Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
(Regional Board)
Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application
Submittal Information

Pre-Filing Meeting Request:

Under the new Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule (effective September 11, 2020), you are required to request a “Pre-filing Meeting” with the appropriate Water Board a minimum of 30 days prior to submitting an application for an individual Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification (40 CFR Part 121). We encourage you to include a draft application with your request for a Pre-Filing Meeting.

In the subject line of the email, write Pre-Filing Meeting Request, 401 certification, (project name). In the body of the email, state that you are requesting a Pre-filing Meeting request for a 401 certification application for the (project name), located in (city and county). You must also copy the United States Army Corps of Engineers project manager who is also working on your project.

If you have already sent in your Pre-Filing Meeting Request and it’s been 30 days since the receipt of your request, you may now send in your 401 certification application to the applicable Region 5 office email address.

Application:

Pursuant to 23 CCR Section 3855, a full and complete application must be filed with the Regional Board to obtain a Section 401 Water Quality Certification under the Clean Water Act and/or Waste Discharge Requirement under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act.

The application may be found at the following links:

Word version: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/wqcapp.docx
PDF version: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/wqcapp.pdf

Application Fees:

An application fee, as determined by the fee calculator, is required to process the application. The total project fee based on temporary and permanent impacts caused as a result of project activities must be submitted prior to the issuance of the certification. The total fee is based on the acres of fill or amount that is to be dredged as found in Title 23 CCR Section 2200(e).

To determine the fee, please use the fee calculator found at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/docs/dredgefillcalculator.xlsm. Any checks mailed to a Regional Board office must include the project name and WDID# (if known).

If submitting fees by check, the check must be made payable to the “State Water Resources Control Board” and mailed to the appropriate Regional Board office at the address listed below.
Fees may be paid by ACH debit, ACH credit, or credit card online at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/make_a_payment/

After the certification has become effective, annual fees will be assessed on the fee schedule at time of billing.

Submission of Applications:

Effective 13 October 2014, application and attachments, and submission of material for the development of the water quality certification must be submitted electronically. The application and all required supplemental information should be submitted as searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) documents. Documents and attached supplemental information less than 50 MB should be emailed to the appropriate Regional Board:

Fresno: CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov
Redding: CentralValleyRedding@waterboards.ca.gov
Sacramento: CentralValleySacramento@waterboards.ca.gov

Documents 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the appropriate Regional Board address below.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Contacts:

Program Manager:
Bryan Smith
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer
(530) 226-3425
bryan.smith@waterboards.ca.gov

For further assistance, please contact the appropriate office for the project location:

Fresno Office
1685 E Street
Fresno, California 93706
(Counties: Fresno, Kings, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare, eastern portion of San Benito)

Matt Scroggins
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Brandon Salazar
Water Resource Control Engineer
(559) 445-6278
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Revised: January 2021
Redding Office  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205  
Redding, California 96002  

(Counties: Butte, Glenn, Plumas, Shasta, Tehama, portions of Lassen and Modoc)

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Sacramento Office
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

(Counties: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, eastern portion of Contra Costa, El Dorado, Lake, Napa, Nevada, western portion of Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba)

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Additional information may be obtained from the State Water Resource Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 – Certification and Wetlands Program at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/#resources