



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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. Jeff Pratt
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED COYOTE DEBRIS BASIN BOUNDARY CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2006-01480-AJS), COYOTE CANYON CREEK, SOMIS, VENTURA COUNTY (File No. 06-133)

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Regional Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of Ventura County Watershed Protection District (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on August 7, 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] _____
Jonathan S. Bishop
Executive Officer

November 13, 2006
Date

California Environmental Protection Agency



Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Angela Bonfiglio Allen
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Vicki Clark, Staff Attorney
Environmental Defense Center
906 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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

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

Natasha Lohmus
California Department of Fish and Game
Streambed Alteration Team
4949 View Ridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Peter Brand
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Antal Szijj
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch, Ventura Field Office
2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 255
Ventura, CA 93001

Aaron Setran (WTR-8)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

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

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information File No. 06-133

1. Applicant: Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Phone: (805) 654-2040 Fax: (805) 654-3350

2. Applicant's Agent: Angela Bonfiglio Allen
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Phone: (805) 447-7154 Fax: (805) 654-3350

3. Project Name: Coyote Debris Basin Boundary Changes and Improvements

4. Project Location: Somis, Ventura County
Longitude: -118° 59' 47.96592"; Latitude: 34° 15' 56.49248"
Longitude: -118° 59' 47.98032"; Latitude: 34° 15' 56.60128"
Longitude: -118° 59' 49.24085"; Latitude: 34° 15' 57.39707"
Longitude: -118° 59' 49.29720"; Latitude: 34° 15' 57.35664"
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Longitude: -118° 59' 49.29720"; Latitude: 34° 15' 57.35664"
Longitude: -118° 59' 47.96592"; Latitude: 34° 15' 56.49248"

5. Type of Project: Debris basin maintenance

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information File No. 06-133

6. Project Description:

Purpose:

The District is responsible for maintaining the Coyote Debris Basin, constructed in 1955. The proposed project would repair existing damage on the gravel access road around the basin and on the west slope within the basin.

Description:

Proposed concrete and rock installation would prevent future erosion of the road and west slope during storms. Enlarging the existing small turnaround area would allow large equipment to access the debris basin during the proposed repairs and future maintenance activities. The District proposes to install a concrete overpour and buried cutoff wall on an existing maintenance access road adjacent to Coyote Debris Basin. The concrete overpour would protect the dirt road from erosion at the point where Coyote Canyon Creek flows across the road. Flows from the creek have eroded the earthen side slope of the debris basin below the proposed overpour location, which must be repaired. Therefore, both concreted and ungrouted rock riprap would be placed on the west slope of the debris basin below the concrete overpour and northward along the slope to repair existing and prevent future erosion (0.013 acre). To facilitate the repairs, an existing small turnaround would be enlarged by grading the existing topography. The grading would result in minor removal of riparian vegetation. A new perimeter fence and access gates would also be installed around the basin to mark the District's revised easement boundary.

The proposed project will take approximately one month to complete and will be scheduled outside of the bird nesting season, sometime between September 1, 2006 and December 31, 2008.

7. Federal Agency/Permit:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP Nos. 3, 13 and 33 (Permit No. 2006-01480-AJS)

8. Other Required Regulatory Approvals:

California Department of Fish and Game
File No. 1600-2006-0238-R5

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has determined that the proposed project is small and the possibility of significant impacts is unlikely. The Applicant may proceed with

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information File No. 06-133

the project as stated in the application if all conditions are followed, without a formal Streambed Alteration Agreement. A copy of the letter from CDFG dated August 22, 2006 must be kept on-site during all construction activities.

9. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: The proposed project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction).
10. Receiving Water: Arroyo Las Posas, tributary to Calleguas Creek (Hydrologic Unit No. 403.12)
11. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN*, IND, PROC, AGR, GWR, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, WET

*Conditional beneficial use
12. Impacted Waters of the United States: Non-wetland waters (unvegetated streambed): 0.038 temporary acres 140 temporary linear feet
13. Dredge Volume: None
14. 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.

As part of the ongoing maintenance, the District removes accumulated sediment from Coyote Debris Basin. The schedule for clean-outs depends on the amount of rainfall and the rate of sediment accumulation.
15. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- Work would be scheduled to avoid storm periods.

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information File No. 06-133

- No flow diversion would be necessary because construction would only occur when the streams are dry.
- Concrete waste generated while constructing the concrete overpour and cutoff wall and while placing concreted rock riprap on the debris basin side slope would be contained and properly disposed.
- Project features are designed to solve current erosion problems and function as permanent BMPs.
- Installation of a concrete overpour and buried cutoff wall at the point where the existing gravel access road crosses Coyote Canyon Creek would help prevent erosion of the road and reduce sediment input to the debris basin.
- Riprap added to the west slope of the debris basin would also stop erosion of this slope currently occurring when flows the creek fall from the edge of the road and enter the basin.
- The District would implement housekeeping BMPs such as vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance.
- Cleaning, fueling, and maintenance activities would be performed on the access road around the Coyote Debris Basin with secondary containment.
- No heavy equipment would be operated in flowing or ponded water.

16. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has proposed to restore 0.038 acres of temporary impacts associated with the proposed project. The temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions and the areas will be monitored for a period of five years and cleared of non-native vegetation.

In addition, mitigation would occur in temporarily disturbed non-jurisdictional areas immediately adjacent to waters (a minimum of 0.17 acres) and would include the removal of non-native shrubs and trees such as Peruvian pepper, tree tobacco and castor bean and may include planting of natives such as willows, walnuts, and saltbrush.

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information
File No. 06-133

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

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification File No. 06-133

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 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 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.

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification File No. 06-133

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.
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.

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification File No. 06-133

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.
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 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification File No. 06-133

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.

19. The Applicant shall restore the proposed **0.038 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 pre-project contours 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.
20. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION to offset the proposed temporary loss of **0.038 acres** waters of the United States by creating or restoring riparian habitat at a minimum **4.5:1** area replacement ratio (**0.17 acres**) adjacent to waters.
21. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Mitigation Monitoring Reports** by **January 1st** 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/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:

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification File No. 06-133

- (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 (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.
22. Prior to any subsequent maintenance activities within the 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 basin’s existing condition/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.
23. 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.

ATTACHMENT B

**Conditions of Certification
File No. 06-133**

24. 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 _____.

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Title)”

25. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **06-133**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification File No. 06-133

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.

30. *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.

31. 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.