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Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 28, 2013

Christopher Jones
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS CERTIFICATION FOR THE SANTA ANA MAINSTEM PROJECT, REACH 9, PHASE 3 BANK PROTECTION PROJECT, COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA (ACOE REFERENCE NO. N/A) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 302012-33)

Dear Mr. Jones:

On October 22, 2012, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Los Angeles District for the above-referenced project, located approximately five miles downstream of Prado Dam, in Yorba Linda. The purpose of the proposed project is to protect State Route 91 from scour that may be caused by large releases from Prado Dam. As an incidental benefit, a segment of the Santa Ana Regional Interceptor (SARI) Line will also be protected from scour and erosion as a result of this project. 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:

An existing 1,600-foot-long soil concrete embankment will be removed and replaced with a soil cement structure with a deeper foundation. The new structure will be 10 feet thick and approximately 30 feet tall. In a typical cross-section, approximately 10 to 15 feet of the structure will be below the channel invert, while the upper 15 to 20 feet will remain exposed above the channel invert. Due to slope stability concerns, the required v-shaped trench for the foundation will be excavated at a 1.5:1 slope. The excavation footprint will be approximately 80-feet wide along the entire project. The work will take place within Section 30 of Township 3 South, Range 8 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Black Star Canyon, CA* quadrangle map (33° 52' 15.54" N/ -117° 42' 13.10" W).

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

3737 Main St., Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana

Receiving water: Santa Ana River

Fill area: 0.01 acre of permanent impact to streambed habitat (90 linear feet), 2.54 acres of temporary impact to streambed habitat (3,000 linear feet)

Dredge/Fill volume: 55,000 cubic yards to be utilized in the soil cement mix, as well as, for backfill.

Federal permit: Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation (Appendix A of SEA/EIR Addendum)

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.
- 2.54 acres of on-site restoration of streambed habitat to offset the Streambed Habitat impact of the project.
- 6.56 acres (3,000 linear feet) of on-site restoration of riparian habitat temporarily impacted by diversion canals, temporary staging areas and other project specific temporary impacts identified within the project's Environmental Impact Report.

Offsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- 19.68 acres of off-site enhanced mitigation for riparian habitat, which will consist of removal of *Arundo donax* and other non-native vegetation from areas upstream of the project area as mitigation for temporary impacts.

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.

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 MND 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.

In the issuance of this Certification, the Executive Officer has considered those sections of the Corp's environmental analysis and its information relating to water quality. Based on the mitigation proposed 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. The Regional Board independently finds that changes or alterations have been required or incorporated into the project that 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 progress of the proposed mitigation shall be provided to this office on an annual basis.
- 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.

- 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, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters that Pose an Insignificant (De Minimus) Threat to Water Quality. For more information, please review Order No. R8-2009-0003 at www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/
- 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) Prior to any grading for the project in areas slated to be impacted, functional assessments of these proposed areas of wetland and riparian habitats and riparian mitigation sites shall be conducted using the California Rapid Assessment Method, February 2012 (CRAM).
- 12) Functional assessments of mitigation sites shall be conducted from October through December, using CRAM, until success criteria are met for consecutive years. This information shall be reported to <http://www.californiawetlands.net/tracker/>

The 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.

Christopher Jones
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District

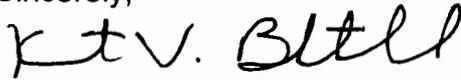
- 6 -

January 28, 2013

This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ (Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ), "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Standards Certification. Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ is available at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo_2003-0017.pdf

Should there be any questions, please contact Marc Brown at (951) 321-4584, or Mark Adelson at (951) 782-3234.

Sincerely,



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

cc (via electronic mail):

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office - Stephen Estes
State Water Resources Control Board, OCC - David Rice
California Department of Fish and Wildlife - Kevin Hupf, KHupf@dfg.ca.gov
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ-WQ Certification Unit - Bill Orme
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board R8 – Julio Lara