



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Colorado River Basin Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, California 92260
(760) 346-7491 • Fax (760) 341-6820
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 10, 2009

Mr. Ted Roney
Southern California Gas Company
555 W. Fifth Street, GT23F1
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1036

**RE: ORDER FOR TECHNICALLY-CONDITIONED CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401
WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR DISCHARGE OF DREDGED AND/OR
FILL MATERIALS**

PROJECT: Southern California Gas Company – North - South Interconnect Project

APPLICANT: Southern California Gas Company

- ACTION:**
1. Order for Standard Certification
 2. Order for Technically-Conditioned Certification
 3. Order for Denial of Certification

STANDARD CONDITIONS:

The following standard conditions apply to all certification actions, except as noted above under Action 3 for denials.

1. This certification action 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 Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 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) 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 (Actions 1 and 2) shall be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required under 23 CCR section 3833, unless otherwise stated in writing by the certifying agency.

California Environmental Protection Agency

4. 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 State law. For purposes of Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401(d), 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 Water Quality Certification (WQC).
 - a. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this WQC, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Regional Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including cost of the reports, shall be in reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
 - b. In response to any violation of the conditions of this WQC, the Regional Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

The following additional conditions apply to this certification:

1. This WQC applies towards the proposed project as described in the 401 application received by the Regional Water Board on June 22, 2009. The Applicant shall provide the Regional Water Board and other interested agencies with written notification of any significant modifications made to the project prior to implementation of the modifications.
2. This WQC does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
3. This WQC does not authorize the Applicant or any associated party to trespass on any land or property unless the applicant has obtained written authorization or acquired a special use authorization permit from the land or property owner.
4. A copy of this WQC shall be provided to the appropriate onsite Supervisor for the Project. All personnel performing work on the proposed project shall be familiar with the content of this WQC. Copies of the WQC shall be readily available at the project site at all times during periods of active work and shall be presented to regulatory agency representatives upon request.
5. The Applicant shall grant Regional Water Board staff, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to enter the project site at reasonable times, to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions



of this WQC and/or to determine the impacts the project may have on waters of the United States.

6. The proposed projects shall not be enlarged or extend beyond the proposed project impact area. The Applicant shall delineate the project boundaries and staging areas with stakes, flags and/or temporary construction fencing.
7. The area of vegetation and soil disturbance shall be restricted to the smallest extent possible.
8. Projects shall not discharge substances in concentrations toxic to human, plant, animal, or aquatic life or that produce detrimental physiological responses.
9. Projects shall not discharge waste classified as "hazardous" as defined in Title 22 CCR section 66261 and the California Water Code section 13173.
10. No oil, petroleum products, or rubbish shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into waters of the United States.
11. No equipment maintenance will be done within or near any stream channel where petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter waters of the United States.
12. Equipment refueling shall not occur within waters of the United States.
13. Any oil or grease leaks shall be immediately cleaned up.
14. The Applicant shall ensure that all contaminated material and/or contaminated soil removed or excavated from the Project site is properly loaded, transported, and disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations.
15. Staging/storage areas for equipment and materials shall be located outside of waters of the United States.
16. The Applicant shall ensure that all disturbed and filled areas are adequately stabilized and protected from erosion and siltation by implementing appropriate soil stabilization, sedimentation and silt control measures.
17. Any flow diversion used during construction shall be designed in a manner to prevent pollution, minimize siltation, and shall provide flows to downstream reaches. Flows shall be maintained to support existing aquatic life and riparian wetlands and habitat that may be located upstream and downstream from any temporary diversion.
18. The Applicant shall restore drainages, to the greatest extent possible, to the original bank configuration, stream bottom width, and channel gradient.



19. All temporary facilities and impacts shall be removed and restored to the preexisting conditions and contours to the extent practicable.
20. Construction related materials and wastes shall be removed from the project site upon completion of the project.
21. The Applicant shall submit Notice to the Regional Water Board within 60-days of completion of the Project. The Notice shall include: 1) a detailed summary of the mitigation and restoration activities implemented during the project and 2) provide photographic documentation that supports the information summarized in the Notice.
22. The Regional Water Board reserves the right to suspend, cancel, or modify and reissue this WQC, after providing notice to the Applicant and/or responsible Site-Supervisor, if the Regional Water Board determines that the project fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this WQC.
23. The Applicant shall orally notify the Regional Water Board of any noncompliance that may impact the beneficial uses of waters of the United States, as soon as notification is possible and notification can be provided without substantially impeding measures necessary to address the noncompliance.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONTACT PERSON:

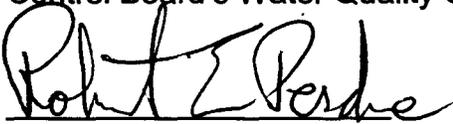
If you have any questions, please contact Jay Mirpour, Water Resources Control Engineer, at (760) 776-8981 or jmirpour@waterboards.ca.gov.



WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:

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.

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 strict compliance with the applicants' project description and the attached Project Information Sheet, and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan).



ROBERT PERDUE
Executive Officer

JJM/

cc: Mark Durham, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Office
Bill Orme, SWRCB, Division of Water Quality, Water Quality Certification Unit
David Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Thomas A. Vandenberg, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB

File: 401 Southern California Gas Company - North-South Interconnect, WDID No.
7A363010001



Mailing List:

Mark Durham
Regulatory Branch
Los Angeles Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

Bill Orme (*)
Water Quality Certification Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

David Smith
Wetlands Regulatory Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Thomas A. Vandenberg (*)
Staff Counsel
Office of Chief Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Note: (*) will e-mail electronic copy



PROJECT INFORMATION

Application Date: Received on June 22, 2009

Applicant: Southern California Gas Company (SCG)
Contact: Ted Roney, (213) 244-5672

Applicant Representative: Insignia Environmental
Contact: Armen Keochekian, (760) 635-1587

Project Name: Southern California Gas Company - North-South Interconnect Project

Project Start and Completion: September 9, 2009 – June 3, 2010

Project Description (purpose/goal): The project involves conversion of 76 total miles of existing Southern Trails Pipeline to natural gas and includes the replacement or removal of existing valves and installation of additional valves, replacement of cathodic protection units, installation of pressure-limiting stations, and repair of approximately 49 points where pipeline defects have been detected. The project will also involve the construction of two interconnections from SCG's existing Northern and Southern transmission systems.

Project Location: Desert Hot Springs, Twentynine Palms to Essex, in San Bernardino and Riverside counties

Receiving Water(s): The project will temporarily impact Carson Wash and Whitewater River. Additionally, 40 unnamed drainages. These washes eventually drain into Watson Wash, Bristol Lake, or Dale Lake with the exception of Whitewater River which drains into Salton Sea.

Fill/Excavation Area (acres): None

Dredge Volume (cy): A total of approximately 23,376 cubic yards of excavated material (equivalent to the sum of native material excavated from the trench at each of the 42 waters of the United States crossings will occur as a result of the project. The material will be returned to its original location following pipe repair and/or installation.



- Mitigation:** If unexpected water flow is encountered during construction, applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to protect the water quality.
- Federal Permit(s):** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers section 404 Permit filed under Nationwide Permit Number 12 Utility Line Activities and NWP 33 Temporary Construction (file number SPL-2009-00370 dated May 5, 2009) - Pending
- Status of CEQA:** On January 19, 1999, Questar Southern Trails Pipeline Company (Questar) filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to convert an existing 675-mile-long petroleum product line (Southern Trails Pipeline)—from Bloomfield, New Mexico to Long Beach, California—to natural gas. The Questar Southern Trails Pipeline Project Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), July 2000 (State Clearinghouse No. SCH99041103), which was jointly prepared by the FERC and the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the Southern Trails Pipeline Project along the entire 675-mile pipeline alignment, including new pipeline extensions, reroutes/realignments, point repairs, segment replacements, and the construction of new compressor stations. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity was issued by the FERC on July 28, 2000. Questar completed conversion of the Southern Trails Pipeline on June 25, 2002 in New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona; however, work on the California segments was halted due to economic conditions at the time of construction.
- On March 27, 2009, SCG submitted an Applicant-Prepared Environmental Analysis for the North-South Interconnect Project (Initial Study), which described the differences between the Questar and SCG projects and evaluated the environmental impacts associated with SCG's project. The County of San Bernardino independently reviewed the EIS/EIR and the Initial Study and conducted a field visit of the project on April 9, 2009. Based on the County's independent review of the EIS/EIR, the proposed activities, the environmental setting and the information submitted by SCG, the County has determined that an addendum to the EIS/EIR is appropriate.
- Reference No.:** 401 Southern California Gas Company - North-South Interconnect, WDID No. 7A363010001