
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 17, 2014

Annesley Ignatius
San Bernardino County Flood Control
District
825 E. Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR THE WILSON CREEK CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT, CITY OF HIGHLAND, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA
(ACOE REFERENCE NO. N/A) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 362014-28)**

Dear Mr. Ignatius,

On April 7, 2014, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from the San Bernardino County Flood Control District for a project to stabilize the channel bottom and slopes of Wilson Creek and reduce flow velocity. The application was supplemented with additional information on December 1, 2014. The applicant has also submitted a filing fee of \$5,669.00, which satisfies the project fee requirements for consideration of a 401 Certification. 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 San Bernardino County Flood Control District will construct improvements to the bottom controls, revetment, invert and side slopes of a portion of the existing Wilson Creek Channel to prevent erosion damage and reduce velocity of flows. The project includes lining the current channel, including the side slopes, with large diameter grouted rock slope protection. The thickness and size of the rock will be varied based upon the anticipated velocities. The rock size is anticipated to vary from 1/2 ton to 1 ton and be grouted in place such that enough of the rock will protrude beyond the grout to increase the overall roughness of the

channel and therefore reduce the velocities below current levels. No structures are proposed except for the maintenance improvements to the existing channel.

The work will take place within Sections 3 of Township 2 South, Range 2 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Yucaipa* 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map (34° 2' 2.56" N, -117° 4' 32.24" W).

Receiving water: Wilson Creek and Oak Glenn Creek, which may have present or potential beneficial uses, including: groundwater recharge (GWR), municipal and domestic supply (MUN), contact recreation (REC1), non-contact recreation (REC2), warm fresh water habitat (WARM), and wildlife habitat (WILD).

Fill area:

Permanent Impact to Wetland Habitat	0.19 acres	150 linear feet
Permanent Impact to Streambed Habitat	0.16 acres	3,400 linear feet

Dredge/Fill volume: 4,000 cubic yards

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Nos. 3 and 31

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:

- Impacts shall be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio via mitigation credits for habitat maintenance in the Santa Ana River through the Riverside-Corona RCD.

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. R8-2010-0036 (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 State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

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 by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works on March 29, 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.
- 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 riparian areas or wetlands that are slated to be impacted, functional assessments of these areas shall be conducted using the California Rapid Assessment Method, February 2012 (CRAM). Similarly, wetland and riparian habitat mitigation sites shall be assessed periodically with CRAM, beginning with the end of the first growing season following the initial planting of the mitigation site. Mitigation site assessments shall be conducted annually, during the period from October through December, until success criteria are met for consecutive years. This information shall be reported to <http://www.californiawetlands.net/tracker/>

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/wqo2003-0017.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):

San Bernardino County DPW- Nancy Sansonetti – nancy.sansonettie@dpw.sbcounty.gov
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office- Mark Durham
State Water Resources Control Board, OCC- David Rice
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ -Water Quality Certification Unit
California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Joanna Gibson
U.S. EPA- Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory Office WTR- 8