

**State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region**

Order No. R8-2019-0070

**Waste Discharge Requirements
For
Richland Communities
Countryview Estates Tracts 37533 and 29322
Community of Homeland
Riverside County**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Santa Ana Water Board), finds that:

1. This Order is for Waste Discharge Requirements for the Richland Communities (discharger), Countryview Estates Tracts 37533 and 29322 Project (Project).

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are necessary to address impacts of dredged and fill material on the beneficial uses of waters of the State (WOTS). On May 8, 2019, the discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD). An application fee of \$1638.00 was also received on May 8, 2019. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as category A – Fill & Excavation Discharges (fee code 84) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

On June 10, 2019, the Santa Ana Water Board deemed the ROWD complete. This Order regulates the discharge of fill material to WOTS.

2. The discharger proposes to construct a residential development called Countryview Estates along Briggs Road in the community of Homeland in Riverside County. The proposed development would develop 118.83 acres of land into 551 dwellings. In addition to constructing the dwelling lots, the Project will construct offsite road improvements, recreational open space, and water quality detention basins.
3. The Project is located in the community of Homeland in Riverside County. The Project site is located at latitude 33.749749° N and longitude -117.130499° W and within Section 7, Township 5 South, and Range 2 West. The Project site is generally bounded by Watson Road to the north, undeveloped land and State

Highway 74 to the south, Sultanas Road to the east, and Briggs Road to the west.

The Project site is located within (or a portion of) Assessor's Parcel Numbers 457-320-005, 457-320-006, 457-320-007, 457-320-010, 457-320-011, 457-320-012, 457-320-021, 457-320-023 through 457-320-031, 457-330-007 through 457-330-010, 457-330-020, 457-330-025, and 457-330-026. A map showing the Project location is found in Attachment A of this Order.

4. Santa Ana Water Board jurisdiction for this Project is associated with a Riverside County flood control channel and two roadside ditches (the Briggs Road Ditch and the Sultanas Road Ditch). The total Santa Ana Water Board jurisdiction of WOTS onsite is 1.03 acres and 4,230 linear feet, none of which consist of any jurisdictional wetlands.
 - a. A Riverside County flood control channel borders the Project site to the north. The channel is concrete-lined. It consists of 0.49 acre and 2,106 linear feet of WOTS, including waters of the United States (WOTUS). However, there will be no Project impacts to the flood control channel.
 - a. The Briggs Road Ditch totals 0.22 acre and 964 linear feet, all of which consists of a non-riparian roadside ditch that is only considered as WOTS and not WOTUS. The Briggs Road Ditch is located along the western edge of the Project (see Attachment A) and enters the Project site along its northwestern boundary near the terminus of the Riverside County flood control channel near the intersection of Briggs Road and Watson Road. The ditch continues flowing in a north to south direction for 964 linear feet before entering a culvert beneath Briggs Road and exiting the site. The ditch ranges in width from three feet to sixteen feet, is earthen, and contains non-native herbs and grasses. The Briggs Road Ditch will be permanently impacted by the Project.
 - b. The Sultanas Road Ditch totals 0.32 acre and 1,160 linear feet, all of which consists of a non-riparian roadside ditch considered as WOTS, however, not a WOTUS. The Sultanas Road Ditch is located along the eastern edge (see Attachment A) of the Project site and enters along the east-central boundary near the intersection of Sultanas Road and Triple Crown Road. The ditch continues flowing in a north to south direction for 1,160 linear feet before eventually flowing off site and continuing in a southerly direction toward the intersection of Sultanas Road and State Highway 74. The ditch averages twelve feet in width, is

earthen, and contains non-native vegetation. The Sultanas Road Ditch will be permanently impacted by the Project.

- c. The Study Area also supports two relict/remnant drainage features that do not have a hydrologic source of flow as these features have been cut off from their former flow source by the County flood control channel located at the northern end of the Study Area. These drainage features are not consisted as WOTUS or WOTS.
5. The Project, as proposed, would permanently fill a total of 0.54 acre of WOTS, consisting of 2,124 linear feet of non-riparian roadside ditches (Briggs Road Ditch and Sultanas Road Ditch).
 6. The Briggs Road Ditch and Sultana Road Ditch are not listed in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan). However, the Project site is tributary to Reach 3 of the San Jacinto River, which has designated beneficial uses (existing or potential) that include:
 - i. Intermittent Agricultural Supply (AGR)
 - ii. Intermittent Ground Water Recharge (GWR)
 - iii. Intermittent Water Contact Recreation (REC1)
 - v. Intermittent Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC2)
 - vi. Intermittent Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM)
 - vii. Intermittent Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
 - viii. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE)
 7. For permanent impacts to the 0.54 acre of non-riparian WOTS, the discharger is proposing to purchase a minimum of 1.08 acres of mitigation credits from the Southwest Resource Management Association Santa Ana River Watershed in-lieu fee program (ILFP) or another approved mitigation bank or ILFP within the Santa Ana River/San Jacinto River watershed or adjacent watershed at a 2:1 mitigation-to-impact ratio. Verification of purchase of the mitigation credits will be submitted to Santa Ana Water Board staff no later than ten (10) days from the beginning of Project construction discharge.
 8. The Santa Ana Water Board has the authority to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill materials through the issuance of WDRs pursuant to California Water Code section 13263. The Santa Ana Water Board has determined that WDRs are necessary to adequately address the Project's potential impacts on the beneficial uses of WOTS.

