



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## State Water Resources Control Board

**NOV 26 2012**

Michaela E. Noble  
U.S Department of Transportation  
Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue. S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Comments on the California Draft (2013) Vessel General Permit Certification

Dear Ms. Noble,

This letter is in response to your June 11, 2012 comments on the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) draft Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) for the 2013 California Draft Vessel General Permit (VGP).

Your letter requested that we remove the second sentence in paragraph 1 under Additional Conditions, which states, "[v]essels in the U.S Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration fleet, including but not limited to those located in Suisun Bay, do not qualify and must not be covered by the VGP."

The purposes of having such a statement in the draft Certification was to ensure that the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet, maintained by the U.S. Maritime Administration, would not qualify to be covered under the VGP and would be required to obtain a separate state permit.

It has been noted that the language that State Water Board staff used in the draft 2013 Certification would prevent permit coverage to other operating vessels located in Suisun Bay. After considering your comments, State Water Board has concluded that the sentence should be removed pursuant to your request. Furthermore, we have determined that even with the removal of that condition, the reserve fleet is excluded from coverage under the VGP and is currently covered under the Industrial Storm Water General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

Certifications for the 2013 VGP and Small Vessel General Permit were issued on September 27, 2012 and are currently available online for public viewing. The following web link will forward you to the State Water Board program page for the VGP and Small Vessel General Permit (SVGP) certifications:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/beaches/vssl\\_prmt.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/beaches/vssl_prmt.shtml).

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 341-5464  
([borne@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:borne@waterboards.ca.gov)) or Dr. Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso, Chief of our Ocean  
Standards Unit, at (916) 341-5858 ([mcarpio-obeso@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mcarpio-obeso@waterboards.ca.gov)).

Sincerely,



Bill Orme  
Chief Water Quality Certification and Wetlands unit  
Division of Water Quality

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