
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

7 October 2016

Chester Robertson
Modoc County Public Works
204 S. Court Street
Alturas, CA 96101

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 TECHNICALLY CONDITIONED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION; MODOC COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PIT RIVER LEVEE MAINTENANCE PROJECT (WDID#5A25CR00054), MODOC COUNTY

This Order responds to the 6 September 2016 application submitted by Modoc County Public Works for the Water Quality Certification of a levee maintenance project.

This Order serves as certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit# 3 (SPK# 2016-00695) under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and a Waste Discharge Requirement under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION STANDARD CONDITIONS:

1. This Order serves as a Water Quality Certification (Certification) action that 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 the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
2. This certification action is not intended and shall 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 Section 3855(b) of the California Code of Regulations, 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 shall be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required under Section 3833 of the California Code of Regulations.
4. This Certification is no longer valid if the project (as described) is modified, or coverage under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act has expired.

5. All reports, notices, or other documents required by this Certification or requested by the Central Valley Water Board shall be signed by a person described below or by a duly authorized representative of that person.
 - a. For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer such as (1) a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function; (2) any other person who performs similar policy or decision-making functions for the corporation; or (3) the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities if *authority* to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
 - b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor.
 - c. For a municipality, State, federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
6. Any person signing a document under Standard Condition No. 5 shall make the following certification, whether written or implied:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS:

In addition to the above standard conditions, the Applicant shall satisfy the following:

1. The Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) in writing at least **seven (7) days** in advance of the start of any work within waters of the United States. The notification shall include the name of the project and the WDID number, and shall be sent to the Central Valley Water Board Contact indicated in this Certification.
2. Except for activities permitted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, soil, silt, or other organic materials shall not be placed where such materials could pass into surface water or surface water drainage courses.
3. The Applicant shall maintain a copy of this Certification and supporting documentation (Project Information Sheet) at the Project site during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel (employees, contractors, and subcontractors) performing work on the proposed Project shall be adequately informed and trained regarding the conditions of this Certification.

4. The Applicant shall perform surface water sampling:

- a) when performing any in-water work;
- b) in the event that project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or
- c) when any activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.

Table 1:

Parameter	Unit	Type of Sample	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Turbidity	NTU	Grab ⁽¹⁾	Every 4 hours during in-water work	(2, 4)
Settleable Material	mL/L	Grab ⁽¹⁾	Every 4 hours during in-water work	(2)
Visible construction related pollutants ⁽³⁾	Observations	Visual Inspections	Continuous throughout the construction period	—

⁽¹⁾ Grab samples shall be taken at mid-depth and be collected at the same time each day to get a complete representation of variations in the receiving water.

⁽²⁾ Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 136; where no methods are specified for a given pollutant, the method shall be approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.

⁽³⁾ Visible construction-related pollutants include oil, grease, foam, fuel, petroleum products, and construction-related, excavated, organic or earthen materials.

⁽⁴⁾ A hand-held field meter may be used, provided that the meter utilizes a USEPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Certification shall be maintained at the Project site.

As appropriate, surface water monitoring shall occur at mid-depth. A surface water monitoring report shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board Contact indicated in this Certification within two weeks of initiation of sampling and every two weeks thereafter. In reporting the monitoring data, the Applicant shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the sampling locations, date, constituents, and concentrations are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to illustrate clearly whether the Project complies with Certification requirements. The report shall include surface water sampling results, visual observations, and identification of the turbidity increase in the receiving water applicable to the natural turbidity conditions specified in the turbidity criteria below.

If no monitoring is conducted, the Applicant shall submit a written statement to the Central Valley Water Board Contact indicated in the Certification stating, "No monitoring was required," with the Notice of Completion.

5. The Central Valley Water Board adopted a *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and San Joaquin River Basin, Fourth Edition, revised April 2016* (Basin Plan) that designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed

through the plan. Turbidity and settleable matter limits are based on water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan and are part of this Certification as follows:

- a) Activities shall not cause turbidity increases in surface water to exceed:
 - i. where natural turbidity is less than 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs), controllable factors shall not cause downstream turbidity to exceed 2 NTU;
 - ii. where natural turbidity is between 1 and 5 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 1 NTU;
 - iii. where natural turbidity is between 5 and 50 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 20 percent;
 - iv. where natural turbidity is between 50 and 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 NTUs;
 - v. where natural turbidity is greater than 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 percent.

