



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

December 18, 2013

**Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested**  
Article Number: 7009 1410 0002 2347 2950

California Department of Transportation  
Kim T. Smith, Branch Chief  
Environmental Stewardship/Ecological Studies Branch  
4050 Taylor Street  
M.S. 242  
San Diego, CA 92110

**In reply/refer to:**  
**766882:mporter**

**Subject: Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. R9-2013-0161  
for the Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project**

Ms. Smith:

Enclosed find Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. R9-2013-0161 (Certification) issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board ) in response to the application submitted on behalf of the California Department of Transportation for the Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project (Project). A description of the Project and Project location can be found in the Certification and site maps which are included as attachments to the Certification.

The California Department of Transportation is enrolled under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-017-DWQ as a condition of the Certification and is required to implement and comply with all terms and conditions of the Certification in order to ensure that water quality standards are met for the protection of wetlands and other aquatic resources. Failure to comply with this Certification may subject California Department of Transportation to enforcement actions by the San Diego Water Board including administrative enforcement orders requiring you to cease and desist from violations or to clean up waste and abate existing or threatened conditions of pollution or nuisance; administrative civil liability in amounts of up to \$10,000 per day per violation; referral to the State Attorney General for injunctive relief; and, referral to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

Any petition for reconsideration of this Certification must be filed with the State Water Resources Control Board within 30 days of certification action pursuant to section 3867 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR). If no petition is received, it will be assumed that the California Department of Transportation has accepted and will comply with all terms and conditions of the Certification.

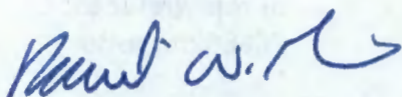
TOMAS MORALES, CHAIR | DAVID GIBSON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108 | (619) 516-1900 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego)



In the subject line of any response, please include reference number 766882:mporter. For questions or comments, please contact Mike Porter by telephone at (619-521-3967) or by email at [mike.porter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mike.porter@waterboards.ca.gov).

Respectfully,



DAVID W. GIBSON  
Executive Officer

Enclosure:

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. R9-2013-0161 for the Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project

DWG:jgs:db:kd:mgp

cc:

Ms. Stephanie Hall  
Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District Regulatory Division  
[Stephanie.J.Hall@usace.army.mil](mailto:Stephanie.J.Hall@usace.army.mil)

Ms. Sandra Lavender  
Caltrans District 11  
[sandra.lavender@dot.ca.gov](mailto:sandra.lavender@dot.ca.gov)

Ms. Kelly Fisher  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
South Coast Region  
Habitat Conservation Planning – South  
[kfisher@dfw.ca.gov](mailto:kfisher@dfw.ca.gov)

U.S. EPA, OWOW, Region 9  
[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  
[Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov)

Tech Staff Info & Use	
Certification No.	R9-2013-0161
Party ID	7222
File No.	N/A
WDID	9 000002655
NPDES No.	N/A
Regulatory ID	393648
Place ID	766882
Person ID	543842
Inspection ID	N/A

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region**

Action on Request for  
Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification  
and Waste Discharge Requirements  
for Discharge of Dredged and/or Fill Materials

**PROJECT: Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project**  
**Certification Number R9-2013-0161**  
**WDID: 9000002655**

Reg. Meas. ID:	393648
Place ID:	766882
Party ID:	7222
Person ID:	543842

**APPLICANT: California Department of Transportation**  
**District 11**  
**4050 Taylor Street**  
**M.S. 242**  
**San Diego, CA 92110**

**ACTION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order for Low Impact Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> Order for Denial of Certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Order for Technically-conditioned Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrollment in SWRCB GWDR Order No. 2003-017 DWQ	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment in Isolated Waters Order No. 2004-004 DWQ

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

An application dated October 31, 2013, was submitted by the California Department of Transportation (hereinafter Applicant), for Water Quality Certification (Certification) pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the proposed Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project (Project). The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) deemed the application to be complete on November 27, 2013. The Applicant proposes to discharge dredged or fill material to waters of the United States and/or State associated with construction activity at the Project site.

