

**Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board**

May 03, 2012

Ms. Debra Schafer  
Union Pacific Railroad  
1400 Douglas St., Stop 0910  
Omaha, NE 68179

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

**PROJECT:** Union Pacific Railroad Improvement Project on the Yuma Subdivision  
– Milepost (MP) 676.44 Project, WDID No. 7A133129001  
– MP 677.23 Project, WDID No. 7A133128001  
– MP 677.69 Project, WDID No. 7A133130001

**APPLICANT:** Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR)

- 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.
  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 (Project) as described in the 401 application received by the Regional Water Board on October 10, 2012 and additional information was received on March 22, 2013.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The proposed Project 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.
8. The area of vegetation and soil disturbance shall be restricted to the smallest extent possible.
9. The Project shall not discharge substances in concentrations toxic to human, plant, animal, or aquatic life or that produce detrimental physiological responses.
10. The Project shall not discharge waste classified as "hazardous" as defined in Title 23 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 2521, California Health and Safety Code section 25140, and Title 22, CCR, section 66260.10 et seq.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Equipment refueling shall not occur within waters of the United States.
14. Any oil or grease leaks shall be immediately cleaned up.
15. 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.
16. Staging/storage areas for equipment and materials shall be located outside of waters of the United States.

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. The Applicant shall restore drainages, to the greatest extent possible, to the original bank configuration, stream bottom width, and channel gradient.
20. All temporary facilities and impacts shall be removed and restored to the preexisting conditions and contours to the extent practicable.
21. Construction related materials and wastes shall be removed from the Project site upon completion of the Project.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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](mailto: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).



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ROBERT PERDUE, Executive Officer  
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

JJM/

cc: James E. Mace, USACE Los Angeles, Regulatory Division  
Bill Orme, SWRCB, Division of Water Quality, Water Quality Certification Unit  
Elizabeth Goldmann, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Thomas A. Vandenberg, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB

File: Union Pacific Railroad Improvement Project on the Yuma Subdivision  
– MP 676.44 Project, WDID No. 7A133129001  
– MP 677.23 Project, WDID No. 7A133128001  
– MP 677.69 Project, WDID No. 7A133130001

**Mailing List:**

James E. Mace  
Senior Project Manager  
Regulatory Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District  
Riverside Regulatory Field Office  
1451 Research Park Drive, Suite 100  
Riverside, CA 92507-2154

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

Elizabeth Goldmann  
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:** The application was received by the Regional Water Board on October 10, 2012 and additional information was received on March 22, 2013.

**Applicant:** Union Pacific Railroad  
Contact: Ms. Debra Schafer, (402) 544-2358

**Applicant Representative:** CH2M HILL, Contact: Ms. Christine Roberts  
(916) 798-3137

**Project Name:** Union Pacific Railroad  
– MP 676.44 Project, WDID No. 7A133129001  
– MP 677.23 Project, WDID No. 7A133128001  
– MP 677.69 Project, WDID No. 7A133130001

**Start and Completion:** Construction will start on May 1, 2013 and completed by January 1, 2014.

**Project Description:** **MP - 676.44**

Union Pacific Railroad plans to install a new bridge near the town of Iris in Imperial County, California. The new bridge has been sized to meet or exceed the required conveyance capacity, based on a review of the 50-year and 100-year flood events, and will accommodate a future second mainline track.

The bridge will be approximately 150 feet long and span the width of the existing channel to accommodate future storm events and uphold a future second mainline track. The bridge will be made of prestressed concrete box girders. Riprap will be placed upstream of the new bridge.

**Location:**

City or area: Iris, Imperial County, California  
Longitude/ Latitude: 33°10'55"N/ 115°22'28"W  
Township/Range: T 11 S/ R 15 E/Section 26

**Acres and Linear Feet impacted:**

Streambed (Unvegetated ) 0.08 acre, 185.01 linear feet (permanent)

Streambed (Unvegetated ) 0.555 acre, 216.46 linear feet (temporary)

**MP - 677.23**

Union Pacific Railroad plans to plug and fill the existing culverts and install two new culverts near the town of Iris in Imperial County, California. The replacement culverts have been sized to meet or exceed the current structure's capacity, based on a review of the 50-year and 100-year flood events, and will accommodate the existing mainline track and a future second mainline track.

