

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region

Recipient of the 2001 Environmental Leadership Award from Keep California Beautiful



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Ed Louie U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 915 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90017

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED BULL CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT (Corps' Project No. SPL-2007-963-KW), BULL CREEK, CITY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 07-083)

Dear Mr. Louie:

Regional Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on December 11, 2007.

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 Dana Cole, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-5733.

[Original Signed By]	January 9, 2008	
Tracy J. Egoscue	Date	
Executive Officer		

California Environmental Protection Agency

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Project Information File No. 07-083

1. Applicant: Ed Louie

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

915 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 452-4002

2. Applicant's Agent: Kenneth Wong

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

915 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 452-4002 Fax: (213) 452-4196

3. Project Name: Bull Creek Restoration

4. Project Location: Los Angeles area, Los Angeles County

<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	
118° 29' 51.98"	34° 11′ 09.35″	
118° 29' 52.40"	34° 11' 05.15"	
118° 29' 55.89"	34° 11' 04.73"	
118° 18' 56.41"	34° 11' 01.35"	
118° 29' 52.61"	34° 11' 01.18"	
118° 29' 52.60"	34° 10′ 44.80″	
118° 29' 51.51"	34° 10′ 44.20″	
118° 29' 51.37"	34° 11' 09.47"	

5. Type of Project: Creek restoration

6. Project Purpose: The Project purposes are to restore, enhance and create riparian

habitat along Bull Creek and provide recreation and educational

opportunities within the Sepulveda Recreation Center.

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7. Project Description:

The proposed project is located within the 2,097-acre Sepulveda Flood Control Basin located at the northwest corner of the intersection between the Interstate 405 and U.S. Highway 101, in the San Fernando Valley area of the City of Los Angeles. The 28-acre project area is bordered by Victory Blvd. to the north, Bull Creek to the east, Los Angeles River to the south, and Balboa Blvd. in the West.

The Bull Creek watershed encompasses approximately 25-square-mile of developed urban areas and has the capacity to convey 11,000 cubic feet per second during a 100-year flood event. Due to previous agricultural land uses in the watershed before urbanization, the Bull Creek may have functioned as an agricultural drainage channel. Seasonal storm flows produce near capacity flows in the creek, with water level coming within four to five feet of the top of the channel banks. During the dry season, the channel receives nuisance runoff from its urbanized watershed. Previous grading and flood control projects have resulted in a relatively straight and narrow channel with a north to south alignment and water flow.

The proposed project will create, restore, and enhance the 2,400-foot-long reach of Bull Creek and its associated riparian habitat within the 28-acre project area. The project consists of the following elements:

- Creation: An approximately 1,200-foot-long, oxbow, engineered channel will be excavated in the uplands and vegetated with native riparian species such as mulefat and willows. Once constructed and vegetated, the channel would provide biological functions (e.g., breeding and foraging habitat), physical functions (e.g., groundwater recharge, and sediment entrapment), and chemical functions (e.g., pollutant removal via uptake by wetland species).
- Restoration: Immediately upstream of Bull Creek is a concrete lined channel, which receives urban runoff. The volume and velocity of flows conveyed from the concrete lined portion has formed an incised channel with a 2:1 slope. Restoration will reshape the channel contour from the existing 2:1 slope to 3:1 slope. Modification of the relatively straight channel alignment will include a slightly meandering watercourse with occasional point bars.

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• Enhancement: Urban runoff conveyed by Bull Creek has deposited trash and debris within the channel. The channel contains invasive species such as giant reed and castor bean. Enhancement will include removal of trash, debris, and invasive species followed by revegetation with native riparian species such as mulefat and willows. Flow to the 2,400-foot-long reach of Bull Creek (which currently consists of nuisance flow) and the 1,200-foot-long, oxbow, engineered channel would be augmented by water from Balboa Lake which would be gravity fed through a 1,200-foot-long, 12-inch diameter water supply line. Discharge of the water from Balboa Lake would occur at the northern end of the 2,400-foot-long reach of Bull Creek into a 20-foot by 100-foot concrete pool.

The proposed creation, restoration, and enhancement activities would entail the following discharges of fill within waters of the United States:

- Excavation of 134,220 CY of earthen fill from the creek, grading activities associated with slope recontouring (from the existing 2:1 to 3:1), removal of invasive vegetation such as Arundo donax, and realignment of the creek from a linear alignment to a meandering alignment would temporarily affect 1.0 acres of waters of the United States.
- Construction of four single-span pedestrian bridges at various locations throughout the project area which would entail the construction of eight abutments located outside of waters of the United States.
- Discharge of concrete structures: The proposed project will require the placement of the following structures within waters of United States:
 - Five 10-foot by 100-foot concrete weirs located at various locations throughout the project site and one 20-foot by 100-foot concrete pool.
 - One outfall structure at the northern end of Bull Creek which would convey water from Lake Balboa to the creek.

