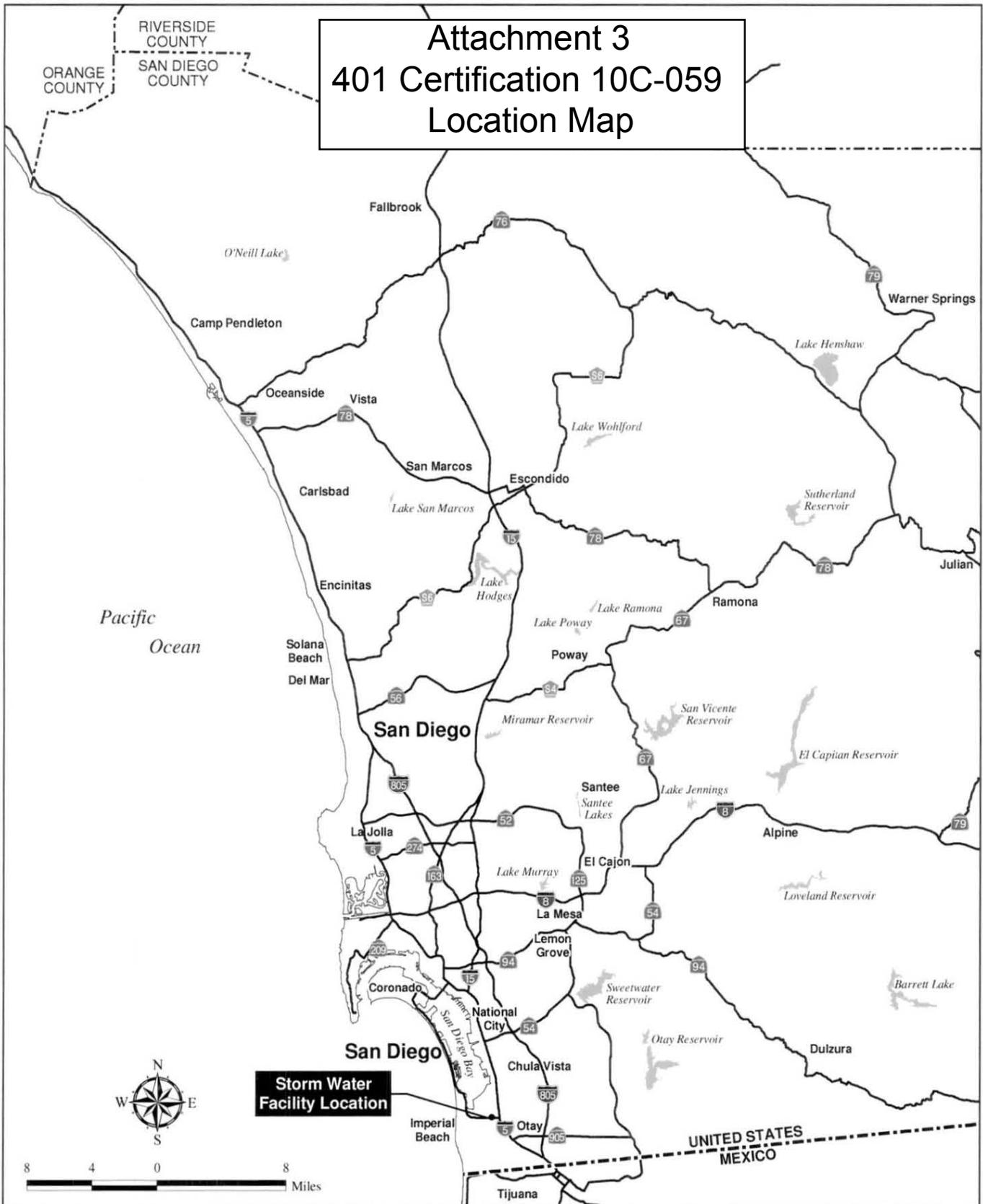
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# Attachment 3 401 Certification 10C-059 Location Map



E:\ArcGIS\SSDM-01 StormDrainMaintenance\Map\BHOYear1\Map134\Fig1\_Regional.mxd -NM