Except that these limits will be eased during in-water working periods to allow a turbidity increase of 15 NTUs over background turbidity. In determining compliance with the above limits, appropriate averaging periods may be applied provided that beneficial uses will be fully protected. Averaging periods may only be used with prior approval of the Central Valley Water Board staff.

6. The Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board immediately if the above criteria for turbidity, settleable matter, or other water quality objectives are exceeded.
7. In-water work shall occur during periods of low flow and no precipitation. The Applicant shall perform surface water sampling in accordance with Technical Certification Condition No. 4, if any of the following conditions occur: 1) in-water work is conducted during an unanticipated flow event; 2) Project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or 3) Project activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.
8. Activities shall not cause visible oil, grease, or foam in the receiving water.
9. Refueling of equipment within the floodplain or within 300 feet of the waterway is prohibited. If critical equipment must be refueled within 300 feet of the waterway, spill prevention and countermeasures must be implemented to avoid spills. Refueling areas shall be provided with secondary containment including drip pans and/or placement of absorbent material. No hazardous materials, pesticides, fuels, lubricants, oils, hydraulic fluids, or other construction-related potentially hazardous substances should be stored within a floodplain or within 300 feet of a waterway. The Applicant must perform frequent inspections of construction equipment prior to utilizing it near surface waters to ensure leaks from the equipment are not occurring and are not a threat to water quality.
10. The Applicant shall develop and maintain onsite a project-specific Spill Prevention, Containment and Cleanup Plan outlining the practices to prevent, minimize, and/or clean up

potential spills during construction of the Project. The Plan must detail the Project elements, construction equipment types and location, access and staging and construction sequence. The Plan must also address the potential of responding to a spill or prevention of spills occurring within the Project site.

11. Raw cement, concrete (or washing), asphalt, drilling fluids, lubricants, paints, coating material, oil, petroleum products, or any other substances which could be hazardous to fish and wildlife resulting from or disturbed by project-related activities, shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering waters of the United States.
12. The discharge of petroleum products, any construction materials, hazardous materials, pesticides, fuels, lubricants, oils, hydraulic fluids, raw cement, concrete, asphalt, paint, coating material, drilling fluids, or other construction-related potentially hazardous substances to surface water and/or soil is prohibited. In the event of a prohibited discharge, the Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board Contact within 24-hours of the discharge.
13. An effective combination of erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented and adequately working during all phases of construction.
14. All areas disturbed by Project activities shall be protected from washout or erosion.
15. All temporarily affected areas shall be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities.
16. This Certification does not allow permanent water diversion of flow from the receiving water. This Certification is invalid if any water is permanently diverted as a part of the Project.
17. If temporary surface water diversions and/or dewatering are anticipated, the Applicant shall develop and maintain on-site a Surface Water Diversion and/or Dewatering Plan(s). The Plan(s) shall include the proposed method and duration of diversion activities. The Surface Water Diversion and/or Dewatering Plan(s) must be consistent with this Certification.
18. When work in a flowing stream is unavoidable and any dam or other artificial obstruction is being constructed, maintained, or placed in operation, sufficient water shall at all times be allowed to pass downstream, to maintain beneficial uses of waters of the state below the dam. Construction, dewatering, and removal of temporary cofferdams shall not violate Technical Certification Condition 5 of this Certification.
19. Any temporary dam or other artificial obstruction constructed shall only be built from clean materials such as sandbags, gravel bags, water dams, or clean/washed gravel which will cause little or no siltation. Stream flow shall be temporarily diverted using gravity flow through temporary culverts/pipes or pumped around the work site with the use of hoses.

