



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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Mr. Iftekhhar Ahmed
City of Los Angeles
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90015

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED (PROPOSITION O) HANSEN DAM LOWER PARKING LOT WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT, HANSEN DAM, CITY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 09-206)

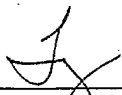
Dear Mr. Ahmed:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of City of Los Angeles (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on November 28, 2009.

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. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003 - 0017 - DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges that have received State Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification.

The Applicant shall be liable civilly for any violations of this Certification in accordance with the California Water Code. This Certification does not eliminate the Applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable laws, requirements and/or permits:

Should you have questions concerning this Certification action, please contact Valerie Carrillo, Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.

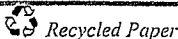


Tracy J. Egoscue
Executive Officer

2/9/10

Date

California Environmental Protection Agency



DISTRIBUTION LIST

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ATTACHMENT A

Project Information

File No. 09-206

1. Applicant: Iftekhhar Ahmed
City of Los Angeles
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Phone: (213) 485-5875 Fax: (213) 485-3122
2. Applicant's Agent: Charles M. Wolf
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.
888 W. 6th Street, Third Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 327-1633 Fax: (213) 614-9003
3. Project Name: Proposition O Hansen Dam Lower Parking Lot Wetlands
Restoration
4. Project Location: City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
34.2661	118.3933
34.2663	118.3941
34.2667	118.3948
34.2669	118.3941
34.2684	118.3940
34.2688	118.3949
34.2690	118.3948
34.2697	118.3938
34.2702	118.3929
34.2690	118.3923
34.2682	118.3930
34.2671	118.3932

5. Type of Project: Restoration at Hansen Dam
6. Project Purpose: The goal of the proposed project is to improve water quality and enhance habitat for the least Bell's vireo at the Hansen Dam

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Recreation Area. Primary goals are to reduce pollutants entering vireo habitat within riparian wetlands by way of surface runoff. Secondary project goals include enhancement of other on-site habitats and improving the visitor experience.

7. Project Description:

Two unnamed ephemeral streams (designated Watercourse 1 and Watercourse 2) were identified on the site. At the locations of the proposed impacts, the two streams provide relatively low functions beyond conveyance of stormwater. The two streams total approximately 2,120 linear feet and 0.16 acres on-site. Both streams appear to be supplied primarily by stormwater which originates from surface runoff from parking lots and roads within the park as well as upstream residential areas. Channel dimensions are approximately 1.5' - 4' wide and 4" - 12" deep. The dominant substrate types in the channels are silt, sand, and gravel. Both streams exhibit ephemeral flow regimes. The riparian area along Watercourse 1 is mostly non-native annual grasses with scattered native shrub species. Along Watercourse 2, the riparian area is comprised of turfgrass.

Currently, both watercourses carry stormwater containing pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, trash, metals, bacteria, oil and grease, and organics from surrounding residential areas and other impervious surfaces through the Site and directly into Hansen Lake. These streams are a primary conveyance system for untreated runoff that is threatening the health of riparian wetlands surrounding the lake. As part of this project, the "first flush" of stormwater carried through the Site by Watercourse 1 and Watercourse 2 is proposed to be redirected and treated prior to entering the Hansen Lake basin. The project design proposes constructing a small BMP inlet structure within each of the streams that redirects low flows into vegetated swales and then into the treatment basins. These inlet structures will essentially be a 6" bump in the streambed that directs low flows into a pipe (10" to 12" diameter) that will carry stormwater to an inlet swale. The pipe will be sized using the Site's hydraulic and hydrologic data to restrict flows to the water quality volume. Stormwater will then flow through the treatment systems discussed previously and treated water will return to the Hansen Lake basin. Equipment and machinery will enter the project area on the park access road.

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The two BMP inlet structures will be comprised of a cellular confinement system (CCS). The CCS consists of polyethylene webbing (less than 1%) that is filled with grout, small gravel, and soil. Below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), the infill materials will consist of a layer of grout overlain with small gravel. The grout with surface gravel will allow the inlet structure to mimic the look of the natural, un-vegetated conditions in the channels. Above the OHWM, the infill materials will consist of soil and native seed to promote vegetative growth along the banks of the swales and in riparian areas. The CCS is being designed to maintain a natural look while still preventing scour and erosion in the channel to ensure long-term stability of the BMP inlet structure.

CCS will be installed along a 14 linear foot segment of each watercourse. In order to install the CCS, native soil will first be excavated so that the installed material is below existing grade and not visible. Approximately 460 square feet of CCS will be installed within each watercourse. Of this, approximately 12 square feet will be located below the OHWM in each watercourse. An additional 20 square feet (approximately 0.5 cubic yards) of CCS will be placed across the bottom of the channel, perpendicular to flow, to create the 6" high bump that will divert the "first flush" flows into a small corrugated High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe extending under the streambank and into an inlet swale. The pipe will be buried under the streambank in order to maintain access along the channel to other park features. An inlet swale will be constructed outside of the riparian area that will convey water quality volumes from the pipe to the primary infiltration basin for treatment. The treated water will then be returned to the Hansen Lake Basin. In total, approximately 3 cubic yards of material will be removed from below the ordinary high water mark and approximately 3 cubic yards of CCS will be placed below the OHWM of each watercourse.

The BMP inlet structures will likely be installed using a small excavator mounted on rubber tires and hand labor. A small haul truck will also likely be needed to transport small gravel (obtained from a local quarry) to the site for infill in the CCS. Equipment will enter and exit the project area through the existing park entrances and access the work areas via existing roads, parking lots, or otherwise disturbed areas.

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8. Federal Agency/Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP Nos. 18 and 43
9. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: California Department of Fish and Game
Streambed Alteration Agreement
10. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: The City of Los Angeles prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project.
11. Receiving Water: Hansen Flood Control Basin & Lakes (Hydrologic Unit No. 405.23)
12. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN*, GWR, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD
*Conditional beneficial use
13. Impacted Waters of the United States: Non-wetland waters (unvegetated streambed): <0.01 permanent acres
14. Dredge Volume: None
15. Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented by the Applicant: The Applicant has not identified any related projects carried out in the last 5 years or planned for implementation in the next 5 years.
16. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- Work shall be performed during dry conditions;
 - A biologist may be present during construction to monitor construction activities;
 - Excavated material will be disposed of off-site;
 - All refueling activities and equipment storage will be outside waters; and

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- Standard stormwater BMPs will be in place during all construction activities.

17. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

This is a restoration project and in addition to providing stormwater treatment, a parking lot area will be removed. Approximately 84,250 square feet of asphalt will be removed. Removal of invasive species and re-establishment of native communities within the park will also serve as mitigation. Approximately 2 acres of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) will be removed and 700 native trees and shrubs are proposed to be planted. Native seed will be planted on approximately 3 acres throughout the Hansen Dam Recreation Area.

18. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has proposed the above activities as part of a Proposition O wetland restoration project. Impacts within waters of the US are less than 0.01 acres and there will be a net gain in restoration area of approximately 2 acres. No compensatory mitigation will be required.

See *Attachment B, Conditions of Certifications, Additional Conditions* for modifications and additions to the above proposed compensatory mitigation.

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification

File No. 09-206

STANDARD CONDITIONS

Pursuant to §3860 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR), the following three standard conditions shall apply to this project:

1. This Certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to §13330 of the California Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with 23 CCR §3867).
2. This Certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and 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 Subsection 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. Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required pursuant to 23 CCR Chapter 28 and owed by the Applicant.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

Pursuant to 23 CCR §3859(a), the Applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

1. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board copies of any other final permits and agreements required for this project, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) Section 404 Permit and the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement. **These documents shall be submitted prior to any discharge to waters of the State.**
2. The Applicant shall adhere to the most stringent conditions indicated with either this Certification, the CDFG's Streambed Alteration Agreement, or the ACOE Section 404 Permit.
3. The Applicant shall comply with all water quality objectives, prohibitions, and policies set forth in the *Water Quality Control Plan, Los Angeles Region (1994)*, as amended.
4. The Avoidance/Minimization activities proposed by the Applicant as described in Attachment A, No. 16, are incorporated as additional conditions herein.
5. The Applicant and all contractors employed by the Applicant shall have copies of this Certification, and all other regulatory approvals for this project on site at all times and shall be familiar with all conditions set forth.