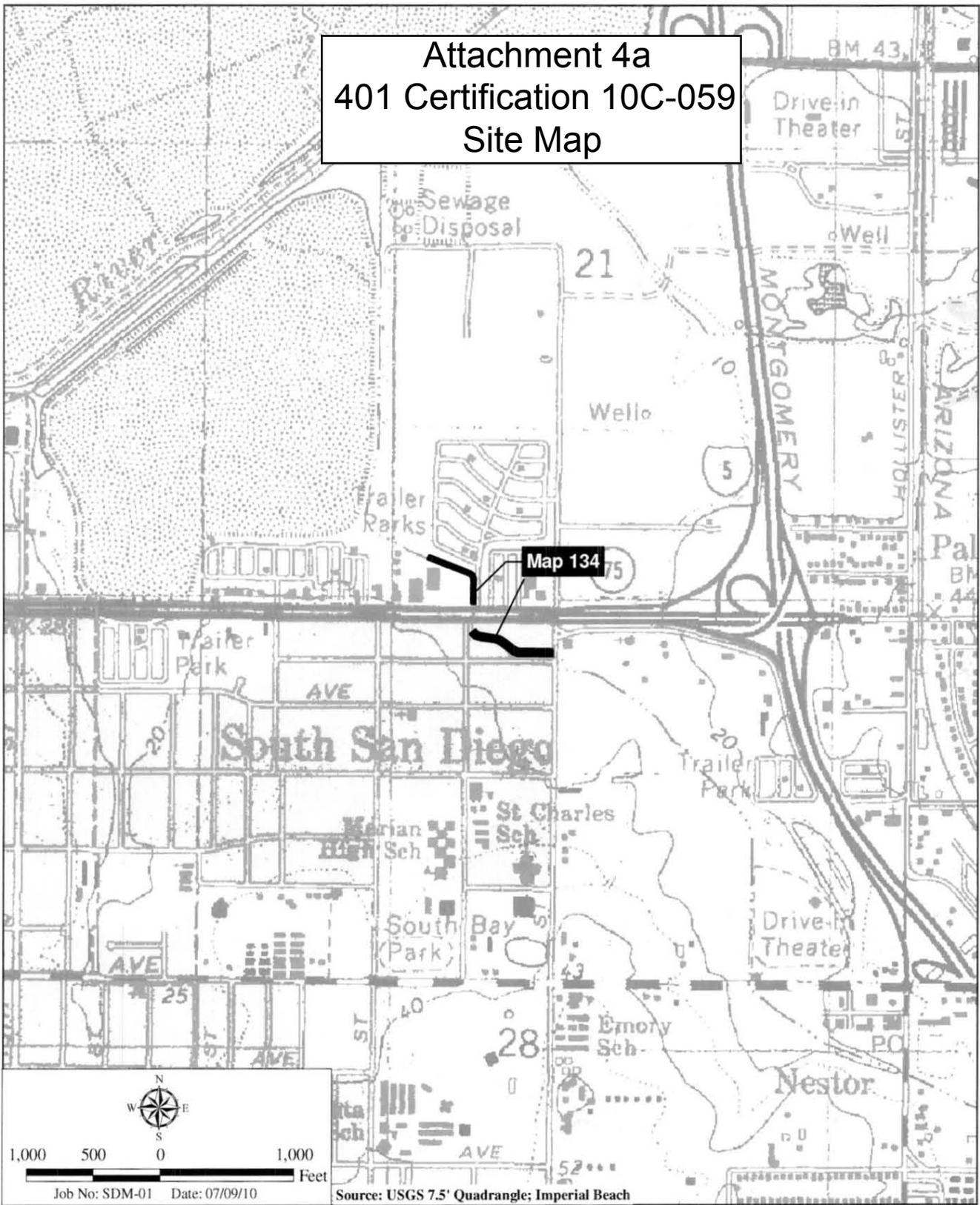
## Regional Location Map

CITY OF SAN DIEGO MASTER STORM WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



Figure 1

Attachment 4a  
401 Certification 10C-059  
Site Map



**Project Location Map**

CITY OF SAN DIEGO MASTER STORM WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



Figure 2

Attachment 4b  
401 Certification 10C-059  
Site Map



**Waters of the U.S. and Maintenance Area - Map 134**

CITY OF SAN DIEGO MASTER STORM WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



Figure 5

Attachment 5  
401 Certification 10C-059  
Mitigation Map



**Nestor Creek Channel - Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs) Location Exhibit**

W:\15541-A\NestorCreek\Exhibits\NestorCreek\_StormDrainStructures.mxd  
Exhibit Date: September 24, 2010  
REC JN: 15541-A