20. The discharge of petroleum products or other excavated materials to surface water is prohibited. Activities shall not cause visible oil, grease, or foam in the receiving water. The Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board as soon as practicable of any spill of petroleum products or other organic or earthen materials with written follow up within 5 days.
21. The Applicant shall comply with all California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements, including but not limited to those requirements described in Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2016-0073-R1.
22. The Conditions in this water quality certification are based on the information contained in the Applicant's application and in the attached "Project Information Sheet." If the Project, as described in the application and the attached Project Information Sheet, is modified or changed, this Certification is no longer valid until amended by the Central Valley Water Board.
23. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions as provided for under the applicable state or federal law. For the 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 ensure compliance with water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this certification.
 - a) If the Applicant or a duly authorized representative of the project fails or refuses to furnish technical or monitoring reports, as required under this Order, or falsifies any information provided in the monitoring reports, the Applicant is subject to civil monetary liabilities, for each day of violation, or criminal liability.
 - b) In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, Central Valley Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Central Valley Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports (Water Code, Section 1051, 13165, 13267 and 13383). In response to any violation of the conditions of this certification, the Central Valley Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
 - c) The Applicant shall allow the staff of the Central Valley Water Board, or an authorized representative(s), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents, as may be required by law, to enter the Project premises for inspection, including taking photographs and securing copies of Project-related records, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Certification and determining the ecological success of the Project.

NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS:

24. The Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board within 7 days of the project completion.
25. The Applicant shall provide the Central Valley Water Board Contact indicated in this Certification a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after the Project completion. The NOC shall demonstrate that the project has been carried out in accordance with the project description in the Certification and in any amendments approved. The NOC shall include a map of the project location(s), including final boundaries of any on-site restoration area(s), if appropriate, and representative pre and post construction photographs. Each photograph shall include a descriptive title, date taken, photographic site, and photographic orientation
26. The Applicant shall submit all notifications, submissions, materials, data, correspondence, and reports in a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF). Documents less than 50 MB must be emailed to: centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov. In the subject line of the email, include the Central Valley Water Board Contact, Project name, and WDID number as shown in the subject line above. Documents that are 50 MB or larger must be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Central Valley Water Board Contact.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONTACT PERSON:


Dannas Berchtold, Engineering Associate
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, California 96002
dannas.berchtold@waterboards.ca.gov
(530) 224-4783

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:

I hereby issue an Order certifying that any discharge from Modoc County Public Works, Pit River Levee Maintenance Project (WDID# 5A25CR00054) will comply with the applicable provisions of Section 301 ("Effluent Limitations"), Section 302 ("Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations"), Section 303 ("Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans"), Section 306 ("National Standards of Performance"), and Section 307 ("Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards") of the Clean Water Act. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ "Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements For Dredged Or Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification (General WDRs)."

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 compliance with conditions of this Certification, Modoc County Public Work's application package, and the attached "Project Information Sheet", and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and San Joaquin River Basin, Fourth Edition, revised April 2016* (Basin Plan).

Any person aggrieved by this action may petition the State Water Quality Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code Section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 2050 and following. The State Water Quality Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this action, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Quality Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.


(for) Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

DJB:reb

Enclosure: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ

cc w/o
enclosures: Mr. Matthew Kelley, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Redding
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 1, Redding
Mr. Bill Jennings, CALSPA, Stockton
Ms. Lori Galvin, Modoc County Planning Department, Alturas

cc w/o
enclosures
by email: U.S. EPA, Region 9, San Francisco
Mr. Bill Orme, SWRCB, Certification Unit, Sacramento

PROJECT INFORMATION

Application Date: 6 September 2016

Application Deemed Complete: 29 September 2016

Applicant: Chester Robertson
Modoc County Public Works
204 South Court Street
Alturas, CA 96101

Applicant Representative: Lori Galvin
Modoc County Planning Department
203 West Fourth Street
Alturas, CA 96101

Project Name: Pit River Levee Maintenance Project

Application Number: WDID No. 5A25CR00054

Type of Project: Bank and Channel Modification, Channel Construction and Maintenance

Project Location: Section 14, Township 42 North, Range 12 East, MDB&M.
Latitude: 41.481° and Longitude: -121.550°