The Project is located within the City of San Diego, San Diego County, California north of and adjacent to 2001 Main Street. The Project center reading is located at latitude 32.5948 North and longitude -117.0899 East. The Applicant has paid all required fees for this Certification in the amount of \$1,744.00. On November 4, 2013, the San Diego Water Board provided public notice of the Project application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 by posting information describing the Project on the San Diego Water Board's web site

and providing a period of twenty-one days for public review and comment. No comments were received.

The Applicant proposes to conduct routine maintenance within an existing concrete culvert. The culvert will be cleaned of accumulated sediment, trash, leaf litter, and minor amounts of grass as needed over the five year Certification period. The culvert receives runoff from Interstate-5 and conveys the runoff to a grassy swale that is tributary to the tidal Otay River, located in southern San Diego Bay.

Project construction will temporarily impact 0.07 acre (500 linear feet) of concrete culverted channel as waters of the United States and/or State. The Applicant reports that the Project purpose cannot be practically accomplished in a manner which would avoid or result in less adverse impacts to aquatic resources considering all potential practicable alternatives, such as the potential for alternate available locations, designs, reductions in size, configuration or density. Project construction will not cause permanent impacts to waters of the United States and/or State thus compensatory mitigation to offset such impacts is not required. Compliance with the Certification conditions will help ensure that construction discharges from the Project will not cause on-site or off-site downstream erosion, damage to downstream properties, or otherwise damage stream habitats in violation of water quality standards in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9) (Basin Plan).

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### Attachments:

1. Definitions
2. Distribution List
3. Project Location Map
4. Project Site Plan

## I. STANDARD CONDITIONS

Pursuant to section 3860 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR), the following three standard conditions apply to all water quality certification actions:

- A. This Certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to section 13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with section 3867 of 23 CCR).
- B. This Certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from 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 that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
- C. This Certification action is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under chapter 28 (commencing with section 3830) of 23 CCR and owed by the applicant.

## II. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A. **Term of Certification.** Water Quality Certification No. R9-2013-0161 shall expire upon a) the expiration or retraction of the Clean Water Act section 404 permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for this Project, or b) five (5) years from the date of issuance of this Certification, whichever occurs first.
- B. **Duty to Comply.** The Applicant must comply with all conditions and requirements of this Certification. Any Certification noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Water Code and is grounds for enforcement action or Certification termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification.
- C. **General Waste Discharge Requirements.** The requirements of this Certification are enforceable through Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material that have Received State Water Quality Certification* (Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ). This provision shall apply irrespective of whether a) the federal permit for which the Certification was obtained is subsequently retracted or is expired or b) the Certification is expired. Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ is accessible at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/gowdr401regulated\\_projects.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/gowdr401regulated_projects.pdf).

- D. **Project Conformance with Application.** All water quality protection measures and BMPs described in the application and supplemental information for water quality certification are incorporated by reference into this Certification as if fully stated herein.

Notwithstanding any more specific conditions in this Certification, the Applicant shall construct, implement and comply with all water quality protection measures and BMPs described in the application and supplemental information. The conditions within this Certification shall supersede conflicting provisions within the application and supplemental information submitted as part of this Certification action.

- E. Project Conformance with Water Quality Control Plans or Policies.** Notwithstanding any more specific conditions in this Certification, the Project shall be constructed in a manner consistent with the Basin Plan and any other applicable water quality control plans or policies adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter Cologne Water Quality Act (Division 7, commencing with WC Section 13000) or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
- F. Project Modification.** The Applicant must submit any changes to the Project, including Project operation, which would have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Certification, to the San Diego Water for prior review and written approval. If the San Diego Water Board is not notified of a significant change to the Project, it will be considered a violation of this Certification.
- G. Certification Distribution Posting.** During Project construction, the Applicant must maintain a copy of this Certification at the Project site. This Certification must be available at all times to site personnel and agencies. A copy of this Certification shall also be provided to any contractor or subcontractor performing construction work, and the copy shall remain in their possession at the Project site.
- H. Inspection and Entry.** The Applicant must allow the San Diego Water Board or the State Water Resources Control Board, and/or their authorized representative(s) (including an authorized contractor acting as their representative), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required under law, to:
1. Enter upon the Project or Compensatory Mitigation site(s) premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this Certification;
  2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Certification;
  3. Inspect, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Certification; and
  4. Sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring Certification compliance, or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act or California Water Code (Water Code), any substances or parameters at any location.