Data Sources:  
SanGIS Roads - April 2010  
Eagle Aerial Photo: March 2009



## **ATTACHMENT 6 STREAM PHOTO DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES**

### **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

#### **Stream Photo Documentation Procedure**

(CARCD 2001, Written by TAC Visual Assessments work group)

#### **Introduction:**

Photographs provide a qualitative, and potentially semi-quantitative, record of conditions in a watershed or on a water body. Photographs can be used to document general conditions on a reach of a stream during a stream walk, pollution events or other impacts, assess resource conditions over time, or can be used to document temporal progress for restoration efforts or other projects designed to benefit water quality. Photographic technology is available to anyone and it does not require a large degree of training or expensive equipment. Photos can be used in reports, presentations, or uploaded onto a computer website or GIS program. This approach is useful in providing a visual portrait of water resources to those who may never have the opportunity to actually visit a monitoring site.

#### **Equipment:**

Use the same camera to the extent possible for each photo throughout the duration of the project. Either 35 mm color or digital color cameras are recommended, accompanied by a telephoto lens. If you must change cameras during the program, replace the original camera with a similar one comparable in terms of media (digital vs. 35 mm) and other characteristics. A complete equipment list is suggested as follows:

#### Required:

- Camera and backup camera
- Folder with copies of previous photos (do not carry original photos in the field)
- Topographic and/or road map
- Aerial photos if available
- Compass
- Timepiece
- Extra film or digital disk capacity (whichever is applicable)
- Extra batteries for camera (if applicable)
- Photo-log data sheets or, alternatively, a bound notebook dedicated to the project
- Yellow photo sign form and black marker, or, alternatively, a small black board and chalk

Optional:

- GPS unit
- Stadia rod (for scale on landscape shots)
- Ruler (for scale on close up views of streams and vegetation)
- Steel fence posts for dedicating fixed photo points in the absence of available fixed landmarks

**How to Access Aerial Photographs:**

Aerial Photos can be obtained from the following federal agencies:

USGS Earth Science Information Center  
507 National Center  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 22092  
800-USA-MAPS

USDA Consolidated Farm Service Agencies  
Aerial Photography Field Office  
222 West 2300 South  
P.O. Box 30010  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-0010  
801-524-5856

Cartographic and Architectural Branch  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College park, MD 20740-6001  
301-713-7040

**Roles and Duties of Team:**

The team should be comprised of a minimum of two people, and preferably three people for restoration or other water quality improvement projects, as follows:

1. Primary Photographer
2. Subject, target for centering the photo and providing scale
3. Person responsible for determining geographic position and holding the photo sign forms or blackboard.

One of these people is also responsible for taking field notes to describe and record photos and photo points.

### **Safety Concerns:**

Persons involved in photo monitoring should **ALWAYS** put safety first. For safety reasons, always have at least two 2 volunteers for the survey. Make sure that the area(s) you are surveying either are accessible to the public or that you have obtained permission from the landowner prior to the survey.

Some safety concerns that may be encountered during the survey include, but are not limited to:

- Inclement weather
- Flood conditions, fast flowing water, or very cold water
- Poisonous plants (e.g.: poison oak)
- Dangerous insects and animals (e.g.: bees, rattlesnakes, range animals such as cattle, etc.)
- Harmful or hazardous trash (e.g.: broken glass, hypodermic needles, human feces)

We recommend that the volunteer coordinator or leader discuss the potential hazards with all volunteers prior to any fieldwork.

### **General Instructions:**

From the inception of any photo documentation project until it is completed, always take each photo from the same position (photo point), and at the same bearing and vertical angle at that photo point. Photo point positions should be thoroughly documented, including photographs taken of the photo point. Refer to copies of previous photos when arriving at the photo point. Try to maintain a level (horizontal) camera view unless the terrain is sloped. (If the photo can not be horizontal due to the slope, then record the angle for that photo.) When photo points are first being selected, consider the type of project (meadow or stream restoration, vegetation management for fire control, ambient or event monitoring as part of a stream walk, etc.) and refer to the guidance listed on *Suggestions for Photo Points by Type of Project*.

