



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Mr. Andrew Brozyna  
City of Calabasas Public Works  
100 Civic Center Way  
Calabasas, CA 91302

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
No. 7012 3460 0001 6366 0588

**TECHNICALLY CONDITIONED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR  
PROPOSED LOST HILLS IMPROVEMENT AT HIGHWAY 101 PROJECT, LAS  
VIRGENES CREEK, CITY OF CALABASAS, LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
(File No. 14-012)**

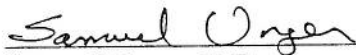
Dear Mr. Brozyna:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of City of Calabasas (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on June 4, 2014.

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 Zara, P.G., Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Executive Officer

July 28, 2014  
Date

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

Bill Orme (via electronic copy)  
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Brock Warmuth (via electronic copy)  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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3883 Ruffin Rd. Suite A  
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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. 14-012

1. Applicant: Andrew Brozyna  
City of Calabasas Public Works  
100 Civic Center Way  
Calabasas, CA 91302

Phone: (818) 224-1600

2. Project Name: Lost Hills Interchange Improvement at Highway 101

3. Project Location: City of Calabasas, Los Angeles County

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
34.141811	118.709486

4. Type of Project: Highway improvement

5. Project Purpose: The City of Calabasas (City), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is proposing the replacement of the existing Lost Hills Road Interchange, which crosses U.S. Highway 101 (US-101) in the City of Calabasas, Los Angeles County.

6. Project Description: The Lost Hills Road overcrossing width will be increased to four lanes with a striped median due to increased traffic and safety needs. The intersections in the vicinity of the Lost Hills Road Overcrossing are spaced too closely and there are relatively high intersecting traffic flows, especially considering future growth projections. In addition to the bridge inadequacies, the existing US-101 northbound and southbound ramps do not meet the current and future traffic demands.

The total project area consists of 18.88 acres. The majority of the property on which the improvements will occur is owned by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and within Caltrans right-of-way. Other land holdings include the City of Calabasas and County of Los Angeles.

Multiple design alternatives were considered. The design alternative chosen will be a cloverleaf in the northeast quadrangle of the

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interchange that will provide US-101 northbound access for both directions of travel on Lost Hills Road.

Access to the residential community to the northwest of the interchange will remain at Canwood Street. Intersections will be signalized and the intersections will be coordinated. The overcrossing will be lengthened to accommodate the anticipated future widening of US-101 to include HOV lanes in both directions. The overcrossing will be widened to 79 feet minimum, and lengthened to 227 feet. The northbound off-ramp will be realigned as a new cloverleaf ramp so that vehicles will not have to stop on the Lost Hills Road overcrossing. In addition, northbound left-turn movements from Lost Hills Road to US-101 will be eliminated. Lost Hills Road south of the new overcrossing will have two southbound lanes and three northbound lanes. North of the overcrossing will be two lanes in each direction. No changes will be made to the Lost Hills Road/Agoura Road intersection

Per the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Drainage Report for the project (Huitt-Zollars, February 2013), runoff directed through the project site is routed through surface drainage swales. Most of swale drainage features in the area of the interchange are rectangular channels at the toe of various slopes and are supplemented by traditional Los Angeles County standard slope drains (bench drains and downdrains). Within the project area, several of these conveyances and structures will be replaced with an underground storm drainage system. Flows collected from these conveyances are combined in a large 6-foot by 6-foot box culvert that crosses the freeway and eventually drains into Las Virgenes Creek. Post-project peak flows will be decreased slightly, largely because the improvements will reduce the “burned and bulked” components of the stormwater flows as the new slopes will be re-vegetated and maintained.

Vegetation surveys revealed the project supports a small area which contains Cattail Series (*Typha latifolia*) habitat. In addition, 31 coast live oak trees were identified onsite.

Grading activity will result in the removal of four sections of concrete culvert with a total length of 0.40 acres (4,747 linear feet). In addition, the 0.03-acre area of Cattail Series habitat will be permanently removed.