**Location:**

City or area: Iris, Imperial County, California  
Longitude/ Latitude: 33°10'36"N/ 115°21'45"W  
Township/Range: T 11 S/ R 15 E/Section 25

**Acres and Linear Feet impacted:**

Streambed (Unvegetated ) 0.062 acre, 101.95 linear feet (permanent)  
Streambed (Unvegetated ) 0.092 acre, 77.97 linear feet (temporary)

**MP - 677.69**

Union Pacific Railroad plans to install a new bridge near the town of Iris in Imperial County, California. The bridge has been sized to meet or exceed the required conveyance capacity, based on a review of the 50-year and 100-year flood events, and will accommodate a future second mainline track.

**Location:**

City or area: Iris, Imperial County, California  
Longitude/ Latitude: 33°10'25"N/ 115°21'20"W  
Township/Range: T 11 S/ R 15 E/Section 36

**Acres and Linear Feet impacted:**

Streambed (Unvegetated ) 0.042 acre, 81.17 linear feet (permanent)  
Streambed (Unvegetated ) 0.251acre, 78.78 linear feet (temporary)

**Dredge:** N/A

**Receiving Water(s):** Unnamed drainage, tributary to the Alamo River, tributary to the Salton Sea.

**Best Management Practices:**

- No toxic and/or hazardous materials shall be stored near or within wash/drainage areas. To extent possible, these materials will be offsite and/or placed in appropriate secondary containment.
- Work and staging areas and temporary access routes will be sized, located and flagged so as to limit potential impacts to natural areas. Previous disturbed areas will be used to the extent feasible.
- No fueling or maintenance of equipment and/or vehicles shall occur adjacent or within the wash/drainage areas.
- Any materials placed in seasonally dry portions of the canal/ drainage areas that could be washed downstream or could be harmful to aquatic life shall be removed from the streambed prior to inundation by high flows.
- After completing the activities, the disturbed area will be restored to pre-existing contours and conditions to the extent feasible.

**Federal Permit(s):**

The project was determined to fall under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, Nationwide Permit (NWP) 14 – (Linear Transportation Projects).

**Status of CEQA:**

The Regional Water Board determined that the proposed project is exempt from CEQA based on the following:

Categorically exemption: CEQA Guidelines § 15302 – Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will be substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replace.

Statutory Exemption: CEQA Guidelines § 15275 – Specified Mass Transit Projects. “CEQA does not apply to the following mass transit projects: (a) the institution or increase of passenger or commuter service on rail lines or high-occupancy vehicle lanes already in use, including the modernization of existing station and parking facilities.”

Statutory Exemption: State of California Public Resource Code § 21080(b)(10). This section exempts from CEQA “[a]

project for the institution or increase of passenger or commuter services on rail or highway right-of-way already in use, including the modernization of existing station and parking facilities.”

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15062, the Regional Water Board shall file a Notice of Exemption with the Office of Planning and Research upon approval of the CWA Section 401 WQC.

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## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:**

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region (Region 7)  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

**Project Title:**

Union Pacific Railroad Improvement Project on the Yuma Subdivision  
– Milepost (MP) 676.44 Project - WDID No. 7A133129001, MP 677.23 - WDID No.  
7A133128001, Milepost MP 677.69 - WDID No. 7A133130001

**Project Description:**

Union Pacific Railroad plans to Install a new bridge, plug and fill the existing culverts and install two new culverts near the town of Iris in Imperial County, California

**Project Locations (City and County):**

Project Milepost 676.44  
City or area: Iris, Imperial County, California  
Longitude/ Latitude: 33°10'55"N/ 115°22'28"W  
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Township/Range: T 11 S/ R 15 E/Section 25

Project Milepost 677.69  
City or area: Iris, Imperial County, California  
Longitude/ Latitude: 33°10'25"N/ 115°21'20"W  
Township/Range: T 11 S/ R 15 E/Section 36

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:**

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region

**Name of Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Union Pacific Railroad

**Exempt Status (CEQA Guidelines Section and Class):**

The Regional Water Board determined that the proposed project is exempt from CEQA based on the following:

Categorically exemption: CEQA Guidelines § 15302 – Replacement or reconstruction of Existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site

