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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 May 2017

Chris Goddard  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

CERTIFIED MAIL  
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***ORDER AMENDING CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 TECHNICALLY CONDITIONED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION; UNITED STATES OF ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 2016 SACRAMENTO DEEP WATER SHIP CHANNEL MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROJECT (WDID#5A57CR00147A1), YOLO COUNTY***

This Order responds to the 11 May 2017 request for an amendment of the 2016 Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel Maintenance Dredging Project Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WDID#5A57CR00147). The original Water Quality Certification (Certification) was issued on 26 August 2016. The requested amendment is hereby approved. The original Certification is therefore amended as described below. Please attach this document to the original Certification.

**AMENDMENT:**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers is requesting an amendment to the original Certification to perform emergency dredging activities. The emergency dredging is needed to remove increased sediment accumulation in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel in five areas: from River Mile (RM) 5.40 to RM 6.57, RM 9.09 to RM 10.02, RM 12.71 to RM 12.88, RM 12.25 to RM 12.58, and RM 18.50 to RM 18.58. The increased sediment is as a result of higher than average rainfall and water flows in January and February 2017.

The Certification is amended as shown in underline/strikeout format below:

This Order responds to the 27 July 2016 application submitted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Applicant) for the Water Quality Certification of the 2016 Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel Maintenance Dredging Project (Project), permanently impacting ~~53.03~~ 89.00 acres/~~13,200~~ 27,300 linear feet of waters of the United States.

Project Information Sheet is amended as shown in underline/strikeout format below:

**Approved Months of Project Implementation:** 26 August 2016 to ~~31 October 2016~~ 31 July 2017

**Project Description:** The 2016 Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC) Maintenance Dredging Project (Project) will dredge the Sacramento DWSC to a depth of 30 feet (plus two-foot allowable overdredge) for navigation of ship traffic to the Port of Sacramento.

Dredging Activities

The Discharger will conduct dredging and dredge material disposal activities at the following ~~twelve~~ ~~seven (7)~~ (12) reaches and dredge material disposal (DMD) sites as described in Table 2.

**Table 2: Dredging and Placement Sites**

Reach	Approximate River Mile		Station (ft)		Placement Site	Location	Amount of Dredge Material (cubic yards)
	From	To	From	To			
1	4.55	6.06	240.00	320.00	Augusto Pit S-20	Decker Island	50,646
2	6.25	6.82	330.00	360.00	Decker Island		12,703
3	7.01	7.48	370.00	395.00	Decker Island		2,484
4	7.39	7.86	390.00	415.00	Rio Vista S-16		1,864
5	9.09	9.47	480.00	500.00	Rio Vista S-16	Rio Vista	3,587
6	12.10	12.69	639.00	670.00	Grand Island S-14		2,298
7	12.76	13.31	672.00	703.00	S-31		6,308
<u>SAC 1</u>	<u>5.40</u>	<u>6.57</u>	<u>285.00</u>	<u>347.00</u>	<u>Augusto Pit S-20</u>	<u>Decker Island</u>	<u>40,500</u>
<u>SAC 2</u>	<u>9.09</u>	<u>10.02</u>	<u>480.00</u>	<u>529.00</u>	<u>Rio Vista S-16</u>	<u>Rio Vista</u>	<u>32,200</u>
<u>SAC 3</u>	<u>12.71</u>	<u>12.88</u>	<u>671.00</u>	<u>680.00</u>	<u>Rio Vista S-16</u>		<u>16,490</u>
<u>SAC 4</u>	<u>12.25</u>	<u>12.58</u>	<u>647.00</u>	<u>664.00</u>	<u>Decker Island</u>	<u>Decker Island</u>	<u>25,408</u>
<u>SAC 5</u>	<u>18.50</u>	<u>18.58</u>	<u>977.00</u>	<u>981.00</u>	<u>S-31</u>	<u>Rio Vista</u>	<u>700</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>79,890</b> <b>195,188</b>

Dredged material will be removed by hydraulic cutter head suction dredge, or with suction dredge (when dredging within 50 feet of utility crossings), and transported by pipeline for placement into the dredged material placement (DMP) sites listed above, which are authorized for use under the General Order. Clamshell dredging may be employed in limited cases where access is restricted or debris is too large for hydraulic dredging.