9. California Water Code section 13263 authorizes the Santa Ana Water Board, after any necessary hearing, to prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge with relation to the conditions existing in the disposal area or receiving waters upon, or into which, the discharge is made or proposed. The requirements must implement any relevant water quality control plans that have been adopted and shall take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water quality objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance, and the provisions of California Water Code section 13241. In accordance with subdivision (g) of section 13263, all discharges of waste into WOTS are privileges, not rights, and the WDRs in this Order will not create a vested right to continue to discharge and are subject to rescission or modification.
10. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13267, the Santa Ana Water Board, in establishing or reviewing any water quality control plan or WDRs, or in connection with any action relating to any plan or requirement authorized by Division 7 of the California Water Code, may investigate the quality of any WOTS within its region. In conducting such an investigation, the Santa Ana Water Board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports. The burden, including costs, of these reports must bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. The WDRs contained in this Order incorporate requirements for water quality monitoring and Project reporting, which are necessary to ensure that the discharge of dredged and fill material complies with WDRs and is protective of the environment.
11. The WDRs in this Order are adopted pursuant to California Water Code sections 13263 and 13267. The WDRs set forth the requirements, prohibitions, and other conditions to implement the Basin Plan and the discharger's responsibilities for monitoring and reporting. The discharger is responsible for ensuring compliance with the WDRs. In addition, this Order also regulates the discharge of fill material to WOTS.
12. It is the policy of the State of California that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This Order promotes that policy by requiring that discharges not exceed maximum contaminant levels designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use.

13. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Menifee North Specific Plan No. 260 (SP 260) was approved on December 27, 1994 by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. In January 2016, the Notice of Determination was filed for Substantial Conformance No. 1 to SP 260, Amendment No. 2 (SP260-A2-CS2), Change of Zone No. 070870, and Tentative Tract Map No. 31500, and adopted Addendum No. 1 to Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) No. 329 for Environmental Assessment No. 39357.
14. As a Responsible Agency under CEQA, the Santa Ana Water Board is required to consider the Lead Agency's environmental documents, adopt mitigation measures, and make findings on the significant impacts within its jurisdiction to approve (Public Resources Code, section 21002.1, subdivision. (d); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096, subdivisions. (f), (g), (h)).

To address the potential impacts identified in the EIR and the addendum, the discharger must complete the following mitigation measures: (1) purchase 1.08 acres of WOTS rehabilitation credits from a Santa Ana Water Board-approved mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program within the Santa Ana River Watershed;

(2) obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities prior to Riverside County issuing a grading permit; (3) develop a site-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to address short-term construction-related water quality issues, and

(4) comply with the site-specific Water Quality Management Plans and their associated Best Management Practices (BMPs). This Order also requires the discharger to report on the implementation of mitigation to ensure that the

mitigation occurs as required by this Order (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15097).

The Santa Ana Water Board finds that the required mitigation will reduce the potentially significant effects of the discharge of fill to WOTS to less-than-significant levels.

15. The Santa Ana Water Board has considered antidegradation pursuant to State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Resolution No. 68-16 and Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations section 131.12 and finds that the discharge permitted under this Order is consistent with those provisions. State Water Board

Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. Minimal water quality degradation may be allowed only if any change in water quality is consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State; the degradation will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial uses; and the degradation will not result in violation of any applicable water quality control plan. Discharges must meet requirements that will result in the best practicable treatment or control to avoid pollution or a condition of nuisance.

Consistent with the antidegradation policy, any degradation resulting from the discharges authorized by this Order provides the maximum benefit to the people of the State. Flood protection is critical to the safety of the public. Moreover, this Order contains WDRs to ensure present and future beneficial uses are maintained or enhanced through compensatory mitigation and monitoring requirements for authorized impacts to WOTS. The WDRs ensure that the highest level of water quality is maintained consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State by prohibiting certain discharges, requiring the implementation of BMPs, and requiring the discharger to submit an annual report.

16. The Santa Ana Water Board has notified the discharger and other interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe WDRs for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the discharger, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS:

1. No activities associated with the Project shall cause or threaten to cause a nuisance or pollution as defined in section 13050 of the California Water Code.
2. The discharge of any substance in concentrations toxic to animal or plant life is prohibited.
3. The groundwater in the vicinity of the Project shall not be degraded as a result of the Project activities or placement of fill for the Project.
4. The discharger shall comply with conditions described in and required by the State Water Board's NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges

Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended by Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ; NPDES No. CAS000002) and any subsequent approval.

