
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

17 May 2017

Christine Schneider
Contra Costa Water District
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ORDER AMENDING CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 TECHNICALLY CONDITIONED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION; CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT, LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR DAM OUTFALL MAINTENANCE PROJECT (WDID#5B07CR00133A2), CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

This Order responds to the 26 January 2017 request for an amendment of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Dam Outfall Maintenance Project Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WDID#5B07CR00133). The original Water Quality Certification (Certification) was issued on 7 October 2013 and amended on 29 August 2014. The requested second amendment is hereby approved. The original Certification is therefore amended as described below. Please attach this document to the original Certification.

AMENDMENT:

Contra Costa Water District is requesting a time extension through 18 March 2022. Documentation has been received from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (SPK-2012-00459) authorizing in-water construction activities to continue until 18 March 2022.

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

Project Description: The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Dam Outfall Maintenance Project (Project) is located near the toe of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Dam (Dam) directly downstream of the outfall to Kellogg Creek. The Dam outfall and adjacent Kellogg Creek allows the reservoir to be drained. The Applicant is required to maintain a specific conveyance capacity to meet State requirements for reservoir drainage during an emergency. In addition, the Applicant is required to provide continual flow of water, in the amount of 5 cubic feet per second, to support downstream stream habitat. The Project consists of substantial vegetation clearing and removal within 745 linear feet of the stream channel and banks directly downstream of the Dam outfall. The Project also involves annual vegetation management within the 745 linear foot segment of Kellogg Creek to maintain the required conveyance capacity.

The proposed vegetation clearing and removal will involve the use of chainsaws and weed-whackers with potential assistance from a backhoe on the stream banks. The Applicant will not operate heavy machinery in the stream bed. The existing tall-emergent wetland plant species, including roots and shoots, will be removed from the channel to improve flow conveyance. The Applicant's employees will enter the stream channel on foot, using weed-whackers and chainsaws and other hand-held tools, to mow dense vegetation to ground level. Trees with a diameter at breast height of greater than 4 inches, that obstruct flow in the stream channel bottom and interior banks, will be cut to ground level. The tree removal activities will be conducted in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements and restrictions. As part of this Project, vegetation management will not include herbicide application.

The excavated vegetative material will be loaded directly into a haul truck and disposed of at an appropriate off-site facility. The Project will not include grubbing, channel grading, or soil excavation apart from the necessary removal of soil associated with the vegetation. The Applicant regulates the flow of water in the stream channel directly below the Dam outfall and will maintain no flow conditions during the Project activities. Temporary water diversions will not be constructed as part of this Project.

In addition, the California State Division of Safety of Dams recommends the exercise of Los Vaqueros Dam's emergency discharge cone valve annually. The ~~exercise~~ activities involve releasing approximately 150 cubic feet per second into Kellogg Creek for five minutes. The water will be released from the Los Vaqueros Dam Intake structure.

The Applicant plans to conduct the discharge cone ~~exercise~~ activities a maximum of one time per year. The ~~exercise~~ activities will be planned after a period of time following routine vegetation management to allow the creek bed substrate to stabilize. The ~~exercise~~ activities will not be conducted when the channel contains loose debris and un-stabilized soil. The Applicant will conduct an inspection of the channel prior to the annual ~~exercise~~ activities to ensure that the area is stabilized. The inspection reports will be retained by the Applicant.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.209 acre/745 linear feet of waters of the United States up to five times through 18 March ~~2017~~ 2022.¹

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

Fees of \$720.00 were submitted for this amendment. Total fees of \$7,033.00 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.

¹ The ~~verification~~ of Nationwide Permit-3 (SPK-2012-00459) is valid until 18 March ~~2017~~ 2022.

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD CONTACT:

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WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:

I hereby issue an Order amending the existing Clean Water Act, Section 401 Technically Conditioned Water Quality Certification for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Dam Outfall Maintenance Project (WDID#5B07CR00133A2). 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 4

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