- I. **Enforcement Notification.** 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 (CWA), 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.
- J. **Certification Actions.** This Certification may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause including but not limited to the following:
1. Violation of any term or condition of this Certification;
  2. Monitoring results indicate that continued Project activities could violate water quality objectives or impair the beneficial uses of the concrete culverted channel;
  3. Obtaining this Certification by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts;
  4. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge; and
  5. Incorporation of any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

The filing of a request by the Applicant for modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Certification condition.

- K. **Duty to Provide Information.** The Applicant shall furnish to the San Diego Water Board, within a reasonable time, any information which the San Diego Water Board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this Certification or to determine compliance with this Certification.
- L. **Property Rights.** This Certification does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege

### III. CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- A. **Approvals to Commence Construction.** The Applicant shall not commence Project construction until all necessary federal, state, and local approvals are obtained.
- B. **Personnel Education.** Prior to the start of the Project and annually thereafter, the Applicant must educate all personnel on the requirements in this Certification, pollution



prevention measures, spill response measures, and BMP implementation and maintenance measures.

- C. **Spill Containment Materials.** The Applicant must, at all times, maintain appropriate types and sufficient quantities of materials on-site to contain any spill or inadvertent release of materials that may cause a condition of pollution or nuisance if the materials reach waters of the United States and/or State.
- D. **Waste Management.** The Applicant must properly manage, store, treat, and dispose of wastes in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Waste management shall be implemented to avoid or minimize exposure of wastes to precipitation or storm water runoff. The storage, handling, treatment, or disposal of waste shall not create conditions of pollution, contamination or nuisance as defined in Water Code section 13050. Upon Project completion, all Project generated debris, building materials, excess material, waste, and trash shall be removed from the Project site(s) for disposal at an authorized landfill or other disposal site in compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations.
- E. **Waste Management.** Except for a discharge permitted under this Certification, the dumping, deposition, or discharge of trash, rubbish, unset cement or asphalt, concrete, grout, damaged concrete or asphalt, concrete or asphalt spoils, wash water, organic or earthen material, steel, sawdust or other construction debris waste from Project activities directly into waters of the United States and or State, or adjacent to such waters in any manner which may permit its being transported into the waters, is prohibited.
- F. **Downstream Erosion.** Discharges of concentrated flow during construction or after Project completion must not cause downstream erosion or damage to properties or stream habitat.
- G. **Construction Equipment.** All equipment must be washed prior to transport to the Project site and must be free of sediment, debris, and foreign matter. All equipment used in direct contact with surface water shall be steam cleaned prior to use. All equipment using gas, oil, hydraulic fluid, or other petroleum products shall be inspected for leaks prior to use and shall be monitored for leakage. Stationary equipment (e.g., motors, pumps, generator, etc.) shall be positioned over drip pans or other types of containment.
- H. **Process Water.** Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from equipment washing or other activities, must not be discharged to waters of the United States and/or State or placed in locations that may be subjected to storm water runoff flows. Pollutants discharged to areas within a stream diversion must be removed at the end of each work day or sooner if rain is predicted.
- I. **Surface Water Diversion.** All surface waters, including ponded waters, must be diverted away from areas of active grading, construction, excavation, vegetation

removal, and/or any other activity which may result in a discharge to the receiving water. Diversion activities must not result in the degradation of beneficial uses or exceedance of the receiving water quality objectives. Any temporary dam or other artificial obstruction constructed must only be built from materials such as clean gravel which will cause little or no siltation. Normal flows must be restored to the affected stream immediately upon completion of work at that location.

