



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region



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<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

February 11, 2010

In reply refer to: 009C-032: LPARDY

Certified Mail Number:  
7009 1410 0002 2000 0408

Ms. Megan Hamilton  
County of San Diego  
9150 Chesapeake Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

File No.	09C-032
Reg. Meas.:	354486
Place ID:	736851
Party ID:	39611
WDID:	9 000001921

**SUBJECT: Amendment to Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge of Dredged and/or Fill Materials for the Oak Country II Trails Project, No 09C-032**

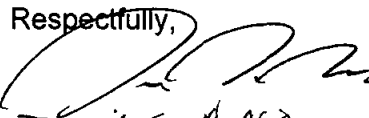
Dear Ms. Hamilton:

On January 19, 2010 the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) received a request from the County of San Diego to amend the **Oak Country II Trails Project**, section 401 Water Quality Certification No. 09C-032 (Certification) to correct the project description, and to make revisions to maintenance aspects of the certification. After a review of the Project's file, I concur that proposed revisions to the project description; and project conditions, "A. General Condition 11," and "C. Source Control BMP, 1. i" are reasonable modifications to the original section 401 Water Quality Certification. In addition, a change to the "C. Source Control BMP, 1, iv" section was requested and alternative language, as agreed upon, is substituted in this amendment (included as Enclosure 1).

The heading portion of this letter includes a Regional Board code number noted after "in reply to." In order to assist us in the processing of your correspondence please include this code number in the heading or subject line portion of all correspondence and reports to the Regional Board pertaining to this matter.

If you have questions regarding this notification, please contact Ms. Linda Pardy at (858) 627-3932 or [LPardy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:LPardy@waterboards.ca.gov).

Respectfully,

  
for James B. Smith, ASD  
DAVID W. GIBSON  
Executive Officer

**California Environmental Protection Agency**

03090910

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Enclosures

1. Addendum to Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification  
No. 09C-032

cc (via email):

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch  
San Diego Field Office  
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 105  
San Diego, CA 92011-4213  
Mr. Terrence Dean, E-mail: [terrence.dean@usace.army.mil](mailto:terrence.dean@usace.army.mil)

California Department of Fish and Game, South Coast Region,  
Habitat Conservation Planning – South  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123-1662  
Ms. Marilyn Fluharty, E-mail: [MFluharty@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:MFluharty@dfg.ca.gov)

U.S. Department of the Interior,  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
6010 Hidden Valley Road  
Carlsbad, CA 92011-4213  
Ms. Michelle Moreno; E-mail: [Michelle\\_Moreno@fws.gov](mailto:Michelle_Moreno@fws.gov)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9,  
Wetlands Regulatory Office  
75 Hawthorne St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: Mr. David Smith;  
E-mail: [R9-WTR8-Mailbox@epa.gov](mailto:R9-WTR8-Mailbox@epa.gov)

State Water Resources Control Board,  
Division of Water Quality,  
401 Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Unit  
Attn: Mr. Bill Orme; E-mail: [borme@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:borme@waterboards.ca.gov)  
E-mail: [Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
/SAN DIEGO REGION

ADDENDUM TO

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401  
WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION NO. 09C-032

FOR

OAK COUNTRY II TRAILS PROJECT

**The Project Description is revised:**

The proposed project will create an approximately four-mile, multi-use trail for recreational (hiking, non-motorized biking and equestrian) purposes located within the Ramona Grasslands Preserve. The trail will not be paved, and will not add any impervious surface area. The project will occur in two phases. In Phase I, an equestrian staging area and parking for four horse trailers and ten cars will be constructed adjacent to Highland Valley Road; trail fencing will be constructed, and a new culvert will be installed to replace a damaged culvert within an existing 8 to 9-foot wide dirt ranch road through which an unnamed tributary to Santa Maria Creek, San Diego County flows. The project includes placement of a new 12-18 inch HDPE (high density polyethylene) 42-inch metal culvert pipe covered with 1-inch light class aggregate and geofilter fabric. This will be topped with native soil and riprap. In Phase II, vegetation clearing or tamping will be done to create two new 4-foot wide loop trails to the west of the existing ranch road.

**Additional Condition "A. General Conditions, 11" is revised:**

11. The County of San Diego and successor owners of the development or individual lots must comply with applicable the recommendations within the Equestrian-Related Water Quality Best Management Practices in Attachment 6.

**Additional Condition "C. Source Control BMPs, 1. i." is revised:**

- i. The eastern portion of the trail must be periodically re-graded as needed to prevent rill from forming, to promote sheet flow, and to reduce erosion. Inspection of the need for Rregrading must occur at a minimum of once per year at the end of the rainy season.