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8. Federal Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Project No. SPL-2007-963-KW

9. Other Required California Department of Fish and Game Regulatory Streambed Alteration Agreement

10. California The City of Los Angeles, Board of Recreation and Park Environmental Commissioners approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Commissioners approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) on May 16, 2007: mitigation measures were a condition of project approval. A Notice of Determination for the MND was filed on

May 18, 2007 with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

11. Receiving Water: Bull Creek (Hydrologic Unit No. 405.21)

12. Designated MUN*, GWR, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD

*Conditional beneficial use

13. Impacted Waters of Non-wetland waters (vegetated streambed): 1.0 temporary and

the United States: 0.065 permanent acres

14. Dredge Volume: None

15. Related Projects
Implemented/to be
Implemented by the

Applicant:

Approvals:

Quality Act

Compliance:

Beneficial Uses:

None

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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:

- All exposed slopes on both sides of the channel will be covered with coir matting for the purpose of erosion control.
- Silt fences and hay bales will be used for siltation and turbidity control until soil stabilizes.
- Staging, storage, fueling, and maintenance of equipment and materials shall be located in a designated location outside of waters of the state.
- Stockpiles of earth and other construction-related materials will be prevented from being transported by wind or water.
- All construction-related solid wastes will be placed in covered receptacles.
- No hazardous or polluting materials shall be allowed to enter into waters of the state, and shall be properly stored and handled so that soil or surface waters are not contaminated.
- Equipment or vehicle washing will be contained within the work site.
- All staging area shall be restored to a condition equal to or better than prior to construction.
- All debris from the project area will be taken to a legal point of disposal.

17. Proposed Compensatory Mitigation:

The project restoration will create 2.2 acres and restore and enhance 6.5 acres onsite, for a total of 8.7 acres.

18. Required Compensatory Mitigation:

Temporary impacts of 1.1 acres require 1:1 mitigation, and permanent impacts of 0.065 acres require 3:1 mitigation. Total requirements in mitigation acreage require 1.165 acres of mitigation.

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Proponent shall mitigate for 8.7 acres onsite, which is a 7.47 to 1 mitigation ratio. 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 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 polices 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. 16, 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 so they are 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 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. 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 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 Applicant shall not conduct any maintenance activities within waters of the State during a rainfall event, or at any period when site conditions would lead to excessive erosion. If any maintenance activities are to be held within five (5) days of a predicted rainfall event, the Applicant shall stage materials necessary to prevent water degradation on site, and shall ensure that all stabilization procedures are completed prior to the rainfall event.
- 16. Sediment removal at each phase shall not go beyond the extent as defined in the application packet.
- 17. 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.
- 18. The Applicant shall utilize the services of a qualified biologist with expertise in riparian assessments during all construction activities where clearing involves areas to be partially cleared (i.e. some vegetation is to remain in the same reach or in an adjacent reach). The biologist shall be available on site during construction activities to ensure that all protected areas are marked properly and ensure that no vegetation outside the specified areas is removed. The biologist shall have the authority to stop the work, as necessary, if instructions are not followed. The biologist shall be available upon request from this Regional Board for consultation within 24 hours of request of consultation.
- 19. 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

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Waste Discharge to this Regional Board, and obtain any necessary permits prior to discharging waste.

- 20. All project construction or 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.
- 21. 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
 - total suspended solids(TSS)
 - 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%.

Analyses must be performed using approved US Environmental Protection Agency methods, where applicable. These constituents shall be 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. Any such violations may result in corrective and/or enforcement actions, including increased monitoring and sample collection.

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- 22. The Applicant shall restore the proposed **1.1 acres** 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 a 3:1 slope and revegetation with native species. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.
- 23. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION to offset the proposed temporal loss of **1.1 acres** waters of the United States by creating or restoring riparian habitat at a minimum **1:1** area replacement ratio (**1.1 acres**). The Applicant shall also provide compensatory mitigation for the proposed permanent impacts to **0.065 acres** of vegetation within waters of the United States/Federal jurisdictional wetlands by creating or restoring riparian habitat/Federal jurisdictional wetland habitat at a minimum **7.47:1** area replacement ratio (**8.7 acres**). The boundary of the mitigation site shall be clearly identified on a map of suitable quality and shall be defined by latitude and longitude. This information shall be submitted to this Regional Board for approval prior to any disturbance within waters of the United States and shall include copies of any agreements made between the Applicant and a third party organization regarding compensatory mitigation efforts.
- 24. All open space and mitigation areas shall be placed within a conservation easement to ensure preservation in perpetuity. Documentation of proper easement placement shall be submitted to the Regional Board within one year.
- 25. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Mitigation Monitoring Reports** by **January 1**st of each year for a minimum period of **five (5) years** after planting or until mitigation success has been achieved. The report shall describe in detail all of the project and construction activities performed during the previous year and all restoration and mitigation efforts; including percent survival by plant species and percent cover. This report shall include as a minimum, the following documentation:
 - (a) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project and mitigation site conditions;
 - (b) Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in decimal-degrees format outlining the boundary of the project and mitigation 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 for each reach (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.
- 26. Prior to any subsequent maintenance activities within the subject drainages and 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 or basin's existing condition and 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.
- 27. 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.
- 28. 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	
Lacculca on the	uav oi	aı	

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 (Signature)
 (Title)"

- 29. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **07-083**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
- 30. 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.
- 31. 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.
- 32. 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.
- 33. A copy of this Certification shall be kept at the project site during any period while project activities are being conducted, and shall be available upon request to any staff from this Regional Board.
- 34. 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.

35. 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,

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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.
- 36. 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.