When taking photographs, try to include landscape features that are unlikely to change over several years (buildings, other structures, and landscape features such as peaks, rock outcrops, large trees, etc.) so that repeat photos will be easy to position. Lighting is, of course, a key ingredient so give consideration to the angle of light, cloud cover, background, shadows, and contrasts. Close view photographs taken from the north (i.e., facing south) will minimize shadows. Medium and long view photos are best shot with the sun at the photographer's back. Some artistic expression is encouraged as some photos may be used on websites and in slide shows (early morning and late evening shots may be useful

for this purpose). Seasonal changes can be used to advantage as foliage, stream flow, cloud cover, and site access fluctuate. It is often important to include a ruler, stadia rod, person, farm animal, or automobile in photos to convey the scale of the image. Of particular concern is the angle from which the photo is taken. Oftentimes an overhead or elevated shot from a bridge, cliff, peak, tree, etc. will be instrumental in conveying the full dimensions of the project. Of most importance overall, however, is being aware of the goal(s) of the project and capturing images that clearly demonstrate progress towards achieving those goal(s). Again, reference to *Suggestions for Photo Points by Type of Project* may be helpful.

If possible, try to include a black board or yellow photo sign in the view, marked at a minimum with the location, subject, time and date of the photograph. A blank photo sign form is included in this document.

### **Recording Information:**

Use a systematic method of recording information about each project, photo point, and photo. The following information should be entered on the photo-log forms (blank form included in this document) or in a dedicated notebook:

- Project or group name, and contract number (if applicable, e.g., for funded restoration projects)
- General location (stream, beach, city, etc.), and short narrative description of project's habitat type, goals, etc.
- Photographer and other team members
- Photo number
- Date
- Time (for each photograph)
- Photo point information, including:
  - Name or other unique identifier (abbreviated name and/or ID number)
  - Narrative description of location including proximity to and direction from notable landscape features like roads, fence lines, creeks, rock outcrops, large trees, buildings, previous photo points, etc. – sufficient for future photographers who have never visited the project to locate the photo point
  - Latitude, longitude, and altitude from map or GPS unit
- Magnetic compass bearing from the photo point to the subject
- Specific information about the subject of the photo
- Optional additional information: a true compass bearing (corrected for declination) from photo point to subject, time of sunrise and sunset (check newspaper or almanac), and cloud cover.

For ambient monitoring, the stream and shore walk form should be attached or referenced in the photo-log.

When monitoring the implementation of restoration, fuel reduction, or Best Management Practices (BMP) projects, include or attach to the photo-log a narrative description of observable progress in achieving the goals of the project. Provide supplementary information along with the photo, such as noticeable changes in habitat, wildlife, and water quality and quantity.

Archive all photos, along with the associated photo-log information, in a protected environment.

### **The Photo Point: Establishing Position of Photographer:**

1. Have available a variety of methods for establishing position: maps, aerial photos, GPS, permanent markers and landmarks, etc. If the primary method fails (e.g., a GPS or lost marker post) then have an alternate method (map, aerial photo, copy of an original photograph of the photo-point, etc).
2. Select an existing structure or landmark (mailbox, telephone pole, benchmark, large rock, etc.), identify its latitude and longitude, and choose (and record for future use) the permanent position of the photographer relative to that landmark. Alternatively, choose the procedure described in *Monitoring California's Annual Rangeland Vegetation* (UC/DANR Leaflet 21486, Dec. 1990). This procedure involves placing a permanently marked steel fence post to establish the position of the photographer.
3. For restoration, fuel reduction, and BMP projects, photograph the photo-points and carry copies of those photographs on subsequent field visits.

### **Determining the Compass Bearing:**

1. Select and record the permanent magnetic bearing of the photo center view. You can also record the true compass bearing (corrected for declination) but do not substitute this for the magnetic bearing. Include a prominent landmark in a set position within the view. If possible, have an assistant stand at a fixed distance from both the photographer and the center of the view, holding a stadia rod if available, within the view of the camera; preferably position the stadia rod on one established, consistent side of the view for each photo (right or left side).
2. Alternatively, use the procedure described in *Monitoring California's Annual Rangeland Vegetation* (UC/DANR Leaflet 21486, Dec. 1990). This procedure involves placing a permanently marked steel fence post to establish the position of the focal point (photo center).

3. When performing ambient or event photo monitoring, and when a compass is not available, then refer to a map and record the approximate bearing as north, south, east or west.