09090909

**Additional Condition "C. Source Control BMPs, 1. iv." is revised:**

- iv. Horse manure must be removed from that portion of the trail which is within 500 feet of Santa Maria Creek on a weekly basis, within 48 hours of any likely precipitation event forecast of 50% or greater probability. The discharger must obtain the precipitation forecast information from the National Weather Service Forecast Office (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/>).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines the probability of precipitation as the likelihood of occurrence (expressed as a percent) of a measurable amount (0.01 inch or more) of liquid precipitation (or the water equivalent of frozen precipitation) during a specified period of time at any given point in the forecast area. Forecasts are normally issued for 12-hour time periods. Descriptive terms for uncertainty and aerial coverage are used as follows:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Definition of Probability of Precipitation

<u>Probability of Precipitation</u>	<u>Expressions of Uncertainty</u>	<u>Aerial Coverage</u>
<u>0%</u>	<u>none used</u>	<u>none used</u>
<u>10%</u>	<u>none used</u>	<u>isolated</u>
<u>20%</u>	<u>slight chance</u>	<u>isolated</u>
<u>30-50%</u>	<u>Chance</u>	<u>scattered</u>
<u>60-70%</u>	<u>likely</u>	<u>numerous</u>
<u>80-100%</u>	<u>none used</u>	<u>none used</u>

The following terms of duration imply a high probability (80-100%) of occurrence; brief, periods of, occasional, intermittent, frequent. [<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/severe/wxterms.php>]

**Attachment 1, Project information is revised:**

This amendment revises Attachment 1, Project Information as shown in "Attachment 1, Project Information (revised), below. Revisions shown in blue underline are additions, and revisions shown in red strikeout are deletions.

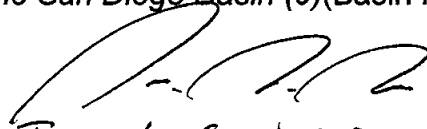
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**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby certify that the proposed discharge from the **Oak Country II Trails Project** (Certification No. 09C-032) 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. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification," which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification.

Please note that enrollment under this Order is conditional and, should new information come to attention that indicates a water quality problem, the Regional Board may issue waste discharge requirements at that time.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicants' project description and/or on the attached Project Information Sheet, and (b) on compliance with all applicable requirements of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)*(Basin Plan).

  
for James G. Smith, AED  
**DAVID W. GIBSON**  
Executive Officer

11 Feb 10  
Date

**Attachments:**

1. Project Information (Revised February 11, 2010)

01-01-10

**ATTACHMENT 1  
PROJECT INFORMATION**

- Applicant:** Ms. Megan Hamilton, Group Program Manager, Resource Management Division,  
County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation  
9150 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Telephone: 858 966-1377  
Fax: 858 495-5841  
megan.hamilton@sdcounty.ca.gov
- Project Name:** Oak Country II Trails
- Project Location:** The project is located in the unincorporated community of Ramona in San Diego County, California within the County-owned and managed Ramona Grasslands Open Space Preserve. The approximately 380-acre project area is bounded by Highland Valley Road to the south. The main access point to the project occurs just east of the intersection of Highland Valley Road and Archie Moore Road. The project is located within the USGS San Pasqual quadrangle, Township 13 South, Range 1 West, sections 11, 14 and 23, and the Santa Maria Land Grant. The Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) are 276-111-05, 277-050-30, and 277-111-52. The center reading of project is 33.0425° N latitude; -116.952778° W longitude.
- Type of Project:** The project is a County of San Diego public multi-use trail extension and enhancement project in the Ramona Grasslands Preserve, which includes: 2-miles of trail creation, 2-miles of trail enhancement along an existing ranch road with signage and fencing for cultural resources, culvert replacement along an existing ranch road, and creation of a new equestrian staging area with parking areas for four horse trailers and 10 cars.
- Need for Project:** The project enhances an equestrian staging area and enhances and extends a public multi-use trail for the Oak Country II area within the Ramona Grassland Preserve to provide public recreation opportunities for hiking, non-motorized biking, and equestrian users. The project replaces a damaged culvert under the existing ranch road with a new culvert so that emergency access, ranger patrol, management

and monitoring activities can be provided to areas within the Preserve via the existing ranch road during all weather types.

**Project Description:** The proposed Oak Country II Trails project is an approximately four-mile, a non-motorized public multi-use figure-eight loop trail (for hiking, biking and equestrian users) which includes creation of a fenced 0.95-acre equestrian staging area and parking, creation of 2-miles of new trails, installation of permanent trail fencing and signage along both sides of the existing dirt ranch road where it is adjacent to significant cultural resources, and replacement of the existing culvert on the ranch road to allow emergency access, ranger patrol, management and monitoring activities during all weather types.

**Federal Agency/Permit:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, section 404 permit – NWP 42, Terrence Dean.

