
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 29, 2015

Mr. Phil Lauri
Mesa Water District
1965 Placentia Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR THE OC-44 PIPELINE REHABILITATION AND
REPLACEMENT PROJECT, CITY OF COSTA MESA, COUNTY OF ORANGE,
CALIFORNIA (ACOE REFERENCE NO. Not Available?) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO.
302015-02)**

Dear Mr. Lauri:

On January 28, 2015, we received an application from Mesa Water District (Applicant) for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") for a project (Project) to rehabilitate approximately 1,700 linear feet (ft) of the existing OC-44 Pipeline by inserting a new pipeline inside the existing pipeline. The proposed Project is situated to the west of and along State Route 73 (SR-73) at San Diego Creek, and generally located within Bonita Creek and San Diego Creek, between Bayview Way and University Drive. The proposed Project will cause 0.30 acre of temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters. The Applicant has submitted a filing fee of \$3,195.00, which satisfies the Project fee requirement 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) in effect when the application was submitted.

This letter responds to your request for Certification that the proposed Project described in your application and summarized below, will comply with State water quality standards outlined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (1995) (Basin Plan) and subsequent Basin Plan amendments:

Project Description: The Project entails using a trenchless "sliplining" rehabilitation technique in which a new pipe is installed inside the existing deteriorating pipe. Rather than conducting open trench improvements in the Project area, the existing 42-inch pipeline will be sliplined with a new 30-inch Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP).

A pipe jacking operation will be conducted to make the improvements. Pipe jacking involves the excavation of fill materials at designated access pits (one on each end of the pipe), and a hydraulic jack then placed into the excavated pit. Using hydraulic pressure, successive 20-foot long pipe sections will be pushed and pulled into the existing pipe. The proposed Project will require the excavation of three access pits. The access pits include the north access pit (Pit 1) and south access pit (Pit 3) as well as a third access pit at the location where the pipeline deflects horizontally at an angle of seven degrees (Pit 2, located approximately 200 feet from the edge of San Diego Creek). Pipe jacking of the new 30-inch pipeline will be accomplished in two segments, first between Pits 3 and 2, then between Pits 1 and 2.

The proposed Project will also require building temporary access roads for personnel and equipment to access the proposed pit locations. Upon completion of construction, the Project site will be recontoured to pre-construction grades and then re-vegetated with a native plant mix.

The work will take place within Section 51 of Township 6 South, Range 9 West of the U.S. Geological Survey *Tustin, California* 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map (33.651442° N, -117.863785° W).

Receiving water: Beneficial use designations (existing or potential) for Bonita Creek and San Diego Creek include: contact recreation (REC1), non-contact recreation (REC2), wildlife habitat (WILD), municipal and domestic supply (MUN), groundwater recharge (GWR), and warm freshwater habitat (WARM).

Fill area:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Temporary Impact to Wetland Habitat | 0.28 acres | linear feet (not available) |
| Temporary Impact to Streambed Habitat | 0.02 acres | 166 linear feet |

Dredge/Fill volume: Not Available
Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit No. 74

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:

- None.

Should the proposed Project impact State- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, implementation of measures identified in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife should 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 Santa Ana Regional Board Order No. R8-2009-0030 (NPDES Permit No. CAS618030), commonly known as the Orange County Municipal Storm Water Permit, and subsequent iterations thereof. Order No. R8-2009-0030 requires that the Applicant substantially comply with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board 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 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration prepared by the lead agency in determining whether to approve a project. A responsible agency has responsibility to mitigate and avoid 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 City of Irvine on April 16, 2015, 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) All materials generated from construction activities associated with this Project shall be managed appropriately. This shall include identifying all potential pollution sources within the Project scope of work, and incorporating all necessary pollution prevention BMPs as they relate to each potential pollution source identified.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) This 401 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.
- 7) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.
- 8) 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 401 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:

Mr. Phil Lauri
Mesa Water District
RWQCB #: 302015-02 CIWQS #: 813691

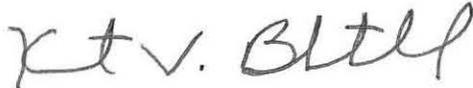
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www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Should there be any questions, please contact Marc Brown at or (951) 321-4584 or marc.brown@waterboards.ca.gov , or Wanda Cross at (951) 782-4468 or wanda.cross@waterboards.ca.gov .

Sincerely,



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

cc (via electronic mail):

RBF Consulting – Richard Beck – rbeck@mbakerintl.com

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 – Russell Barabe – rbarabe@dfg.ca.gov

State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ-Water Quality Certification Unit - Bill Orme