

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice  
of  
Amendment to Water Quality Certification**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

**Applicant:** County of San Diego (County) Department of Public Works (DPW)

**Applicant Contact:** Mr. Thomas Duffy, County of San Diego Department of Public Works

**Telephone:** (858) 874-4039

**Email:** Thomas.Duffy@sdcounty.ca.gov

**Project Name:** County of San Diego, Flood Control Maintenance, Regional General Permit 53 (RGP 53)

**Date of Application:** The original application for Water Quality Certification (Certification) was received June 10, 2009. An amended application was received March 26, 2010.

**Affected Counties:** San Diego

**General Location:** The County's Flood Control Maintenance facilities are located in the following watersheds: Anza-Borrego, Imperial, Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, Carlsbad, San Dieguito, Penasquitos, San Diego, Sweetwater, Otay, and Tijuana

**Project Description:**

The County DPW conducts channel clearing and excavation as authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Los Angeles District (LAD) RGP 53. The County performs routine flood control maintenance on bridges, culverts, and channels to prevent flooding of adjacent roadways or areas. Project activities involve removal of debris, sediment and vegetation at sites identified each fiscal year. The purpose of this amendment is to update the list of the sites identified by the County.

On May 25, 2012 the County submitted a request to add a new facility, the Oak Country II culvert (site OCII-001), to the list of facilities covered under the Certification. The Oak Country II site is located in the Ramona Grassland Preserve, approximately 1725 feet north of Highland Valley Road in the city of Ramona in eastern San Diego County. Maintenance activities are not proposed for this site during 2012-2013 cleaning season. Future routine maintenance activities at this site will involve removal of sediment and debris inside the culvert and within 10 feet upstream and downstream of the culvert. Debris removal from the culvert will be done using a

water buffalo and a pump staged from the existing ranch road. Sediment and debris removal upstream and downstream will be done using hand tools. Vegetation will not be removed. Temporary impacts are proposed to approximately 100 square feet on either side of the culvert for a total of 200 square feet. Estimated time for completion is one day. Work will be conducted outside of the arroyo toad breeding season.

The County intends to clean thirty-five of the previously approved maintenance sites for the first time during 2012-2013. No other changes to the existing Certification are proposed.

The US Army Corp of Engineers, Los Angeles District (File #SPL-2009-00334-MBS) has determined that the project is eligible for enrollment under RGP 53. The California Department of Fish and Game 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement (SSA 5-238-95) for the project expires on 2/28/2014.

The County of San Diego, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), approved an amended Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project on April 13, 2009.

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Woody at (916) 341-5785 or [CWoody@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CWoody@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Date Posted: July 25, 2012**

**State Water Resources Control Board Staff Contact:**

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**Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.**