
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 28, 2015

Jon Mitchell, P.E.
Placer County Dept. of Public Works
P.O. Box 336
Kings Beach, CA 96143

BOARD ORDER NO. R6T-2015-0016, AMENDED ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND PROHIBITION EXEMPTION FOR THE ALPINE MEADOWS ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, PLACER COUNTY, WDID 6A311202003

On April 5, 2012, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, (Water Board) issued a Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) and prohibition exemption to the Placer County Department of Public Works (Applicant) for the Alpine Meadows Road Bridge Replacement Project (Project) in Placer County. On March 17, 2015, the Applicant requested to modify the Project, which would result in additional temporary impacts to the Truckee River. This Amended Order and Prohibition Exemption describes the changes to the Project necessitating an amendment, which is assigned Waste Discharger Identification (WDID) No. 6A311202003 (the same as in the April 5, 2012 WQC). Please use this reference number in all future correspondence regarding this Project.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Table of Project Information: The following table presents revised information that amends and supersedes the original WQC issued on April 5, 2012.

WDID Number	6A311202003						
Applicant	Jon Mitchell, Placer County Public Works P.O. Box 336 Kings Beach, CA 96143						
Agent	Chad Langstraat, P.E. The Hanna Group 3101 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 320 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670						
Project Name	Alpine Meadows Road Bridge Replacement Project						
Project Purpose and Description	The Applicant originally proposed to install a temporary single-span, detour bridge that was a prefabricated truss with no in-stream piers. The Applicant now proposes to construct a temporary bridge that requires use of two bridge supports within the stream channel. A clear water diversion will be constructed beneath the existing and temporary bridges by placing berms made of K-rail, gravel bags, and visqueen between the span of the bridge supports. Additional temporary impacts will result from the need to extend the clear water diversion under the temporary bridge and place in-stream pads under the temporary bridge supports. Pads for the temporary bridge supports will be constructed by placing blocks on top of a visqueen and aggregate base. The Applicant has provided revised quantities for the temporary fill impacts as shown below.						
Project Type	Transportation – Bridges, Overpasses, and Crossings						
Project County	Placer						
Project Address or other Locating Information	Near Tahoe City at the junction of Alpine Meadows Road and Highway 89.						
Location Latitude/Longitude	Latitude: 39.1874, Longitude: -1201983						
Hydrologic Unit(s)	Truckee River Hydrologic Unit (635.00), Truckee River Hydrologic Area (635.20)						
Overall Project Area	11.34 acres						
Receiving Water(s) Name	Truckee River						
Water Body Type(s)	River						
Designated Beneficial Uses	MUN, AGR, IND, GWR, FRSH, POW, REC-1, REC-2, COMM, COLD, WILD, RARE, MIGR, SPWN						
Potential Water Quality Impacts	Sediment and construction-related pollutants						
Area of Water(s) within the Overall Project Area	0.011 acre						
Impacts of Fill to Waters of the State, including Waters of the U.S	Waterbody Type	Permanent			Temporary		
		Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards	Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards
	<i>Lake</i>						
	<i>Riparian</i>				0.122		
	<i>Stream</i>	0.011	102	23	0.0367	160	12
<i>Wetland</i>				0.018			

Table of Project Information continued:

Impacts of Dredging (Excavation) to Waters of the State, including Waters of the U.S.	Waterbody Type	Permanent			Temporary		
		Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards	Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards
	<i>Lake</i>						
	<i>Riparian</i>						
	<i>Stream</i>						
	<i>Wetland</i>						
	Total	0.011	102	23	0.177	160	12
Federal Permit(s)	The applicant has applied for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) authorization to proceed under a Nationwide Permit 23, pursuant to Clean Water Act section 404.						
Non-Compensatory Mitigation	The Project is designed to be completed in one season to minimize potential impacts from stream diversions. Stream flow would be diverted using K-rail, gravel bags, and visqueen. The diversion will route stream flow through the center of the river channel to dewater the outer portions of the channel where work will be conducted to remove the abutments of the existing bridge and install the supports for the proposed temporary bridge. Additional dewatering may be necessary in the designated work areas outside of the diverted stream flows, in a manner designed to maintain compliance with applicable water quality objectives. A temporary protective structure that spans the river diversion would be placed in the dewatered portion of the river beneath the super structure of the existing bridge. The temporary structure would be designed to capture debris from the demolition of the existing bridge. Existing piers and foundations would be either cut approximately one foot below the channel grade or removed entirely. Other site-specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used throughout the construction period and for winterization to control erosion if necessary.						
Compensatory Mitigation	New post-construction BMPs would be implemented to trap road abrasives and infiltrate storm water runoff. Approximately 0.018 acre of willow/Scirpus wetland vegetation will be restored and approximately 0.122 acres of willow riparian vegetation would be restored to compensate for temporary impacts. Additionally, natural channel conditions would be restored by the removal of existing in-stream piers, foundations and other debris.						
Application Fees	\$3,537 (Fill and excavation discharges: \$262 linear ft. X \$262/ft.). \$944 was previously received for original April 5, 2012 WQC. \$2,593 was received in separate check for additional amount attributable to Project revisions.						
Fees Received	\$3,537						

WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) contains certain waste discharge prohibitions that apply to the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit (HU No. 635), including the following, which state:

1. *The discharge, attributable to human activities, of any waste or deleterious material to surface waters of the Truckee River HU or Little Truckee River HU is prohibited; and*
2. *The discharge or threatened discharge, attributable to human activities, of waste to lands within the 100-year floodplain of the Truckee River, Little Truckee River, and their tributaries is prohibited; and*

PROHIBITION EXEMPTION

In accordance with provisions in the Basin Plan, the Water Board may grant exemptions to prohibition 1. above when it finds that all of the following criteria are met:

- a. *The discharge of waste will not, individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, adversely affect beneficial uses*
- b. *There is no reasonable alternative to the waste discharge, and*
- c. *All applicable and practicable control and mitigation measures have been incorporated to minimize potential adverse impacts to water quality and beneficial uses.*

The Project will not individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, adversely affect beneficial uses. The bridge will be replaced in the same location as the existing, which is needed for transportation across the river. There is no alternative to replacing the failing existing bridge. All applicable and practicable control and mitigation measures have been incorporated to minimize potential adverse impacts to water quality and beneficial uses. The project meets the criteria for an exemption to prohibition 1. above.

The Water Board may grant exemptions to prohibition 2. above as follows:

“for the repair, replacement, or relocation of existing structures, provided that the repair, replacement or relocation does not reduce or adversely affect the existing floodplain function. Prior to granting any such exemption, the Regional Board shall require demonstration by the proposed discharger that all applicable and practicable control and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project such that potential adverse impacts to water quality and beneficial uses are the minimum necessary to complete the project.”

The Project is for the replacement of an existing bridge and does not reduce or adversely affect the existing floodplain function, which should be enhanced by the Project. The Project includes appropriate control and mitigation measures such that it will not

adversely impact water quality and beneficial uses. The Project meets the criteria for an exemption to prohibition 2. above.

EXEMPTION AUTHORITY

In accordance with Resolution No. R6T-2008-0031, the Water Board has delegated authority to the Executive Officer to grant exemptions to the above-cited prohibitions where the Executive Officer has the authority to authorize the project under an individual WQC order.

EXEMPTION GRANTED

Water Board staff has notified the Project proponent and interested parties of its intent to adopt this prohibition exemption 10 days in advance of issuing this exemption through online and emailed notices soliciting comments on the proposed Project. The Water Board has determined that the project satisfies the exemption criteria listed above. An exemption to the above-cited Basin Plan prohibitions is hereby granted.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) COMPLIANCE

On March 8, 2011, the Applicant adopted a mitigated negative declaration (SCH No. 2011012019) for the Project in compliance with CEQA (Public Resources Code 21000 et seq.). The Water Board staff has reviewed and considered the environmental document under CEQA Guidelines section 15096(f), and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment. The Applicant has incorporated appropriate avoidance measures and erosion and stormwater runoff controls to mitigate potential significant impacts from the Project.

SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Authority

Section 401 of the CWA (33 U.S.C., paragraph 1341) requires that any applicant for a CWA Section 404 permit, who plans to conduct any activity that may result in discharge of dredged or fill materials to waters of the U.S., must provide to the permitting agency a certification that the discharge will be in compliance with applicable water quality standards of the state in which the discharge will originate. No section 404 permit may be granted (or valid) until such certification is obtained. The Applicant submitted a complete application and the application filing fee required for WQC under section 401 for the Project. The Applicant has applied for USACOE authorization to proceed under Nationwide Permit No. 23 pursuant to CWA section 404.

California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 23, section 3831(e) grants the Water Board Executive Officer the authority to grant or deny WQC for projects in accordance with CWA section 401. The Project qualifies for such WQC as amended by this Order.

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Requirements Granted

I hereby issue this amended Order certifying that any discharge from the referenced Project will comply with the applicable provisions of Clean Water Act 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), 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 amended WQC. All conditions previously specified in the April 5, 2012 WQC remain in effect.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all WQC certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the applicant's project description and the terms specified in this WQC order, and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Basin Plan.

We look forward to working with you in your efforts to protect water quality. If you have questions, please contact Bud Amorfini, Engineering Geologist, at bud.amorfini@waterboards.ca.gov (530) 542-5463 or Alan Miller, P.E., Chief, North Basin Regulatory Unit, at alan.miller@waterboards.ca.gov (530) 542-5430.



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