

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region

Recipient of the 2001 Environmental Leadership Award from Keep California Beautiful



320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 - Internet Address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles

Mr. Charles B. Conners Naval Base Ventura County 311 Main Road, Suite 1 Point Mugu, CA

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED OFFSHORE PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2006-00967-MDC), PACIFIC OCEAN, SAN NICOLAS ISLAND, VENTURA COUNTY (File No. 06-150)

Dear Mr. Conners:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of Naval Base Ventura County (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on September 1, 2006.

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, Section 401 Program, at (213) 305-2250.

_[Original signed by]	<u>September 27, 2006</u>
Jonathan S. Bishop	Date
Executive Officer	

California Environmental Protection Agency

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Emilie N. Lang Naval Base Ventura County 311 Main Road, Suite 1 Point Mugu, CA 93042

Oscar Balaguer
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 944213
Sacramento, CA 94244-2130

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

Eric Raffini U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 600 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1460 Los Angeles, CA 90017

Tim Vendlinski Supervisor, Wetlands Regulatory Office (WTR-8) US EPA, Region 9 75 Hawthorne San Francisco, CA 94105

Diane Noda U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2493 Portola Road, Suite B Ventura, CA 93003 Vicki Clark, Staff Attorney Environmental Defense Center 906 Garden Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Jessie Altstatt Santa Barbara Channel Keeper 714 Bond Street Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Project Information File No. 06-150

1. Applicant: Naval Base Ventura County

311 Main Road, Suite 1 Point Mugu, CA 93042

Phone: (805) 989-7903 Fax: (805) 989-1011

2. Applicant's Agent: Naval Base Ventura County

311 Main Road, Suite 1 Point Mugu, CA 93042

Phone: (805) 989-4740 Fax: (805) 989-1011

3. Project Name: Offshore Pipeline Replacement Project, Naval Outlying Landing

Field

4. Project Location: San Nicolas Island, Ventura County

Longitude: 119° 26' 43"; Latitude: 33° 14' 25"

5. Type of Project: Pipeline maintenance

6. Project Purpose: The project goal is to replace the existing offshore jet fuel pipeline

off of the naval outlying landing field.

7. Project Description: The project includes design and planning for the replacement of the existing offshore fuel loading terminal pipeline at San Nicolas

Island (SNI). The project will consist of staging and assembly steps to fabricate a replacement pipeline on shore followed by installation using an offshore work vessel to position the pipeline in place on the ocean floor. The pipeline will consist of approximately 1,500 feet of continuous 6-inch diameter steel pipe. It will include a non-metallic exterior coating and sacrificial anodes for corrosion protection. Replacement will take place in two phases-onshore and

offshore.

Once the pipeline is ready for installation, it will be pulled offshore into final position using a moored workboat. The pipeline will be

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placed on the ocean floor and is expected to bury itself within a few months. The existing pipeline will be capped off (sealed) and left in place. All fuel will be removed and it will become decommissioned.

Work will begin in October 2006 and is expected to take 8 to 12 weeks to complete.

8. Federal Agency/Permit:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

NWP No. 3 Maintenance (Permit No. 2006-00967-MDC)

9. Other Required Regulatory Approvals:

California Coastal Commission Coastal Consistency Determination

10. CaliforniaEnvironmental QualityAct Compliance:

The proposed project is Categorically Exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction).

11. Receiving Water:

San Nicolas Island, Pacific Ocean (Hydrologic Unit No. 406.20)

12. Designated Beneficial Uses:

NAV, REC-1, REC-2, COMM, MAR, WILD, BIOL, RARE, MIGR, SPWN, SHELL

13. Impacted Waters of the United States:

Ocean: 1500 linear feet

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.

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16. Avoidance/
Minimization
Activities:

The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:

- This project is comparatively small in scope and will not significantly impact waters of the U.S.
- This fuel pipeline will not be buried and any potential disturbance to sediment when the pipeline is laid upon the ocean floor will be minimal.
- No wetlands will be impacted by this project.
- There is to be no dredging or removal of fill material during this project.
- The work is scheduled to begin outside of sensitive time periods for the western snowy plover and marine mammals (elephant seals and sea lions); therefore no listed species or critical habitat will be impacted by this project.
- An oil spill contingency plan has been written for this project and a SNI spill response team will be on standby in case issues arise.
- Navy environmental and engineering personnel will be monitoring the project and the work will be scheduled during favorable weather and seasonal conditions to minimize the potential for impact to waters of the U.S.
- Pre-construction surveys shall be performed for *Caulerpa taxifolia* ("*Caulerpa*") within the project area in accordance with the *Caulerpa* Control Protocol.

17. Required Compensatory Mitigation:

In coordination with NOAA Fisheries, the Applicant will implement a pre- and post-construction survey for surfgrass, eelgrass and rocky habitat. Surfgrass, eelgrass or rocky habitat lost due to project impacts will be mitigated at a ratio of 1:1.

It is not anticipated that the project activity will have a negative impact on waters of the United States. During the construction, all possible BMPs will be utilized in order to minimize impacts to waters. The impacts associated with this project are minimal and temporary in nature. Therefore, additional compensatory mitigation will not be required by the Regional Board.

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

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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 California Coastal Commission. 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 California Coastal Commission Consistency Determination, 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).
- 4. The Avoidance/Minimization activities proposed by the Applicant as described in Attachment A, No. 15, are incorporated as additional conditions herein.
- 5. The Applicant and all contractors employed by the Applicant shall have copies of this Certification, the approved maintenance plan, 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 water quality impacts.
- 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 Rodney Nelson, 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.

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- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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.
- 16. 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. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.
- 17. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board a Final Monitoring Report by January 1st of the year following project completion. The report 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. If mitigation is required as specified in Attachement A (No. 16), an Annual Monitoring Report will be required for a period of 5 years. This report shall include as a minimum, the following documentation:
 - (a) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project site conditions;
 - (b) Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in decimal-degrees format outlining the boundary of the project and mitigation areas;

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- (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;
- (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.
- 18. Prior to any subsequent maintenance activities within the project area, 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 existing conditions; (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.
- 19. 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.
- 20. 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

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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	·
			(Signature)
			(Title)"

- 21. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **06-150**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
- 22. 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.
- 23. The project shall comply with the local regulations associated with the Regional Board's Municipal Stormwater Permit issued to Ventura County and co-permittees under NPDES No. CAS004002 and Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 00-108. This includes the Stormwater Quality Urban Impact Mitigation Plan (SQUIMP) 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. 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.
- 24. 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.
- 25. 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

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an authorized representative, may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

26. 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 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.
- 27. 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.