- J. **Hazardous Materials.** Except as authorized by this Certification, substances hazardous to aquatic life including, but not limited to, petroleum products, unused cement/concrete, asphalt, and coating materials, must be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering waters of the United States and/or State. BMPs must be implemented to prevent such discharges during each Project activity involving hazardous materials.
- K. **Vegetation Removal.** Removal of vegetation must occur by hand, mechanically, or through application of United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved herbicides deployed using applicable BMPs to minimize adverse effects to beneficial uses of waters of the United States and/or State. Discharges related to the application of aquatic pesticides within waters of the United States must be done in compliance with State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ, the *Statewide General National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Discharge of Aquatic Weed Control in Waters of the United States*, and any subsequent reissuance as applicable.
- L. **Limits of Disturbance.** The Applicant shall clearly define the limits of Project disturbance to waters of the United States and/or State using highly visible markers such as flag markers, construction fencing, or silt barriers prior to commencement of Project construction activities within those areas.
- M. **On-site Qualified Biologist.** The Applicant shall designate an on-site qualified biologist to monitor Project construction activities within or adjacent to waters of the United States and/or State to ensure compliance with the Certification requirements. The biologist shall be given the authority to stop all work on-site if a violation of this Certification occurs or has the potential to occur. Records and field notes of the biologist's activities shall be kept on-site and made available for review upon request by the San Diego Water Board.
- N. **Beneficial Use Protection.** The Applicant must take all necessary measures to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the concrete culverted channel. This Certification requires compliance with all applicable requirements of the Basin Plan. If at any time, an unauthorized discharge to surface waters (including rivers or streams) occurs or monitoring indicates that the Project is violating, or threatens to violate, water quality objectives, the associated Project activities shall cease immediately and the San Diego Water Board shall be notified in accordance with Notification Requirement VII.A of this Certification. Associated Project activities may not resume without approval from the San Diego Water Board.

**IV. POST-CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

- A. **Post-Construction Discharges.** The Applicant shall not allow post-construction discharges from the Project site to cause or contribute to onsite or off-site erosion or damage to properties or stream habitats.
- B. **Storm Drain Inlets.** All storm drain inlet structures within the Project boundaries must be stamped or stenciled (or equivalent) with appropriate language prohibiting non-storm water discharges.

**V. PROJECT IMPACTS AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION**

- A. **Project Impact Avoidance and Minimization.** The Project must avoid and minimize adverse impacts to waters of the United States and/or State to the maximum extent practicable.
- B. **Project Impacts and Compensatory Mitigation.** Unavoidable Project impacts to concrete culverted channel within the Otay Watershed must not exceed the type and magnitude of impacts described in the table below:

	<b>Impacts (acres)</b>	<b>Impacts (linear ft.)</b>	<b>Mitigation for Impacts (acres)</b>	<b>Mitigation for Impacts (linear ft.)</b>	<b>Mitigation Ratio (area mitigated :area impacted)</b>
<b>Temporary Impacts<sup>1</sup></b>					
Concrete culverted channel	0.07	500	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Project construction will not cause permanent impacts to waters of the United States and/or State, therefore compensatory mitigation to offset impacts is not required.

**VI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- A. **Final Project Completion Report.** The Applicant must submit a Final Project Completion Report to the San Diego Water Board **within 30 days of completion of the Project.** The final report must include the following information:
  - i. Date of construction initiation for each maintenance event;
  - ii. Date of construction completion for each maintenance event.
- B. **Reporting Authority.** The submittal of information required under this Certification, or in response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, is required pursuant to Water Code section 13267 and 13383. Civil liability may be administratively imposed by the San Diego Water Board for failure to submit information pursuant to Water Code sections 13268 or 13383.