The Port of Sacramento received a Notice of Applicability No. 5-01-116-001-0001, dated 26 August 2016 for the disposal of the dredge materials, and an amended Notice of Applicability No. 5-01-116-001A, dated 26 May 2017, for Reaches SAC 1, SAC 2, SAC 3, SAC 4, AND SAC 5.

### Delta Regional Monitoring Plan Participation

The Delta waterways are listed pursuant to Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) as impaired for chlordane, chlorpyrifos, DDT, diazinon, dieldrin, group A pesticides, invasive species, mercury, and PCBs. The Delta Regional Monitoring Program (Delta RMP) was created to coordinate the Delta-wide monitoring, reporting, and assessment of water quality necessary for understanding regional water quality conditions and trends. Currently the Delta RMP Monitoring Design is focusing on pesticides and toxicity, pathogens, nutrients, and mercury, and is monitoring several of these constituents at various locations throughout the Delta.

Project activities will change the geometry of the channel and water residence time, which has the potential to affect the methylation of mercury, dissolved oxygen levels, and exacerbate the effects of nutrient concentrations which may lead to increased production of blue-green algae, macrophytes (water hyacinth and *Egeria densa*), shifts in algal species composition, and taste and odor problems in drinking water. Dredging activities also have the potential to impact chlorpyrifos, DDT, diazinon, and other pesticide levels by disturbing sediment, which may mobilize these chemicals. Because dredging activities will impact these long-term Delta water quality concerns, the Applicant is required by this Certification to adequately participate in the Delta RMP through in-kind services or financial contributions to support the monitoring and reporting efforts of the RMP. The Delta RMP Steering Committee will determine what constitutes adequate participation in the Delta RMP. Confirmation of participation in the Delta RMP must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by 26 September 2016.

### Summary of Impacts

No dewatering will occur within the Project area. No wet concrete will be placed into the Sacramento River or Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel. The Project will permanently impact ~~53.03~~ 89.00 acres/~~43,200~~ 27,300 linear feet of waters of the United States.

**Dredge Volume:** Approximately ~~79,890~~ 195,188 cubic yards of dredge material will be dredged from ~~53.03~~ 89.00 acres of waters of the United States.

**California Integrated Water Quality System Impact Data:** The Project will permanently impact ~~53.03~~ 89.00 acres/~~43,200~~ 27,300 linear feet of stream bed habitat from dredging activities.

**Table 3: Impacts from Dredging 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
Stream Channel	-	-	-	<del>53.03</del> <u>89.00</u>	<del>79,890</del> <u>195,188</u>	<del>43,200</del> <u>27,300</u>	-	-	-

**APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:**

No fees were submitted for this amendment. Total fees of \$600.00 for the original Certification were submitted to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board as required by Section 3833(b)(3)(A) and by Section 2200(a)(3) of the California Code of Regulations.

**PUBLIC NOTICING:**

The Central Valley Water Board provided public notice for this amendment on 19 May 2017. Emergency conditions – including increase in sediment transport and accumulation due to the high flows during January and February 2017 – warrant issuing this amendment immediately with an abbreviated public notice period, as authorized under California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 3858.

**CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD CONTACT:**

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**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT:**

The Central Valley Water Board has determined that this project meets the Categorical Exemption under: 1) Section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations, which exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination; and 2) Section 15304 of the California Code of Regulations, which exempts minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation and includes maintenance dredging where the spoil is deposited in a spoil area authorized by all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby issue an Order amending the existing Clean Water Act, Section 401 Technically Conditioned Water Quality Certification for the 2016 Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel Maintenance Dredging Project (WDID#5A57CR00147A1). All other conditions and provisions of the original Water Quality Certification and any previously approved amendments remain in full force and effect, except as modified based on the conditions of this Order. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the original Water Quality Certification, previously approved amendments, or of this Order may result in suspension or revocation of the Water Quality Certification.

*Original Signed By Adam Laputz for:*

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

cc: Distribution List, page 6

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