



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

APR 16 2014

Lewiston Community Services District
c/o Mr. Joe Riess
Water Works Engineers
1405 Victor Avenue, Suite A
Redding, CA 96003

Dear Mr. Riess:

AMENDMENT TO THE LEWISTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT'S WATER SUPPLY PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION; TRINITY RIVER; TRINITY COUNTY

On February 28, 2014, Lewiston Community Services District (LCSD) requested an amendment to Condition 4 of the water quality certification (certification) issued for its Water Supply Project (Project) by the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on December 20, 2013. LCSD requested the amendment to change Condition 4 to allow a zone of turbidity dilution during construction activities. LCSD would be unable to meet the turbidity standards prescribed in the original certification due to low naturally occurring background levels (less than one nephelometric turbidity units) in the Project area.

This amendment complies with the California Environmental Quality Act and is covered by LCSD's Water Supply Project Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration¹ (MND) issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on August 20, 2012. Furthermore, the amendment complies with the turbidity requirements put forth in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) which allows for zones of turbidity dilution for specific discharges upon the issuance of discharge permits. The State Water Board provided public notice of LCSD's request for the amendment on March 11, 2014, by posting information describing the request on the Division of Water Rights' website and providing notification to interested parties. No comments were received.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Project is located on the Trinity River near Lewiston, California in Trinity County. LCSD is experiencing challenges meeting the federal arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) in its drinking water. The existing infiltration gallery that draws water from the Trinity River is affected by runoff from Deadwood Creek, a tributary immediately upstream of the existing infiltration gallery. Deadwood Creek is known to contain elevated arsenic levels, and water quality sampling in 2009 shows concentrations as high as 83 ppb. The Project involves the relocation of the infiltration gallery to a location approximately 2,800 feet downstream, where arsenic levels would be

¹ CDPH filed a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse on August 20, 2012. (SCH #: 2012032029.)

diluted below the MCL. The Project is to be constructed in accordance with the construction practices outlined in the IS/MND developed by CDPH, except as modified by the conditions of the original certification, and amendments thereto.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

LCSD proposes to replace Condition 4 of the December 20, 2013 certification with the following:

Turbidity increases associated with Project activities shall not exceed the water quality objectives for turbidity in the Trinity River basin, as documented in the North Coast Basin Plan. Turbidity levels are defined in nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs). The current threshold for turbidity levels in the Trinity River are listed in the North Coast Basin Plan. According to the North Coast Basin Plan, turbidity levels shall not be increased by more than 20 percent above naturally occurring background levels. However upon the issuance of permits higher percentages can be tolerated. This certification provides an allowable zone of turbidity dilution within which turbidity levels may be increased by more than 20 percent above naturally occurring background levels.

The Applicant shall monitor turbidity levels 50 feet upstream of Project activities (i.e., natural background) and 500 feet downstream of the point of river's edge construction activities. Turbidity monitoring shall occur at least hourly during Project construction in the Trinity River, its tributaries, or the river banks. If the grab sample results indicate that turbidity levels exceed 20 NTU², remedial actions will be implemented to reduce and maintain turbidity at or below 20 NTU at the monitoring site 500 feet downstream of construction activities. Potential remedial actions include halting or slowing construction activities and implementation of additional best management practices (BMPs) until turbidity levels are at or below 20 NTU. If naturally occurring background levels are greater than 20 NTU, turbidity levels at the monitoring site shall not be increased by more than 20 percent above the naturally occurring background level. The Deputy Director for Water Rights (Deputy Director) and the North Coast Regional Water Board Executive Officer (Executive Officer) shall be notified promptly and no later than 24 hours after the monitoring results indicate an unauthorized increase in turbidity.

Turbidity monitoring results shall be reported to the Deputy Director within two weeks of initiation of monitoring and every two weeks thereafter for the remainder of the monitoring period.

State Water Board staff has consulted with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff regarding this proposed amendment. North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff confirmed that this amendment would be consistent with the Basin Plan and supported its approval.³ The State Water Board finds that the proposed amendment will be protective of the state water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law. The State Water Board hereby grants approval of the amendment to the certification issued for LCSD's Project. The State Water Board will file a Notice of Determination (see enclosure) with the State Clearinghouse within five days of issuance of this amendment.

² Consistent with the thresholds identified in the Trinity River Restoration Program (R1-2010-0028).

³ North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. March 19, 2014. Personal communication.

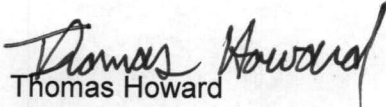
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All documents and other information that constitute the public record for this amendment shall be maintained by the Division of Water Rights and shall be available for public review at the following address: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Peter Barnes at (916) 445-9989 or by email at Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence can be directed to:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
Attn: Peter Barnes
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Sincerely,


Thomas Howard
Executive Director

Enclosure: Notice of Determination

cc: Mr. Mel Deardorff
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