- C. Electronic and Paper Media Documents.** The Applicant must submit all reports and information required under this Certification in both hardcopy (paper) and electronic format. The preferred electronic format for each report submission is one file in PDF format that is also Optical Character Recognition (OCR) capable. All paper and electronic documents submitted to the San Diego Water Board must include the following identification numbers in the header or subject line: Certification No. R9-2013-0161:PIN 766882.
- D. Document Signatory Requirements.** All applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be signed as follows:
- i. For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer of at least the level of vice president.
  - ii. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or proprietor, respectively.
  - iii. For a municipality, or a state, federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
  - iv. A duly authorized representative may sign applications, reports, or information if:
    1. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above.
    2. The authorization specifies either an individual or position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated activity.
    3. The written authorization is submitted to the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer.
- E.** If such authorization is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the Project, a new authorization satisfying the above requirements must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications, to be signed by an authorized representative.
- F. Document Certification Requirements.** All applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be certified as follows:
- G.** *"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."*

**H. Document Submittal Address.** The Applicant must submit reports required under this Certification, or other information required by the San Diego Water Board, to:

Executive Officer  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region  
Attn: 401 Certification No. R9-2013-0161:PIN 766822  
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92108

## VII. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Twenty Four Hour Non-Compliance Reporting.** The Applicant shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any such information shall be provided orally to the San Diego Water Board 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 San Diego Water Board, 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.
- B. Hazardous Substance Discharge.** Except for a discharge which is in compliance with this Certification, any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any hazardous substance or sewage to be discharged in or on any waters of the State, shall as soon as (a) that person has knowledge of the discharge, (b) notification is possible, and (c) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures, immediately notify the County of San Diego, in accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 5411.5 and the California Office of Emergency Services of the discharge in accordance with the spill reporting provision of the State toxic disaster contingency plan adopted pursuant to Government Code Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7, Article 3.7 (commencing with section 8574.17), and immediately notify the State Water Board or the San Diego Water Board of the discharge. This provision does not require reporting of any discharge of less than a reportable quantity as provided for under subdivisions (f) and (g) of section 13271 of the Water Code unless the Applicant is in violation of a Basin Plan prohibition.
- C. Oil or Petroleum Product Discharge.** Except for a discharge which is in compliance with this Certification, any person who without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any oil or petroleum product to be discharged in or on any waters of the State, or discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged in or on any waters of the State, shall, as soon as (a) such person has knowledge of the discharge,

(b) notification is possible, and (c) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures, immediately notify the California Office of Emergency Services of the discharge in accordance with the spill reporting provision of the State oil spill contingency plan adopted pursuant to Government Code Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7, Article 3.7 (commencing with section 8574.1). This requirement does not require reporting of any discharge of less than 42 gallons unless the discharge is also required to be reported pursuant to Clean Water Act section 311, or the discharge is in violation of a Basin Plan prohibition.

- D. **Anticipated Noncompliance.** The Applicant shall give advance notice to the San Diego Water Board of any planned changes in the Project or the Compensatory Mitigation project which may result in noncompliance with Certification conditions or requirements.
- E. **Transfers.** This Certification is not transferable in its entirety or in part to any person or organization except after notice to the San Diego Water Board in accordance with the following terms:
1. **Transfer of Property Ownership:** The Applicant must notify the San Diego Water Board of any change in ownership of the Project area. Notification of change in ownership must include, but not be limited to, a statement that the Applicant has provided the purchaser with a copy of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification and that the purchaser understands and accepts the certification requirements and the obligation to implement them or be subject to liability for failure to do so; the seller and purchaser must sign and date the notification and provide such notification to the San Diego Water Board **within 10 days of the transfer of ownership.**
  2. Upon properly noticed transfers of responsibility, the transferee assumes responsibility for compliance with this Certification and references in this Certification to the Applicant will be interpreted to refer to the transferee as appropriate. Transfer of responsibility does not necessarily relieve the Applicant of this Certification in the event that a transferee fails to comply.
- F. **Discharge Commencement.** The Applicant must notify the San Diego Water Board in writing **at least 5 days prior to** the start of Project construction.

## VIII. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE

- A. The California Department of Transportation is the lead agency (Lead Agency) under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq., (CEQA)), and filed a Categorical Exemption dated May 5, 2011 for the Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project.

