

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application

GPS Data Collection Standards

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board receives a large volume of Section 401 Certification applications each year. Recent mapping investigations have demonstrated that the currently accepted Township/Range/section (TRS) coordinate system poses severe problems with data quality and applicant overlap in areas of less than one square mile. Therefore, the Section 401 Program of LARWQCB has adopted the following data submission guidelines for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) development and to better facilitate map accuracy with regards to Water Quality Certification applications:

- **Application submittals must include a detailed description of the project location and mitigation site**
- **The use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit to accurately record coordinate locations or waypoints-handheld, "recreational-grade" 12-channel parallel units are acceptable**
- **All project areas or zones must be delineated with enough waypoints to accurately depict polygons or polylines with a minimum of eight (8) coordinates with at least two (2) points per line segment**
- **In accordance with California Spatial Data Parameters, waypoints for project sites and mitigation areas must be recorded in latitude/longitude to an accuracy of degrees, minutes, and seconds (DMS) submitted in decimal degrees (deg.ddddd) format and NAD27 (North American Datum 1927---Continental US) datum.**
- **Project zones and mitigation area maps should be large scale, not exceeding a scale of one to twelve thousand (1:12000) where one (1) inch approximates one thousand (1000) feet.**