

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Ms. Debra Sharpton
Mountains Restoration Trust
3815 Old Topanga Canyon Rd.
Calabasas, CA 91302

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7007 2560 0001 7889 6859

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED COLD CREEK WETLAND AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2012-00868-JM), COLD CREEK, CITY OF CALABASAS, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (FILE No. 13-078)


Dear Ms. Sharpton:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of Mountains Restoration Trust (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on July 23, 2013.

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, P.E.
Executive Officer

10-17-13
Date

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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State Water Resources Control Board
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California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Streambed Alteration Team
3883 Ruffin Rd Suite A
San Diego, CA. 92123-4813

John Markham (via electronic copy)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch, Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

Paul Amato (via electronic copy)
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 92011

ATTACHMENT A

**Project Information
File No. 13-078**

1. Applicant:

Ms. Debra Sharpton
Mountains Restoration Trust
3815 Old Topanga Canyon Rd.
Calabasas, CA 91302

Phone: (818) 591-1701 ext. 205 Fax: (818) 591-1709

Hayden Sohm
County of Los Angeles Dept. Parks and Recreation
433 S. Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Phone: (626) 369-8693

2. Project Name:

Cold Creek Wetland And Riparian Restoration And Enhancement
Project

3. Project Location:

Calabasas, Los Angeles County

Latitude

Longitude

34.095254	118.671191
34.095189	118.671044
34.095013	118.671165
34.094705	118.671672
34.094787	118.671672
34.094752	118.671942
34.094845	118.672000
34.095181	118.671665
34.095102	118.671369
34.095189	118.671044
34.095013	118.671165
34.094705	118.671672
34.094787	118.671672
34.094752	118.671942
34.094845	118.672000
34.095181	118.671665
34.095102	118.671369
34.095254	118.671191

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4. Type of Project: Creek restoration
5. Project Purpose: The purpose of the proposed project is to provide restoration in Cold Creek as compensatory mitigation for the Southern California Gas Company 401 Certification in Sullivan Canyon (File No. 08-162, and 08-082, Corps' Project No. 2009-00087-KW). The project includes removal of a vehicular bridge, a previously installed concrete dam structure and the installation of a new pedestrian bridge.
6. Project Description: Mountains Restoration Trust is providing 0.49 acres as mitigation with funding provided from the Southern California Gas Company for the Sullivan Canyon Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- The project will replace an existing 12-foot wide by 32-foot long vehicle bridge with a 6-foot wide by 32-foot long pedestrian path bridge. The vehicle bridge crosses a small ephemeral creek near its confluence with Cold Creek, along the bridge's in-stream supports. Along with the vehicle bridge, a low retaining wall and concrete pad near the bridge will be removed and the creek will be restored in this location. The concrete pad and wall will be removed with a mini-excavator on tracts from the top of the stream bank. The bucket of the excavator will break the concrete and move it into a skip loader outside of the jurisdictional wetland. The demolition of the bridge supports and abutments will be removed with jackhammers. To prevent erosion during construction coconut mats will be temporarily installed along the streambeds.
- The vehicle bridge and concrete pad work area is within 0.115 acres (5,000 square feet), and will temporarily impact 0.005 acres (219 square feet) of jurisdictional wetlands.
- Approximately 100 feet downstream from the vehicle bridge, the Cold Creek Check Dam concrete structure, built in 1905, obstructs flows and causes erosion. This dam will be removed with the mini-excavator, except for areas under the drip line of oak trees which will be hand done with sledge hammers. The removal of the dam is part of the Malibu Creek Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study, Prepared by the Army Corps for California State Parks. The Cold Creek Check Dam construction site is approximately 0.006 acres (240 square feet) and will impact 0.005 acres (198 square feet)

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of jurisdictional wetlands.

In the vicinity of the upper banks of Cold Creek, an old shack, a tin shed, and other debris will be removed and carried across Cold Creek on temporary scaffolding. The shack's foundation will remain intact. The removal of these structures will have no impact on the creek bed.

Restoration will consist of 0.147 acres (6,400 square feet) of native riparian and wetland vegetation along the stream banks. A temporary PVC pipe water line from Cold Canyon Road will be installed to provide irrigation. Any area of the creek bed disturbed by the construction will be re-graded. With the assistance of a geomorphologist, existing rock will be strategically installed for riprap placement to ensure that the flow regime of the creek will remain stable. All work is expected to be completed within 60 days.

7. Federal Agency/Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP No. 27 (Permit No. 2012-00868-JM)
8. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Streambed Alteration Agreement
No. 1600-2013-0065-R5

California Coastal Commission
Coastal Development Permit
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: Cold Creek (Hydrologic Unit No. 404.21)
11. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN*, REC-1, REC-2, COLD, WILD, RARE, SPWN, WET

*Conditional beneficial use
12. Impacted Waters of the United States: Federal jurisdictional wetlands: 0.01 temporary acres (28 linear feet)

The proposed project will provide 0.49 acres of restoration as a requirement of Section 401 Water Quality Certification Nos. 08-082

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and 08-162 (Sullivan Canyon, Southern California Gas Company).

13. Dredge Volume: None
14. Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented by the Applicant: The Applicant plans to remove an abandoned pipe and add three pedestrian bridges with no in-stream supports, approximately one mile upstream of this project within the next 5 years.
15. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- No heavy equipment will be used in the creek beds
 - Concrete will be removed prior to the start of the rainy season
 - Sloped will be terrace to restore flood terraces, and stabilized with erosion mat if necessary.
 - Work will occur when the creek is dry.
16. Proposed Compensatory Mitigation: The Applicant has not proposed any additional compensatory mitigation, as this is a restoration project.
17. Required Compensatory Mitigation: The Regional Board will not require any additional compensatory mitigation, as this is a restoration project.
- 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. 13-078

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 Wildlife's (CDFW) 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 CDFW'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. 15, are incorporated as additional conditions herein.
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 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.
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 target species and habitat. All pesticides directed toward aquatic species must be approved

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by the Regional Board. Pesticide utilization shall be in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order Nos. 2011-0002-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 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.
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. 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)

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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 **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. 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.
20. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Mitigation 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 until restoration success has been achieved and documented. The Annual Reports 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. At a minimum the Annual Reports shall include the following documentation:
 - (a) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project site conditions;
 - (b) Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in decimal-degrees format outlining the boundary of the project 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;

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- (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. 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.

22. 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)"

23. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **13-078**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
24. 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.

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25. 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. R4-2012-0175. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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 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.
28. *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

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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.
29. This Certification shall expire **five (5) years** from date of this Certification. The Applicant shall submit a complete application at least 90 days prior to termination of this Certification if renewal is requested.