December 18, 2013

## IX. SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD CONTACT PERSON

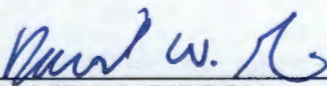
Mike Porter, Engineering Geologist  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region  
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92108  
Telephone: 619-521-3967  
Email: mike.porter@waterboards.ca.gov

## X. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the proposed discharge from the **Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project** (Certification No. R9-2013-0161) 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, "*Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification (General WDRs)*," which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification. Please note that enrollment under Order No. 2003-017-DWQ is conditional and, should new information come to our attention that indicates a water quality problem, the San Diego Water Board may issue individual 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 to, and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with, the applicants' Project description and/or the description in this Certification, and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Basin Plan.

I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the forgoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Certification No. R9-2013-0161 issued on December 18, 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID W. GIBSON  
Executive Officer  
San Diego Water Board

18 December 2013  
Date

## ATTACHMENT 1 DEFINITIONS

**Activity** - when used in reference to a permit means any action, undertaking, or project including, but not limited to, construction, operation, maintenance, repair, modification, and restoration which may result in any discharge to waters of the state.

**Buffer** - means an upland, wetland, and/or riparian area that protects and/or enhances aquatic resource functions associated with wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes, marine, and estuarine systems from disturbances associated with adjacent land uses.

**California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)** - is a wetland assessment method intended to provide a rapid, scientifically-defensible and repeatable assessment methodology to monitor status and trends in the conditions of wetlands for applications throughout the state. It can also be used to assess the performance of compensatory mitigation projects and restoration projects. CRAM provides an assessment of overall ecological condition in terms of four attributes: landscape context and buffer, hydrology, physical structure and biotic structure. CRAM also includes an assessment of key stressors that may be affecting wetland condition and a "field to PC" data management tool (eCRAM) to ensure consistency and quality of data produced with the method.

**Compensatory Mitigation Project** - means compensatory mitigation implemented by the Applicant as a requirement of this Certification (i.e., applicant -responsible mitigation), or by a mitigation bank or an in-lieu fee program.

**Discharge of dredged material** – means any addition of dredged material into, including redeposit of dredged material other than incidental fallback within, the waters of the United States and/or State.

**Discharge of fill material** – means the addition of fill material into waters of the United States and/or State.

**Dredged material** – means material that is excavated or dredged from waters of the United States and/or State.

**Ecological Success Performance Standards** – means observable or measurable physical (including hydrological), chemical, and/or biological attributes that are used to determine if a compensatory mitigation project meets its objectives.

**Enhancement** – means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.



**Establishment** – means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist. Creation results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Fill material** – means any material used for the primary purpose of replacing an aquatic area with dry land or of changing the bottom elevation of a water body.

**Isolated wetland** – means a wetland with no surface water connection to other aquatic resources.

**Mitigation Bank** – means a site, or suite of sites, where resources (e.g., wetlands, streams, riparian areas) are restored, established, enhanced, and/or preserved for the purpose of providing mitigation for impacts authorized by this Certification.

**Preservation** - means the removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

**Re-establishment** - means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/ historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

**Rehabilitation** - means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/ historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Restoration** - means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

**Start of Project Construction** - For the purpose of this Certification, "start of Project construction" means to engage in a program of on-site construction, including site clearing, grading, dredging, landfilling, changing equipment, substituting equipment, or even moving the location of equipment specifically designed for a stationary source in preparation for the fabrication, erection or installation of the building components of the stationary source within waters of the United States and/or State.

**Uplands** - means non-wetland areas that lack any field-based indicators of wetlands or other aquatic conditions. Uplands are generally well-drained and occur above (i.e., up-slope) from nearby aquatic areas. Wetlands can, however, be entirely surrounded by uplands. For example, some natural seeps and constructed stock ponds lack aboveground hydrological

connection to other aquatic areas. In the watershed context, uplands comprise the landscape matrix in which aquatic areas form. They are the primary sources of sediment, surface runoff, and associated chemicals that are deposited in aquatic areas or transported through them.

**Water quality objectives and other appropriate requirements of state law** – means the water quality objectives and beneficial uses as specified in the appropriate water quality control plan(s); the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act; and any other appropriate requirement of state law.

**ATTACHMENT 2  
DISTRIBUTION LIST**

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California Department of Transportation  
Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project  
Certification No. R9-2013-0161

**ATTACHMENT 3  
PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

SAN DIEGO CO.