County: Modoc County

Receiving Water(s) (hydrologic unit): Pit River, Sacramento Hydrologic Basin, Pit River Hydrologic Unit #526.52, Alturas HSA

Water Body Type: Streambed

Designated Beneficial Uses: The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and San Joaquin River Basin, Fourth Edition, revised April 2016* (Basin Plan) has designated beneficial uses for surface and ground waters within the region. Beneficial uses that could be impacted by the project include, but are not limited to: Municipal and Domestic Water Supply (MUN); Agricultural Supply (AGR); Industrial Supply (IND); Hydropower Generation (POW); Groundwater Recharge (GWR); Water Contact Recreation (REC-1); Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2); Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM); Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD); Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance (BIOL); Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE); Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR); Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN); and Wildlife Habitat (WILD). A comprehensive and specific list of the beneficial uses applicable for the project area can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/index.shtml.

303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments: The Pit River is the receiving water for the Pit River Levee Maintenance Project. The Pit River, North Fork, is on the 303(d) list for pH.

This project does not impact an already impaired water body. The most recent list of approved water quality limited segments is found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml

Project Description (purpose/goal): The Pit River Maintenance Levee Project is located on the North Fork of the Pit River from just north of the west end of Henderson Street heading southwesterly to the Rail Road Bridge, in Alturas, Modoc County. The project consists of the removal of sediment from the Pit River to minimize the possibility of flooding and to comply with the Operations and Maintenance Manual for the North Fork Pit River issued by the Army Corps of Engineers. Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed. The removal will take place September thru mid-October; during this time the flow will be at its lowest. Machinery will be used to remove the sediment and load semi-trucks that will be on the road next to the river. There are two designated locations for the sediment to be hauled to: site 1- Alturas landfill, 16135 Co Rd 60, Alturas, CA and site 2- 886 Fitch Road, Alturas, CA. Erosion control measures will be utilized throughout the operation where sediment runoff from exposed slopes threatens to enter the waters of the State. Control measures such as silt fences, straw hay bales and broadcast straw shall be used where sediment has the potential to leave the work site and enter the stream. Silt control structures will be monitored for effectiveness and shall be repaired or replaced as needed. Spoil sites will not be located within the stream channel or areas that may be subjected to stream flows or precipitation, where spoils may be washed back into a stream. The sediment will be hauled offsite as it is removed from the river. The equipment will be checked and maintained daily to prevent leaks. Staging and storage areas will be located outside of the stream channel and banks.

Preliminary Water Quality Concerns: Construction activities including soil disturbance, excavation, cutting/filling, and grading activities that could result in increased erosion and sedimentation and may impact surface waters with increased turbidity and settleable matter.

Proposed Mitigation to Address Concerns: The Applicant will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control sedimentation and erosion. All temporary affected areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities. The Applicant will conduct turbidity and settleable matter testing during in-water work, stopping work if Basin Plan criteria are exceeded or are observed.

Fill/Excavation Area: Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of sediment will be excavated from waters of the United States.

Table 1: Impacts from Excavation Activities

Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary			Permanent					
				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition Only		
	Acres	Cubic-yards	Linear-feet	Acres	Cubic-yards	Linear-feet	Acres	Cubic-yards	Linear-feet
Lake									
Ocean/Bay/Estuary									
Riparian Zone									
Stream Channel					15,000				
Vernal Pool									
Wetland									

United States Army Corps of Engineers File Number: SPK-2016-00695

United States Army Corps of Engineers Permit Type: Nationwide Permit #3, Maintenance

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement:
1600-2016-0073-R1

Possible Listed Species: Not applicable

Status of CEQA Compliance: Central Valley Water Board staff has determined that this project meets the Statutory Exemption, under Section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations, which exempts the replacement or reconstruction of an existing structure where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced, and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

Compensatory Mitigation: The Central Valley Water Board is not requesting compensatory mitigation for the Pit River Levee Maintenance Project.

Application Fee Provided: Total fees of \$600.00 have been submitted to the Central Valley Water Board as required by Section 3833(b)(3)(A) and Section 2200(a)(3) of the California Code of Regulations.