



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mr. Steve Sligh
Golden Oak Ranch
19802 Placerita Canyon Road
Newhall, CA 91321

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7011 2970 0000 0645 0020

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED PLACERITA CREEK BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2012-00135-AOA), PLACERITA CREEK, SANTA CLARITA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 12-017)

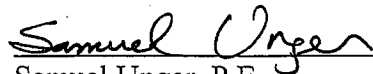
Dear Mr. Sligh:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of Golden Oak Ranch (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on May 21, 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.

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, P.E.
Executive Officer

May 29, 2012
Date

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Ron Koester (via electronic copy)
CRC Enterprises
27600 Bouquet Canyon Road, #200
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Bill Orme (via electronic copy)
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 944213
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California Department of Fish and Game
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4949 View Ridge Avenue
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Aaron Allen (via electronic copy)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch, Ventura Field Office
2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 255
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Jim Bartel
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92009

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information
File No. 12-017

1. Applicant: Mr. Steve Sligh
Golden Oak Ranch
19802 Placerita Canyon Road
Newhall, CA 91321
Phone: (818) 612-8891 Fax: (661) 287-3362
2. Applicant's Agent: Ms. Ron Koester
CRC Enterprises
27600 Bouquet Canyon Road, #200
Santa Clarita, CA 91350
Phone: (661) 297-2336 Fax: (661) 297-2331
3. Project Name: Placerita Creek Bank Stabilization Project
4. Project Location: 19802 Placerita Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
34.37801	118.47707
34.37849	118.47724
34.37892	118.47977
34.37891	118.48511
34.37849	118.47724
34.37835	118.47820
34.37902	118.48262
34.37801	118.47707

5. Type of Project: Bank Stabilization

6. Project Purpose: The purpose of the project is to provide bank stabilization and restoration within the existing banks along Placerita and Heil Creeks that have been damaged by erosion.

7. Project Description: Within the project areas in Heil Creek and Placerita Creeks, there are several areas which are currently eroding and in some cases, are nearly vertical. The proposed project consists of restoring and stabilizing the banks in segments within the creeks. A total of 9 sections will be re-stabilized and restored with native vegetation. The Applicant has proposed to reconstruct the bank slopes at a 2:1 slope. Minimal rock riprap will be utilized to provide protection to

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the keyed slopes.

There are six (6) main segments along the northern banks of Placerita and Heil Creeks which will be restored, ranging in length from 50 feet to 400 feet. Along the southern bank, an additional three (3) segments will be repaired, ranging in length from approximately 50 to 150 feet.

The total project size is approximately 1548 linear feet, divided between the nine (9) separate segments. Once the areas are recontoured and engineered with rock riprap, the areas will be backfilled and planted with native vegetation. The areas will also be irrigated as needed to ensure restoration success. The project is expected to provide native habitat and alleviate further scouring and erosion in the Placerita Creek system. The propose project is expected to be implemented between the months of June and September in 2012 and 2013.

8. Federal Agency/Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP No. 13 (Permit No. 2012-00135-AOA)
9. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: LA County Department of Public Works
Grading Permit

Department of Fish and Game
Streambed Alteration Agreement
No. 1600-2012-0035-R5
10. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: The proposed project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction.
11. Receiving Water: Placerita and Heil Creeks (Hydrologic Unit No. 403.51)
12. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN*, IND, PROC, AGR, GWR, FRSH, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, RARE, WET

*Conditional beneficial use
13. Impacted Waters of the United States: Non-wetland waters (streambed): 0.58 temporary acres (1548 linear feet)

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14. Dredge Volume: None
15. 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.
16. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- Construction and grading work will occur outside of the avian nesting season to the maximum extent possible.
 - Construction vehicles will be parked away from habitat areas.
 - Construction activities will be monitored by a qualified biologist.
 - The project is scheduled outside of the wet weather season to minimize impacts to water quality during construction.
 - Erosion control measures in the event of anticipated rain will include fiber rolls or gravel bags at the toe of slopes.
 - Berms will be placed at the top of slopes in the event of anticipated rain to prevent stormwater from sheet flowing over the face of the newly restored slopes.
 - Native plantings will be used for the planting palette.
 - Existing vegetation shall be preserved to the greatest extent possible.
 - All construction activities are typically proposed above the ordinary high water mark, so flow diversion is not anticipated during construction.
 - In the event that flow diversion is necessary, gravel bags, 2-3 bags high, may be used to line the perimeter of the construction area closest to the flow line of the creek, to insure that water within the creek does not flow through the construction activities.

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17. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has not proposed any additional compensatory mitigation. The project will restore specific areas of bank slope erosion and provide for a more natural stream bank and to allow for native revegetation in these areas. The project will provide an overall improvement in terms of water quality and habitat.

A plant pallette consisting of native plants within the impact area should be harvested for seeds and cuttings to be reestablished in and around the impact areas. These native plants may include mulefat, red willow, Fremont cottonwood, western sycamore, mugwort, arroyo willow, toyon, Great Basin sagebrush, sedge, and coyote brush. Perennial non-native plants shall be removed from throughout the length of Placerita Creek from the property. All areas of revegetation should be irrigated (if necessary) and monitored for a period of no less than five years.

18. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Regional Board will not require any additional mitigation, as the areas of bank stabilization will be restored with native vegetation.

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. 12-017

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)*, as amended.
4. The Avoidance/Minimization activities proposed by the Applicant as described in Attachment A, No. 16, are incorporated as additional conditions herein.
5. The Applicant and all contractors employed by the Applicant shall have copies of this Certification, the approved construction plan and all other regulatory approvals for this project on site at all times and shall be familiar with all conditions set forth.

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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 (213) 620-2253 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.
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

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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. If rain is predicted after operations have begun, grading activities must cease immediately and the site must be stabilized to prevent impacts to water quality, and minimize erosion and runoff from the site.
16. Sediment removal at each phase shall not go beyond the extent as defined in the application packet.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. All project/construction activities not included in this Certification, and which may require a permit, must be reported to the Regional Board for appropriate permitting. Bank

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stabilization and grading, as well as any other ground disturbances, are subject to restoration and revegetation requirements, and may require additional Certification action.

22. 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. 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.

23. The Applicant shall restore the proposed **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. Restored areas shall be monitored and maintained with native species as necessary for five years. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.

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24. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board a **Final Monitoring Reports** by **January 1st** of the year following project completion. The Final Report shall describe in detail all of the project/construction activities performed during the previous year and all restoration 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;
 - (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.
25. 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.
26. 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)"

27. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **12-017**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
28. 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.
29. The project shall comply with the local regulations associated with the Regional Board's **Municipal Stormwater Permit** issued to Los Angeles County and co-permittees under NPDES No. CAS004001 and Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-182. This includes the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) 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.
30. 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.
31. 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.

32. *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.

33. 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.