



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mr. Noe Arce
City of Los Angeles
Bureau of Engineering
1149 S. Broadway, 7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7009 2820 0001 6537 7207

TECHNICALLY CONDITIONAL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED LAUREL CANYON BRIDGE OVER TUJUNGA WASH PROJECT (Corps' Non-Reporting Nationwide 14), TUJUNGA WASH, CITY OF SUN VALLEY, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 14-016)

Dear Mr. Arce:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of City of Los Angeles (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on August 11, 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 Dana Cole, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-5733.

Samuel Unger
Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

9/19/14
Date

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Willdan Engineering, Inc.  
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State Water Resources Control Board  
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Jim Bartel  
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**ATTACHMENT A**

**Project Information  
File No. 14-016**

1. Applicant: City of Los Angeles  
Bureau of Engineering  
1149 S. Broadway, 7th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
  
Phone: (213) 485-5209 Fax: (213) 485-5192

2. Applicant's Agent: Willdan Engineering, Inc.  
2240 Douglas Blvd, Suite 270  
Roseville, CA 95661  
  
Phone: (916) 563-1682 Fax: (916) 764-7427

3. Project Name: Laurel Canyon Bridge over Tujunga Wash

4. Project Location: Sun Valley, Los Angeles County

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
34.23526	118.40741
34.23542	118.40718
34.23522	118.40698
34.23504	118.40719
34.23542	118.40718
34.23522	118.40698
34.23504	118.40719
34.23526	118.40741

5. Type of Project: Bridge widening

6. Project Purpose: The proposed project (Project) will meet current State of California bridge standards, as well as match the width of Laurel Canyon Boulevard on both sides of the structure.

7. Project Description: The Laurel Canyon Blvd Bridge over Tujunga Wash spans a

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concrete-lined, channelized portion of the Tujunga Wash for a total length of 66 feet. The current curb-to-curb width of the bridge is 61 feet.

The City of Los Angeles plans to widen both sides of the structure by approximately 19.5 feet for a total widening of 39 feet. The bridge widening requires construction of new substructures including both abutments at the channel walls. The new portion of the bridge will be comprised of reinforced concrete and widened to provide resistance to seismic loads and will bring the structure in compliance with current seismic standards, and will improve traffic flow on Laurel Canyon Boulevard. No new through lanes will be added over the bridge in either direction.

The abutments will be extended into the Tujunga Wash. In order to provide sufficient room to form and construct the abutment extensions, approximately 12 feet of the concrete channel wall will be removed and be replaced on the north side and south side of the structure. The concrete removal and replacement will occur at the four corners of the bridge widening. Abutment widening construction within the channel will not result in permanent change to the cross-sectional or wall areas of the channel.

Construction of the new bridge deck will require the construction of falsework, which will require the placement of approximately 50 cubic yards of temporary construction materials within channel. For the Project, falsework material consists mostly of lumber, plywood and steel materials such as beams, bracing, bolts and nails. The expected equipment to construct the falsework includes a construction forklift, man lift, scissor lift, air compressors, hammers, and cutting tools. The contractor will bring equipment and material into the laydown area as needed for day-to-day activities.

Long-term equipment and material storage will take place at the staging area. The water diversion will consist of gravel bag dams placed approximately 40 feet north and 40 feet south of the extended bridge limits and will divert the water towards the middle of the channel and through the project site. The contractor will construct a temporary crossing over the diverted water so as to access both bridge abutments; the exact configuration of the dams will be determined by the contractor, and flows through the work

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site will be contained away from any construction debris or concrete curing water. The total length of the water diversion is expected to be approximately 170 linear feet.

Channel access will require 3,750 linear feet for access from Beachy Ave and Tonopah Street to the water diversion at the project site.

The location of the staging area will be outside of the channel towards the south corner of the bridge area. The staging area will contain the construction trailer, employee parking, construction forklifts, man lifts, scissor lifts, air compressors, hammers, cutting tools, and falsework material.

All heavy equipment, construction, and materials will be removed from the channel prior to any storm event.

Upon completion of the work within the channel, the work area completely cleaned prior to the restoration of flow to the channel.

8. Federal Agency/Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
NWP No. 14 (Non-reporting)
9. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Streambed Alteration Agreement
10. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: The City of Los Angeles Environmental Management Group determined the Project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 *Existing Facilities* on April 26, 2005.
11. Receiving Water: Tujunga Wash (Hydrologic Unit Code: 180701050208)
12. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN\*, GWR, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, WILD  
\*Conditional beneficial use

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13. Impacted Waters of the United States: Non-wetland waters (unvegetated streambed): 0.09 temporary and 0.00 permanent acres
14. Dredge Volume: None
15. Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented: 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:
- Falsework loads to support the construction of the new bridge deck to channel floor will be distributed in a manner approved by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District;
  - Only rubber tired construction equipment shall be utilized within the channel during construction.
  - Engineering calculations will show that no part of the existing channel will be damaged by the use of such equipment.
  - Construction equipment will be properly maintained to prevent motor vehicle fuels or lubricants from entering the channel.
  - Power equipment with the capacity to leak hydrocarbons will be diapered (diapered is a term for used for the appropriate sheeting that is hung or strapped underneath the operating parts to collect drips and leaks).
  - All vehicle maintenance, staging, storage and dispensing of fuels will occur in a designated upland staging area.
  - All upland staging areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering waters of the U.S.
  - All equipment and materials will be removed from the channel in the event of a storm.

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17. Proposed  
Compensatory  
Mitigation:

The Applicant has not proposed any compensatory mitigation due to the temporary nature of impacts associated with the project and the location of the project within a concrete lined channel.

18. Required  
Compensatory  
Mitigation:

Since the project impacts are temporary and take place entirely in a concrete-lined channel, 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. 14-016

#### 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. 16, 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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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. 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.

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14. If rain is predicted after operations have begun, activities must cease immediately and the site must be stabilized to prevent impacts to water quality, and minimize erosion and runoff from the site.
15. 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.

16. All project and construction activities not included in this Certification, and which may require a permit, must be reported to the Regional Board for appropriate permitting.
17. 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.

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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.

18. 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.
19. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual 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 project completion 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. 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 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.
20. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Regional Board shall be signed:

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- (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.

21. 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)"

- 22. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number 14-016. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
- 23. 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.
- 24. 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.
- 25. The project shall 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. 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.

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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 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.