**Other Required Regulatory Approvals:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, section 7 – informal consultation, Michelle Moreno; California Department of Fish and Game, 1600 – streambed alteration agreement, Marilyn Fluharty.

**California Environmental Quality Act Compliance:** Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Oak Country II Trails Project; Lead Agency is County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (Contact: Megan Hamilton) State Clearinghouse Number: 2009041107

**Receiving Water:** The project lies within the San Dieguito River Watershed, San Dieguito Hydrologic Unit (HU 905), Santa Maria Valley Hydrologic Subarea (HSA 905.41). The mitigation area for the project lies within the Santa Ysabel Hydrologic Subarea (HSA 905.53).

**Affected Waters of the United States and State:** This project proposes permanent impacts to 0.013-acre (38 lineal feet) of disturbed wetland and freshwater seep in an unnamed tributary to Santa Maria Creek; and mitigates impacts through the enhancement of 0.26-acre of wetland at Santa Ysabel Creek. Both wetlands are tributary to the San Dieguito River.

**Dredge Volume:** Not Applicable

**Related Projects implemented/to** Enhancement of a 0.26-acre mitigation area along Santa Ysabel Creek as specified in the *Oak Country II Trails Project*, ~~Project~~

be implemented  
by the Applicant:

*Draft 401 Mitigation Plan*, by the County of San Diego,  
Department of Parks and Recreation, December 2009.

Compensatory  
Mitigation:

Mitigation for permanent impacts to 0.013-acre of disturbed wetland and freshwater seep will consist of the enhancement through removal of annual and perennial exotics from 0.26-acre of off-site (nearby) wetland at Santa Ysabel Creek, in the San Dieguito watershed.

Best  
Management  
Practices  
(BMPs):

#### CONSTRUCTION RELATED BMPs

1. The project footprint has been designed to avoid Santa Maria Creek by over 100 feet and the proposed trails and staging area will completely avoid the creek's 100-year floodplain.
2. The proposed trail system will incorporate use of the existing ranch road to avoid new impacts in the eastern portion of the project site.
3. Trail location and design will utilize natural topography to avoid erosion potential and maintain existing drainage flow onsite and there would be no increase in peak runoff from the site.
4. Silt fencing will be installed prior to land disturbance.
5. Native vegetation buffers surrounding the trail and staging area will be retained and will act as natural biofilters.
6. Soil-tracking BMPs will be implemented to limit off-site transport of sediment from construction areas by implementing tire-cleaning measures such as stabilized construction entrance/exit areas (e.g., gravel strips) at access points.
7. All erosion and sediment control measures will be inspected / maintained to ensure proper integrity and function during the entire construction period. All stabilization and structural controls will be inspected at least monthly or after any significant storm event for the duration of construction activities and will be repaired or maintained for optimum performance.
8. Land disturbance will be minimized / avoided during wet periods and during windy days to the extent practicable.

END



## SOURCE CONTROL BMPs

9. The eastern portion of the trail must be periodically re-graded as needed to prevent rill from forming, to promote sheet flow, and to reduce erosion. Inspection of the need for Rregrading must occur at a minimum of once per year at the end of the rainy season.
10. Daily inspections may be necessary before, during, and after storm events to ensure the integrity of the trail system. If necessary, trails will be closed during severe storm rain events. Signage must be posted in designated areas. During the dry season, the trail will be inspected at a minimum on a weekly basis. These inspections must include an overall site review, manure/trash/litter/debris removal, trail soil base assessment, and spill prevention.
11. Trash containers with lids must be installed.
12. Horse manure must be removed from that portion of the trail which is within 500 feet of Santa Maria Creek on a weekly basis. within 48 hours of any likely precipitation event forecast of 50% or greater probability. The discharger must obtain the precipitation forecast information from the National Weather Service Forecast Office (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/>).
13. Rules and Regulations for pet owners must be required. Signage must be posted in designated areas.

## MITIGATION AREA BMPs

14. Cattle will be excluded from riparian habitat areas to allow for natural recruitment of wetland species along Santa Ysabel Creek.
15. Non-native plants will be removed from mitigation areas to restore beneficial uses along Santa Ysabel Creek.
16. Signage will be posted along mitigation area near the trail to educate people about and avoid damage to sensitive habitats.

Public Notice: April 27, 2009 on the Regional Board website.

03-01-09

Fees: Total Due: \$883.00  
Total Paid: \$883.00  
\$215.00 (Check No. 3110734)  
\$668.00 (Check No. 3060195)

CIWQS: Regulatory Measure ID: 354486  
Place ID: 736851  
Party ID: 505615

01-01-2020

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1. Article Addressed to:

Megan Hamilton  
 County of San Diego  
 9150 Chesapeake Dr.  
 San Diego CA 92123

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

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 Registered  Return Receipt for Merchandise  
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PS Form 3800, August 2006  
 PS Form 3800, August 2006

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