Public Notice of Water Quality Certification Application
for the Orange County Public Works
Countywide Long-Term Routine Maintenance Program
Regional General Permit (RGP) 106

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program

Date Posted: March 12, 2026

Affected County: Orange

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of section 3858, title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Water Quality Certification Program.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are proposing to regulate this Program pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. **Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first full date of issuance of this notice (March 12, 2026) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (April 2, 2026).** To submit comments, or if you have questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:
Mark Chin, Environmental Scientist
Division of Water Quality, Wetland Permitting and Enforcement Unit 1
State Water Resources Control Board
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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

Program Name: Countywide Long-Term Routine Maintenance Program, RGP 106

(Reg. Meas. ID 463406 and SWRCB ID: SB25055IN)

Background: On March 14, 2025, Orange County Public Works (OCPW) submitted an application for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for the Countywide Long-Term Routine Maintenance Program, RGP 106 (Program).

Program Description: The purpose of the Program is to perform countywide routine maintenance activities for designated flood control facilities located within the applicant's right-of-way. Maintenance of facilities, such as channels, basins, and small dams, would include: silt removal; slope maintenance and repair; landscape maintenance, vegetation control and removal; insect and rodent control; rip-rap installation and repair; structural inspection and cleaning; removal and replacement of concrete lining; and the repair and backfill of washouts.

Individual projects (or activities) performed under the Program, as reported in the application, would result in temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the state, including waters of the United States. Temporarily impacted areas would be restored to pre-project condition once the individual project is complete. Compensatory mitigation would be required for permanent impacts on an individual project basis.

The County of Orange, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is planning to adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Program following completion of the public comment period on December XX, 2025. This IS/MND is available at 300 N. Flower Street, Santa Ana, CA 92702

Commented [JN1]: If the IS/MND is available, then they already had their public comment period and adopted the doc. You need to enter the official title of the doc and date here in that case.

A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the OCPW Long-Term Routine Maintenance Program, RGP 100 in response to this application.

Applicant: Orange County Public Works
Applicant Contact: Giles Matthews
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Email: Giles.Matthews@ocpw.ocgov.com

Date of Application Submittal: March 14, 2025

Pursuant to federal law (title 33, United States Code, section 1341; Clean Water Act section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the U.S. must seek water quality certification (Certification) from the state or Indian Tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Board has this responsibility for projects (or programs) affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROGRAM MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the Submit button after entering a valid email address under the Subscribe to the 401 water quality Certification and Wetland Program Email List banner on the 401 Program Webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml

By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current Certification applications, including the Program announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email notification service, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.