### **Suggestions for Photo Points by Type of Project:**

#### **Ambient or Event Monitoring, Including Photography Associated with Narrative Visual Assessments:**

1. When first beginning an ambient monitoring program take representative long and/or medium view photos of stream reaches and segments of shoreline being monitored. Show the positions of these photos on a map, preferably on the stream/shore walk form. Subjects to be photographed include a representative view of the stream or shore condition at the beginning and ending positions of the segment being monitored, storm drain outfalls, confluence of tributaries, structures (e.g., bridges, dams, pipelines, etc.).
2. If possible, take a close view photograph of the substrate (streambed), algae, or submerged aquatic vegetation.
3. Time series: Photographs of these subjects at the same photo points should be repeated annually during the same season or month if possible.
4. Event monitoring refers to any unusual or sporadic conditions encountered during a stream or shore walk, such as trash dumps, turbidity events, oil spills, etc. Photograph and record information on your photo-log and on your Stream and Shore Walk Visual Assessment form. Report pollution events to the Regional Board. Report trash dumps to local authorities.

#### **All Restoration and Fuel Reduction Projects – Time Series:**

Take photos immediately before and after construction, planting, or vegetation removal. Long term monitoring should allow for at least annual photography for a minimum of three years after the project, and thereafter at 5 years and ten years.

#### **Meadow Restoration:**

1. Aerial view (satellite or airplane photography) if available.

2. In the absence of an aerial view, a landscape, long view showing an overlapping sequence of photos illustrating a long reach of stream and meadow (satellite photos, or hill close by, fly-over, etc.)
3. Long view up or down the longitudinal dimension of the creek showing riparian vegetation growth bounded on each side by grasses, sedges, or whatever that is lower in height
4. Long view of conversion of sage and other upland species back to meadow vegetation
5. Long view and medium view of streambed changes (straightened back to meandering, sediment back to gravel, etc.)
6. Medium and close views of structures, plantings, etc. intended to induce these changes

**Stream Restoration/stabilization:**

1. Aerial view (satellite or airplane photography) if available.
2. In the absence of an aerial view, a landscape, long-view showing all or representative sections of the project (bluff, bridge, etc.)
3. Long view up or down the stream (from stream level) showing changes in the stream bank, vegetation, etc.
4. Long view and medium view of streambed changes (thalweg, gravel, meanders, etc.)
5. Medium and close views of structures, plantings, etc. intended to induce these changes.
6. Optional: Use a tape set perpendicular across the stream channel at fixed points and include this tape in your photos described in 3 and 4 above. For specific procedures refer to Harrelson, Cheryl C., C.L. Rawlins, and John P. Potyondy, *Stream Channel Reference Sites: An Illustrated Guide to Field Techniques*, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, General Technical Report RM-245.

**Vegetation Management for Fire Prevention (“fuel reduction”):**

1. Aerial view (satellite or airplane photography) if available.

2. In the absence of an aerial view, a landscape, long view showing all or representative sections of the project (bluff, bridge, etc.)
3. Long view (wide angle if possible) showing the project area or areas. Preferably these long views should be from an elevated vantage point.
4. Medium view photos showing examples of vegetation changes, and plantings if included in the project. It is recommended that a person (preferably holding a stadia rod) be included in the view for scale
5. To the extent possible include medium and long view photos that include adjacent stream channels.

**Stream Sediment Load or Erosion Monitoring:**

1. Long views from bridge or other elevated position.
2. Medium views of bars and banks, with a person (preferably holding a stadia rod) in view for scale.
3. Close views of streambed with ruler or other common object in the view for scale.
4. Time series: Photograph during the dry season (low flow) once per year or after a significant flood event when streambed is visible. The flood events may be episodic in the south and seasonal in the north.
5. Optional: Use a tape set perpendicular across the stream channel at fixed points and include this tape in your photos described in 1 and 2 above. For specific procedures refer to Harrelson, Cheryl C., C.L. Rawlins, and John P. Potyondy, *Stream Channel Reference Sites: An Illustrated Guide to Field Techniques*, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, General Technical Report RM-245.



PHOTO SIGN FORM: Print this form on yellow paper. Complete the following information for each photograph. Include in the photographic view so that it will be legible in the finished photo.

Location:

Subject Description:

Date:

Time: