

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION**

ORDER NO. R4-2002-0188

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SOUTHLAND SOD FARMS
(OXNARD DRAINAGE DISTRICT #2 CANAL MAINTENANCE DREDGING)
(FILE NO. 02-152)**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) finds:

1. Oxnard Drainage District #2 (Owner), by its agent Water Resource Engineering Associates, has filed an application for Waste Discharge Requirements for maintenance dredging of the Oxnard Drainage District #2 Canal in Ventura County (Figure 1), to be performed by Southland Sod Farms, Inc. (SSF). Approximately one year ago, SSF purchased agricultural land from Southern California Edison Company for sod production. As part of the purchase agreement, SSF assumed responsibility for maintaining approximately 6,500 linear feet of the Oxnard Drainage District #2 Canal that flows along SSF's western and southern property lines. The canal originally was constructed to convey agricultural tile drain water, but now also carries agricultural surface water runoff and stormwater runoff from upstream developed areas. Due to the lack of recent maintenance, sediments have accumulated in the canal to the extent that the drainage is severely restricted. In addition, bulrushes have overgrown the channel, reducing flow velocity and drainage capacity of the canal. During heavy rain events, the canal overflows to the east and north and floods SSF's property.
2. To remedy the canal drainage and flooding problems, SSF proposes to dredge approximately 17,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Oxnard Drainage District #2 Canal using a clamshell bucket or Gradall/excavator operated from outside the banks of the canal. The reach to be dredged originates at the south end of Edison Road and extends for approximately 6,500 feet as the canal flows toward Mugu Lagoon (Figure 2). A silt barrier, such as straw bales or silt fencing, will be placed immediately downstream of work areas in which sediments are being removed to control turbidity and allow settling of suspended soil particles caused by the excavation activities. Receiving water monitoring will be conducted to ensure that adverse water quality impacts do not occur.

SSF also proposes to remove two 48-inch corrugated metal pipe culverts from the canal to eliminate a flow restriction problem. SSF may construct a concrete headwall at the discharge location of the Oxnard Drainage District #2 Canal pipe outfall to prevent further erosion and drainage to the pipe. SSF also may breach the southern canal levee to restore seasonal freshwater supply to the Ormond Beach tidal flat as

compensatory mitigation for removal of bulrushes and other vegetation from the canal.

3. SSF plans to dispose of the dredged sediments in a two-foot deep disposal trench cut into the agricultural field adjacent to a farm road that parallels the Oxnard Drainage District #2 Canal. Dredged sediments will be placed directly into the disposal trench. Following completion of the dredging operations, the trench will be backfilled with clean sand and the surface restored to its natural condition.
4. SSF collected sediment samples on three different occasions (Figure 3). On October 4, 2000, eight shallow sediment samples were collected from the top 12 inches of sediments at locations along the length of the canal (Stations C-1 through C-8). On March 1, 2001, eight additional shallow sediment samples (top 12 inches) were collected at locations approximately 200 feet northeast and southwest in a side ditch along the northwest side of Arnold Road (Stations C-9 through C-12) and from the southern 500 feet of the main canal north of Arnold Road Bridge (Stations C-13 through C-16). On January 16, 2002, ten additional sediment samples were collected from depths of 2.5 feet to 4.0 feet below the sediment surface to evaluate the deeper sediments along the length of the canal (Stations DC-1 through DC-8).

All of the individual sediment samples were analyzed for trace metal and trace organic concentrations, as well as grain size characteristics. The sediments were primarily silty fine sands, with varying amounts of organic material, which would be unsuitable for re-use in beach replenishment. The sediments were relatively uncontaminated, with concentrations of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) and most trace metals falling below the levels at which any adverse biological impacts would be expected to occur. Although some copper concentrations (at nine of the sixteen shallow sediment stations sampled) and zinc concentrations (at two of the ten deep sediment stations sampled) were at levels that occasionally cause adverse biological impacts, these were well below the levels that consistently produce adverse effects. Contaminant concentrations are well below hazardous waste levels. Any migration of contaminants from the disposal trench into underlying groundwater or the surrounding environment should be minimal, since the contaminants are tightly bound to soil particles and are not readily leachable.

Oxnard Drainage District #2 Canal Maintenance Dredging

Parameter	Shallow sediments (C-1 to C8)	Shallow sediments (C-9 to C-16)	Deep sediments (DC-1 to DC-8)
Silver	< 0.5 ppm	< 0.5 ppm	< 0.5 – 0.6 ppm
Arsenic	<0.5 ppm	< 0.5 – 0.9 ppm	<0.5 ppm
Cadmium	<0.5 – 0.8 ppm	< 0.5 – 0.8 ppm	< 0.5 ppm
Chromium	2.6 – 12.8 ppm	7.0 – 17.1 ppm	3.8 – 13.7 ppm
Copper	13.9 - 191 ppm	16.1 – 92.9 ppm	3.9 – 19.6 ppm
Mercury	<0.02 ppm	< 0.02 ppm	<0.02 ppm
Nickel	3.4 – 12.8 ppm	7.9 – 16.2 ppm	6.3 – 17.9 ppm
Lead	< 0.25 – 6.7 ppm	0.8 – 17.7 ppm	< 0.25 – 8.5 ppm
Selenium	<0.5 – 0.7 ppm	< 0.5 ppm	< 0.5 – 1.8 ppm
Zinc	23.8 - 141 ppm	33.6 – 135 ppm	69.0 - 215 ppm
Total DDT	Nd – 0.123 ppb	Nd – 0.009 ppb	Nd – 0.192 ppb

ppm = parts per million; ppb = parts per billion; DDT = dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane

5. The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties on June 13, 1994. The Water Quality Control Plan contains water quality objectives for the Edison Canal Estuary. The requirements contained in this Order as they are met will be in conformance with the goals of the Water Quality Control Plan.
6. The beneficial uses of Edison Canal Estuary are: industrial service supply, water contact recreation (water contact recreation activities are limited by the Southern California Edison Company), non-contact water recreation, marine habitat, wildlife habitat, and preservation or rare and endangered species.
7. The California Department of Fish and Game has determined that the Oxnard Drainage District #2 Canal Maintenance Dredging Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption (class 4 under section 15304, Minor Alteration to Land, title 14, California Code of Regulations), under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq).
8. With proper management of the dredging and disposal operations, the project is not expected to release significant levels of contaminants to the canal waters or other State waters nor adversely impact beneficial uses thereof.

9. Dredging and disposal operations will be accomplished through the use of temporary equipment. The Waste Discharge Requirements imposed below will not result in any significant increase in energy consumption.

The Regional Board has notified the Owner, SSF and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and to the tentative requirements.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Oxnard Drainage District #2 and Southland Sod Farms, Inc., in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code (CWC) and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the Clean Water Act as amended, and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Requirements

1. The removal and placement of dredged/excavated material shall be managed such that the concentrations of toxic pollutants in the water column, sediments or biota shall not adversely affect the beneficial uses of the water.
2. Enclosed bay and estuarine communities and populations, including vertebrate, invertebrate and plant species, shall not be degraded as a result of the discharge of waste.
3. The natural taste and odor of fish, shellfish or other enclosed bay and estuarine resources used for human consumption shall not be impaired as a result of the discharge of waste.
4. Toxic pollutants shall not be discharged at levels that will bioaccumulate in aquatic resources to levels that are harmful to human health.
5. There shall be no acute toxicity or chronic toxicity in ambient waters as a result of the discharge of waste.
6. Dredging, excavation or disposal of dredge spoils shall not cause any of the following conditions in the receiving waters:
 - a. The formation of sludge banks or deposits of waste origin that would

adversely affect the composition of the bottom fauna and flora, interfere with the fish propagation or deleteriously affect their habitat, or adversely change the physical or chemical nature of the bottom.

- b. Turbidity that would cause substantial visible contrast with the natural appearance of the water outside the immediate area of operation.
- c. Discoloration outside the immediate area of operation.
- d. Visible material, including oil and grease, either floating on or suspended in the water or deposited on beaches, shores, or channel structures outside the immediate area of operation.
- e. Objectionable odors emanating from the water surface.
- f. Depression of dissolved oxygen concentrations below 5.0 milligrams per liter at any time outside the immediate area of operation.
- g. Any condition of pollution or nuisance.

B. Provisions

- 1. The Waste Discharge Requirements specified above are valid only for dredging and disposal of a maximum of 17,000 cubic yards of sediment as proposed by SSF.
- 2. SSF shall notify the Regional Board immediately by telephone of any adverse conditions in receiving waters or adjacent areas resulting from the removal of dredge materials; written confirmation shall follow within one week.
- 3. A copy of this Order shall be made available at all times to project construction personnel.
- 4. SSF shall provide the following information to the Regional Board:
 - a. A copy of the final permit issued by the Department of the Army for the dredge and disposal operations.
 - b. The scheduled date of commencement of each dredging operation and an engineering plan and profile of the

- excavation and the disposal site at least two weeks prior to commencement.
- c. Notice of termination of the operation, within one week following the termination date.
5. SSF shall submit, under penalty of perjury, technical reports to the Regional Board in accordance with specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
 6. In accordance with CWC section 13260(c), SSF shall file a report with the Regional Board of any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the waste.
 7. These requirements do not exempt the Owner and SSF from compliance with any other laws, regulations, or ordinances which may be applicable: they do not legalize this waste discharge, and they leave unaffected any further restraint on the disposal of wastes at this site which may be contained in other statutes or required by other agencies.
 8. In accordance with CWC section 13263(g), these requirements shall not create a vested right to continue to discharge and are subject to rescission or modification. All discharges of waste into waters of the State are privileges, not rights.
 9. This Order includes Attachment N: "Standard Provisions, General Monitoring and Reporting Requirements" ("Standard Provisions") and the attached Monitoring and Reporting Requirements, both of which are incorporated herein by reference. If there is any conflict between provisions stated hereinbefore and said "Standard Provisions", those provisions stated herein prevail. If there is any conflict between requirements stated in the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program and said "Standard Provisions", the former shall prevail.
 10. This Order fulfills the requirements for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed project. Pursuant to section 3860 of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR), the following three standard conditions shall apply to this project:
 - a. 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 Article 6 (commencing with 23 CCR section 3867);

- b. 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;
- c. this certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required pursuant to 23 CCR division 3, chapter 28, and owed by the applicant.

11. This Order shall expire on June 30, 2004.

I, Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on December 12, 2002.

DENNIS A. DICKERSON
Executive Officer

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