ZIP

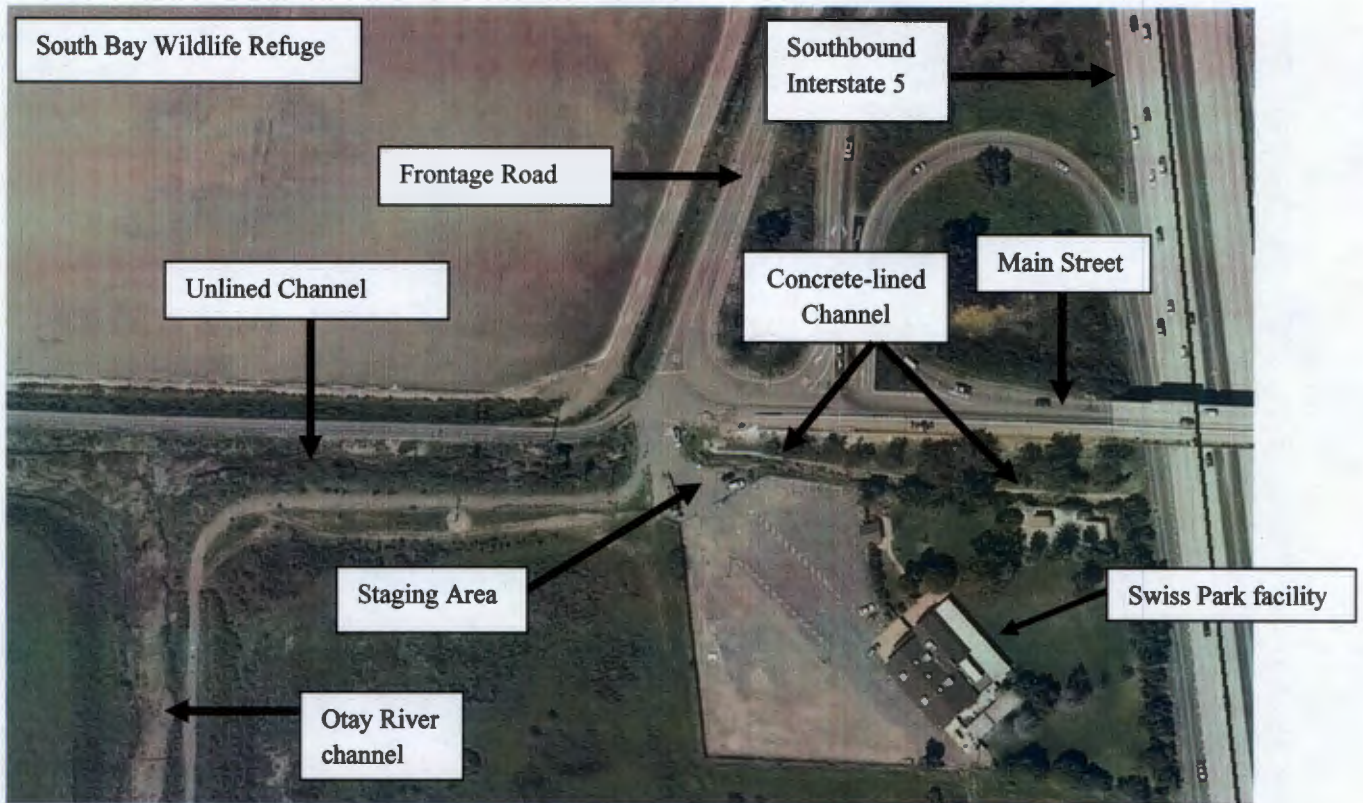


Swiss  
Park  
channel



California Department of Transportation  
Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance Project  
Certification No. R9-2013-0161

**ATTACHMENT 4  
PROJECT SITE PLAN**



California Department of Transportation  
Swiss Park Culvert Maintenance  
11-SD-5, EA 5C5000, Post Mile 5.455  
03/22/11

Caltrans is proposing to remove silt, debris and vegetation from a concrete-lined channel south of Main Street and west of southbound Interstate 5.