5. The discharger shall comply with the local regulations associated with the Santa Ana Water Board's Municipal Stormwater Permit issued to Riverside County and co-permittees under NPDES No. CAS618033 an item and WDR Order No. R8-2010-0033, and subsequent iterations thereof.
6. The discharge of fill materials shall be limited to the placement of native fill and inert materials, as defined in Section 20230, Division 2, Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations. The discharge of fill material other than native soil is prohibited, unless authorized by the Santa Ana Water Board.

B. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS:

1. The direct discharge of wastes, including rubbish, refuse, bark, sawdust, or other solid or liquid wastes into channels, surface waters, or any place where they would contact or be eventually transported to surface waters, including flood plains, is prohibited.
2. The discharge of oil or other floating materials from any activity in quantities sufficient to cause deleterious bottom deposits, turbidity, or discoloration in surface waters is prohibited.
3. The discharge of silt, sand, clay, or other earthen materials from any activity in quantities sufficient to cause deleterious bottom deposits, turbidity, or discoloration in surface waters is prohibited.
4. Discharges to surface waters of wastes or pollutants that are not otherwise regulated by a separate NPDES permit, are prohibited.
5. During the grading and filling operation, there shall be no onsite fueling, lubrication, changing of oil or other equipment fluids and their filters, or any other maintenance or storage of construction equipment within, or next to, drainage areas or other surface runoff conveyances.

C. PROVISIONS:

1. Prior to the start of Project activities, the discharger shall purchase 1.08 acres of WOTS rehabilitation credits from a Santa Ana Water Board-approved mitigation bank or ILFP in the Santa Ana River watershed and shall provide verification to

Santa Ana Water Board staff no later than ten (10) days after the start of Project construction activities.

2. The discharger shall maintain a copy of this Order at the Project site so that it is always available to site operating personnel. Key operating personnel shall be familiar with the Order's content.
3. The discharger shall comply with all of the requirements of this Order. Any violation of this Order constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may constitute a violation of the CWA and its regulations, and is grounds for enforcement action, termination of this Order, revocation and re-issuance of this Order, denial of an application for re-issuance of this Order, or a combination thereof.
4. The discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.
5. The provisions of this Order are severable, and if any provision of this Order, or the application of any provisions of this Order to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this Order shall not be affected thereby.
6. The filing of a request by the discharger for modification, revocation and re-issuance, or termination of this Order or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any requirements of this Order.
7. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to the property of another, nor protect the discharger from liabilities under federal, State, or local laws, nor guarantee the discharger a capacity right in the receiving waters.
8. This Order does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.
9. This Order is not transferable to any person except after notice to, and approval by, the Executive Officer. The Santa Ana Water Board may require modification or revocation and re-issuance of this Order to change the name of the discharger.
10. In the event of any change in control or ownership of land or waste discharge facility presently owned or controlled by the discharger, the discharger shall notify

the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Santa Ana Water Board.

11. The discharger shall submit an Annual Report each year on the anniversary of this Order. Annual reporting shall continue until a *Notice of Project Complete Letter* is issued to the discharger. The contents of the Annual Report shall include:
 - a. Construction Summary: Project process and schedule, including ground disturbance, site clearing and grubbing, site construction, and implementation status of BMPs during the Active Discharge Period. If the Project has not started, provide estimated start date and reasons for delay.
12. The discharger shall submit a Commencement of Construction Report at least seven (7) days prior to start of initial ground disturbance activities.
13. The discharger shall submit a *Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter* following completion of active Project construction activities, including any required restoration and permittee-responsible mitigation. This request shall be submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project construction activities. Upon acceptance of the request, Santa Ana Water Board staff will issue to the discharger a *Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter*, which will end the active discharge period and, if appropriate, associated annual fees.
14. The discharger shall submit a *Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter* when construction and any required post-construction monitoring is complete and no further Project activities will occur. This request shall be submitted to Santa Ana Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project activities. Upon approval of the request, the Santa Ana Water Board staff will issue to the discharger a *Notice of Project Complete Letter*, which will end the post discharge monitoring period and associated annual fees.
15. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records, copies of all reports required by this Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Order. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of five years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. Records may be maintained electronically. This period may be extended during the course of any unresolved enforcement action or litigation regarding this discharge or when requested by the Santa Ana Water Board.
16. The Santa Ana Water Board and other authorized representatives shall be allowed:

- a. Entry upon premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept under the requirements of this Order;
 - b. Access to copy any records that are kept under the requirements of this Order;
 - c. To inspect any facility, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Order; and
 - d. To photograph, sample and monitor for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Order.
15. This Order becomes effective on the date of adoption by the Santa Ana Water Board.
16. This Order will remain valid for five years from the date of this order.

I, Hope A. Smythe, 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, Santa Ana Region, on October 25, 2019.

Original Signed by
Hope A. Smythe
Executive Officer