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6. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, operation, and storage of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. At no time shall the Applicant use any vehicle or equipment which leaks any substance that may impact water quality. Staging and storage areas for vehicles and equipment shall be located outside of waters of the State.
7. All excavation, construction, or maintenance activities shall follow best management practices to minimize impacts to water quality and beneficial uses. Dust control activities shall be conducted in such a manner that will not produce downstream runoff.
8. No construction material, spoils, debris, or any other substances associated with this project that may adversely impact water quality standards, shall be located in a manner which may result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. Designated spoil and waste areas shall be visually marked prior to any excavation and/or construction activity, and storage of the materials shall be confined to these areas.
9. All waste and/or dredged material removed shall be relocated to a legal point of disposal if applicable. A legal point of disposal is defined as one for which Waste Discharge Requirements have been established by a California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and is in full compliance therewith. Please contact the Land Disposal Unit, at (213) 620-6119 for further information.
10. The Applicant shall implement all necessary control measures to prevent the degradation of water quality from the proposed project in order to maintain compliance with the Basin Plan. The discharge shall meet all effluent limitations and toxic and effluent standards established to comply with the applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements, including the provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act. This Certification does not authorize the discharge by the applicant for any other activity than specifically described in the 404 Permit.
11. The discharge shall not: a) degrade surface water communities and populations including vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant species; b) promote the breeding of mosquitoes, gnats, black flies, midges, or other pests; c) alter the color, create visual contrast with the natural appearance, nor cause aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the receiving waters; d) cause formation of sludge deposits; or e) adversely affect any designated beneficial uses.
12. The Applicant shall allow the Regional Board and its authorized representative entry to the premises, including all mitigation sites, to inspect and undertake any activity to determine compliance with this Certification, or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code.
13. Application of pesticides must be supervised by a certified applicator and be in conformance with manufacturer's specifications for use. Compounds used must be appropriate to the

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target species and habitat. All pesticides directed toward aquatic species must be approved by the Regional Board. Pesticide utilization shall be in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order Nos. 2004-0008-DWQ and 2004-0009-DWQ.

14. The Applicant shall not conduct any construction activities within waters of the State during a rainfall event. The Applicant shall maintain a **five-day (5-day) clear weather forecast** before conducting any operations within waters of the State.
15. The grading, stabilization and re-vegetation will be phased to limit the exposed or working face such that the graded area can be stabilized within 24 hours after the first prediction of rain during the 5-day forecast or within 24 hours after final grading of the phased area.
16. No activities shall involve wet excavations (i.e., no excavations shall occur below the seasonal high water table). A minimum **5-foot** buffer zone shall be maintained above the existing groundwater level. If construction or groundwater dewatering is proposed or anticipated, the Applicant shall file a **Report of Waste Discharge** to this Regional Board and obtain any necessary NPDES permits/Waste Discharge Requirements prior to discharging waste. Sufficient time should be allowed to obtain any such permits (generally 180 days). If groundwater is encountered without the benefit of appropriate permits, the Applicant shall cease all activities in the areas where groundwater is present, file a Report of Waste Discharge to this Regional Board, and obtain any necessary permits prior to discharging waste.
17. All project/maintenance activities not included in this Certification, and which may require a permit, must be reported to the Regional Board for appropriate permitting. Bank stabilization and grading, as well as any other ground disturbances, are subject to restoration and revegetation requirements, and may require additional Certification action.
18. All surface waters, including ponded waters, shall be diverted away from areas undergoing grading, construction, excavation, vegetation removal, and/or any other activity which may result in a discharge to the receiving water. If surface water diversions are anticipated, the Applicant shall develop and submit a **Surface Water Diversion Plan** (plan) to this Regional Board. The plan shall include the proposed method and duration of diversion activities, structure configuration, construction materials, equipment, erosion and sediment controls, and a map or drawing indicating the locations of diversion and discharge points. Contingency measures shall be a part of this plan to address various flow discharge rates. The plan shall be submitted prior to any surface water diversions. If surface flows are present, then upstream and downstream monitoring for the following shall be implemented:
 - pH
 - temperature
 - dissolved oxygen
 - turbidity

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Conditions of Certification File No. 09-206

- total suspended solids(TSS)

Analyses must be performed using approved US Environmental Protection Agency methods, where applicable. These constituents shall be measured at least once prior to diversion and then monitored for on a daily basis during the first week of diversion and/or dewatering activities, and then on a weekly basis, thereafter, until the in-stream work is complete.