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7. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement
8. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: On August 9, 2013, a Mitigation Negative Declaration was issued for this project.
9. Receiving Water: Las Virgenes Creek (Hydrologic Unit Code: 180701040103)
10. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN\*, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, WILD, RARE, MIGR, SPWN, WET  
  
\*Conditional beneficial use
11. Impacted Waters of the United States: Non-wetland waters (streambed): 0.40 permanent acres  
  
Isolated wetland: 0.03 permanent acres
12. Dredge Volume: None
13. 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.
14. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- Existing storm drains and channels would be extended and realigned to convey project run off to the same locations.
  - Cut and fill slopes would be modified and created adjacent to the proposed roadway realignment. Proposed slopes would be 2:1 (horizontal:vertical) or flatter for up-slopes and 4:1 or flatter for down-slopes to join existing slopes. Sediment loading would be minimal given existing slopes are maturely vegetated. Any disturbed project slope shall be re-vegetated following Caltrans Landscape Policy.
  - Concentrated project flows are to be conveyed to an existing, realigned storm drain system with capacity upgrades as required to accommodate any additional flows.

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- Capturing storm water off the pavement and directing into one of the aforementioned BMPs prior to release back into the public storm drainage system.
- Biofiltration swales and strips located alongside on- and off-ramps are feasible treatment BMPs for this project. Detailed hydrology and hydraulic evaluations would be prepared during PS&E phase to properly determine the feasibility of biofiltration swales and strips. Biofiltration swales and strips can be considered at all four on- and off-ramp locations.
- Infiltration Basins are currently planned for this project at areas alongside the rerouted on- and off-ramps where new slopes would allow. An identified location is the large, depressed area north of the NB off-ramp.
- Silt fencing, fiber rolls, stormwater pollution prevention plan, and stabilized construction entrances shall be utilized.
- Surface disturbance of soil and vegetation shall be kept to a minimum. Existing access and maintenance roads shall be used wherever feasible.
- Any stockpiled soil shall be placed and sloped so that it would not be subject to accelerated erosion.
- Discharge of all project-related materials and fluids into drainages shall be avoided to the extent possibly by using hay bales or silt fences, constructing berms or barriers around construction materials or installing geofabric in the area of disturbance.
- After ground-disturbing activities are complete all graded or disturbed areas shall be covered with protective material, such as mulch, or re-seeded with native plant species.

#### 15. Proposed Compensatory Mitigation:

The Applicant will develop a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, in order to provide compensatory mitigation for project impacts.

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16. Required  
Compensatory  
Mitigation:

The Regional Board will require the Applicant to provide mitigation for permanent impacts by providing a total of 0.89 acres of compensatory mitigation, which consists of a 2:1 and 3:1 ratio; respectively for stream and wetland impacts.

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. 14-012

#### 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 and shall be familiar with all conditions set forth.



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### Conditions of Certification

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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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### Conditions of Certification File No. 14-012

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. 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. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.

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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.

21. 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.
22. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION to offset the proposed loss of **0.40** acres waters of the United States by creating or restoring riparian habitat at a minimum **2:1** area replacement ratio (**0.80 acres**). The Applicant shall also provide compensatory mitigation for the proposed permanent impacts to **0.03 acres** of jurisdictional wetlands by creating wetland habitat at a minimum **3:1** area replacement ratio (**0.09 acres**). The mitigation site shall be located within the watershed unless otherwise approved by this Regional Board. The Applicant shall submit a **Proposed Mitigation Report** which shall include:
  - (a) The boundary of the mitigation site shall be clearly identified on a map of suitable resolution and quality and shall also be defined by latitude and longitude.
  - (b) The type(s) of mitigation shall be described (e.g., removal of exotics and/or replanting with native species, etc.)

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(c) Success criteria shall be established.

**This information shall be submitted to this Regional Board for approval prior to any project activities which take place within waters of the United States** and shall include copies of all agreements made between the Applicant and a third party organization regarding compensatory mitigation efforts.

23. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Mitigation Monitoring Reports** (Annual Reports) by **January 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year for a minimum period of **five (5) years** following this issuance of 401 Certification or until mitigation 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. The Annual Reports shall describe the status of other agreements (e.g., mitigation banking) or any delays in the mitigation process. 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 whether or not work has begun on the Project and a detailed schedule;
  - (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.
24. 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.

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- (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.
25. 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)”

26. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project **File Number 14-012**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
27. 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.
28. 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. 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. 2012-0011-DWQ.
29. 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.

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30. 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.
31. *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.
32. 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.