



Water Boards



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Courtney Lindberg
City of Ventura
501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93002

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7008 1140 0002 8671 8380

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED SANJON BARRANCA MAINTENANCE PROJECT (Corps' Project Non-notify), SANJON ESTUARY, CITY OF VENTURA, VENTURA COUNTY (File No. 12-009)

Dear Ms. Lindberg:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of City of Ventura (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on September 11, 2012.

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.

Please read this entire document carefully. 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, Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.

Samuel Unger
Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

Oct. 1, 2012
Date

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Antal Szijj (via electronic copy)
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Regulatory Branch, Ventura Field Office
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
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Diane Noda (via electronic copy)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information

File No. 12-009

1. Applicant: City of Ventura
501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93002

Phone: (805) 667-6502 Fax: (805) 653-6655
2. Applicant's Agent: Brian McCarthy
Envicom Corporation
28328 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Phone: (818) 879-4700 Fax: (818) 879-4711
3. Project Name: Sanjon Barranca Maintenance Project
4. Project Location: Sanjon Barranca at Highway 101, Ventura County

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
34.272722	119.285122
5. Type of Project: Flood channel maintenance
6. Project Purpose: The purpose of the project is to alleviate flooding conditions and reduce flood maintenance safety hazards.
7. Project Description: The proposed project consists of removing accumulated sediments at the mouth of the Sanjon Barranca. Due to the grade at this location and the channel passing under Highway 101, sediments accumulate directly under the freeway and toward the beach. During heavy rainfall, the sand and sediment accumulated on the beach does not allow the water to flow directly into the ocean. The stormwater backs up and overflows the concrete box culvert banks causing flooding and road closures at Sanjon Road and at the intersection of Sanjon and Harbor Boulevard. As a result, the intersection and pedestrian pathways are closed for traffic and safety purposes.
- Once flood waters recede, the flood maintenance crews must mobilize with equipment and remove large amounts of accumulated sediment before the areas can be reopened to the public.

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The project involves the creation of a trench, which continues from the Sanjon Barranca channel through the accumulated sands and sediment. A conservative estimate for the maintenance channel will be up to 8-feet wide, by 6-feet deep and 80 feet in length before reaching the proper grade. The trench does not reach the mean high tide of the ocean, it only extends to a point where the grade will be sufficient for flows to naturally breach any sediment accumulation. The excavated sediment would then be side-cast onto the adjacent beach sand. Mobilization of equipment, access, sediment placement, foot-traffic and excavation will avoid any vegetated sand dune areas.

Based on similar flood protection activities, performed on an emergency basis in the past, the proposed channeling would allow the stormwater to flow through and progressively erode the sediment accumulation until the discharge at the lower elevation of surface, toward the ocean reaches an equilibrium that relieves the flooding in the upstream reach of the Barranca.

In order to alleviate any future flooding, the City is proposing to perform as-needed routine maintenance within the lower segment of the 80-foot excavation area within the lower Sanjon Barranca to ensure flows are reaching Pacific Ocean and not flooding the roads and pedestrian paths. The maintenance will only occur when sands accumulate to a level in which the grade is not sufficient and flows will back into Sanjon Road.

The channel under the freeway will not be directly maintained under this project.

In addition, the access path for beachgoers and for project maintenance will be within approximately 275 in length and varying from 8 to 35 feet in width.

The surface area of potential impacts within the estuary bank would be within approximately 48 square feet. The overall areas of the barranca itself fluctuate seasonally and from year to year, and is relational to amount of surface runoff entering the depression and the height of the sediment build-up along the westerly boundary.

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Activities to be conducted as part of this project are dependent on weather conditions and storm events. Most work will occur between November 1 and April 1.

8. Federal Agency/Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP No. 3 Non-notify
9. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: California Department of Fish and Game
Streambed Alteration Agreement

California Coastal Commission
Coastal Development Permit
10. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: The proposed project is Categorically Exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities).
11. Receiving Water: Sanjon Estuary (Hydrologic Unit No. 402.10)
12. Designated Beneficial Uses: NAV, REC-1, REC-2, IND, COMM, MAR, WILD, RARE, MIGR, SPWN, SHELL, WET
13. Impacted Waters of the United States: Ocean/Streambed: 0.001 permanent acres
14. Dredge Volume: None
15. Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented by the Applicant: The City of Ventura Public Works has carried out these flood maintenance activities in the past under an Emergency Use Authorization.
16. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- All equipment shall be operated and parked in non-wetland/non-jurisdictional areas.
 - Any foreign debris or trash observed in the sediment maintenance activities will be removed and properly disposed of as trash in a proper trash receptacle.

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- A qualified specialist shall identify the non-jurisdictional and jurisdictional areas prior to any work, and instruct the field crew, as appropriate.
- No vegetation shall be removed or disturbed during maintenance.
- Only clean sediment removed from the berm shall be spread on barren, un-vegetated areas of the beach adjacent to the work; all foreign matter, litter, and debris shall be removed off site.
- No sediments would be placed in open water, drainage, or wetland areas.
- All sediment removal shall be conducted using a "clean excavation" method, in which there is no purposeful discharge of the sediment back into the excavation area, nor any grading by pushing materials in a lateral manner.
- The only discharge of sediment material may be from incidental fall back during the routine maintenance.

17. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has proposed to restore the channel to previously existing conditions.

18. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

Since the project impacts are temporary in nature, the Regional Board will not require any additional compensatory mitigation.

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. 12-009

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, the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) Coastal Development 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 and mitigation measures/compensatory mitigation as indicated with either this Certification, the CDFG's Streambed Alteration Agreement, the CCC's Coastal Development Permit, 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)*, as amended.
4. The Avoidance/Minimization activities proposed by the Applicant as described in Attachment A, No. 16, are incorporated as additional conditions herein.

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5. The Applicant and all contractors employed by the Applicant shall have copies of this Certification 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 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 the Land Disposal Unit at the Regional Board for further information regarding the disposal of solid wastes.
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 maintenance 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 utilize the services of a qualified biologist with expertise in riparian assessments during any vegetation clearing activities. 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.
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 (ROWD)** 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/construction/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,

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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)

Analyses must be performed using approved US Environmental Protection Agency methods, where applicable. These constituents shall be measured at least once prior to diversion and then 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. 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%. Any such violations may result in corrective and/or enforcement actions, including increased monitoring and sample collection.

19. The Applicant shall restore the proposed **all areas** 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. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.
20. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Monitoring Reports** (Annual Reports) by **January 1st** of each year for a minimum period of **five (5) years** following this issuance of 401 Certification or in any year maintenance activities have been performed. The Annual Reports shall describe in detail all of the project/maintenance activities performed during the previous year and all restoration and mitigation efforts; including percent survival by plant species and percent cover. At a minimum the Annual Reports shall include the following documentation:
 - (a) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project and mitigation site conditions;

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- (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 whether or not work has begun on the Project;
 - (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;
 - (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.
21. Prior to any subsequent maintenance activities within the subject drainage, 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 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.
22. 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.
23. Each and any report submitted in accordance with this Certification shall contain the following completed declaration:

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"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)"

24. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number 12-009. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
25. 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.
26. 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. R4-2010-0108. 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. 2009-009-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.
27. 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.
28. 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

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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.

29. *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.

30. 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.