Results of the analyses shall be submitted to this Regional Board by the 15th day of each subsequent sampling month. A map or drawing indicating the locations of sampling points shall be included with each submittal. Diversion activities shall not result in the degradation of beneficial uses or exceedance of water quality objectives of the receiving waters. Downstream TSS shall be maintained at ambient levels. Where natural turbidity is between 0 and 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), increases shall not exceed 20%. Where natural turbidity is greater than 50 NTU, increases shall not exceed 10%. Any such violations may result in corrective and/or enforcement actions, including increased monitoring and sample collection.

19. The Applicant shall restore **all areas** of TEMPORARY IMPACTS to waters of the United States and all other areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. Restoration shall include grading of disturbed areas to pre-project contours and revegetation with native species. Restored areas shall be monitored and maintained with native species as necessary for five years. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.
20. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Project Monitoring Reports** (Annual Reports) by **January 1st** of each year for a minimum period of **five (5) years** following this issuance of 401 Certification or until restoration success has been achieved and documented. The Annual Reports shall describe in detail all of the project/construction activities performed during the previous year and all restoration efforts; including percent survival by plant species and percent cover. At a minimum the Annual Reports shall include the following documentation:
 - (a) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project and restoration site conditions;
 - (b) Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in decimal-degrees format outlining the boundary of the project and restoration areas;
 - (c) The overall status of project including a detailed schedule of work;
 - (d) Copies of all permits revised as required in Additional Condition 1;
 - (e) Water quality monitoring results (as required) compiled in an easy to interpret format;

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- (f) A certified Statement of "no net loss" of wetlands associated with this project;
 - (g) Discussion of any monitoring activities and exotic plant control efforts; and
 - (h) A certified Statement from the permittee or his/her representative that all conditions of this Certification have been met.
21. Prior to any subsequent maintenance activities within the subject drainages/basin, including clearing, maintenance by-hand, and/or the application of pesticides, the Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board a NOTIFICATION of any such activity. Notification shall include: (a) the proposed schedule; (b) a description of the drainage's/basin's existing condition/capacity; (c) the area of proposed temporary impact within waters of the State; (c) a description of any existing aquatic resources (e.g., wetland/riparian vegetation); and (d) any proposed compensatory mitigation. Notifications must be submitted a minimum of **three (3) weeks** prior to commencing work activities.
22. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Regional Board shall be signed:
- (a) For corporations, by a principal executive officer at least of the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if such representative is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which discharge originates.
 - (b) For a partnership, by a general partner.
 - (c) For a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor.
 - (d) For a municipal, State, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.
23. Each and any report submitted in accordance with this Certification shall contain the following completed declaration:

"I declare under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who managed the system or those directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Executed on the _____ day of _____ at _____.

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_____ (Signature)

_____ (Title)"

24. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **09-206**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
25. Any modifications of the proposed project may require submittal of a new Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification application and appropriate filing fee.
26. The project shall comply with the local regulations associated with the Regional Board's **Municipal Stormwater Permit** issued to Los Angeles County and co-permittees under NPDES No. CAS004001 and Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-182. This includes the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) and all related implementing local ordinances and regulations for the control of stormwater pollution from new development and redevelopment. The project shall also comply with all requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activity, Order No. 99-08-DWQ or 2009-0009-DWQ, as appropriate. All stormwater treatment systems shall be located outside of any water of the State and shall not be used as a wetland or riparian mitigation credit.
27. Coverage under this Certification may be transferred to the extent the underlying federal permit may legally be transferred and further provided that the Applicant notifies the Executive Officer at least 30 days before the proposed transfer date, and the notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new Applicants containing a specific date of coverage, responsibility for compliance with this Certification, and liability between them.
28. The Applicant or their agents shall report any noncompliance. Any such information shall be provided verbally to the Executive Officer within 24 hours from the time the Applicant becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within five days of the time the Applicant becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected; the anticipated time it is expected to continue and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The Executive Officer, or an authorized representative, may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.
29. *Enforcement:*
 - (a) 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 section

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401(d) of the Clean Water Act, 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 Certification.

- (b) In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 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 SWRCB deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall be a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
 - (c) In response to any violation of the conditions of this Certification, the SWRCB or RWQCB may add to or modify the conditions of this Certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
30. This Certification shall expire **five (5) years** from date of this Certification. The Applicant shall submit a complete application prior to termination of this Certification if renewal is requested.