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California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



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August 26, 2010

Mr. Mike McCaskey
Matrix Oil Corporation
104 W. Anapamu Street, Suite C
Santa Barbara, CA

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED SYCAMORE CYN-MATRIX OIL BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT (Corps' Project No. SPL-2008-416-KW), SYCAMORE CANYON, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 08-023)

Dear Mr. McCaskey:

We are in receipt of the letter dated August 20, 2009 from your agent, LSA Associates, requesting modification of your Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the subject project, issued on June 24, 2009. As we understand, you request to modify the WQC so that instead of replacing a failed culvert with another culvert, the project will replace that culvert with an arizona crossing.

In response to that request, WQC 08-023 is hereby modified in four items in Attachment A as follows. ~~Strikeout~~ text is removed and underlined text is added.

6. Project Purpose:

The proposed project (Project) will provide a drop structure to stabilize an unnamed perennial creek in Sycamore Canyon, replace a failed culvert under an emergency access road with an arizona crossing, ~~and periodically remove sediment and debris from that culvert.~~

7. Project description:

Matrix Oil maintains a small oil facility south of Rose Hills Cemetery, in unincorporated Los Angeles County. The emergency access road to the facility crossed an unnamed creek in Sycamore Canyon at two locations. At this time the upstream crossing is a culvert, but overtops in heavy rains and the downstream crossing has washed out. The Project will replace the failed upstream culvert, and will provide a drop structure for stabilization at the site of the downstream washout.

Stabilization of the banks and maintenance removal of sediment and debris from the upstream culvert will lessen the possibility of road failure during a storm. An emergency vehicle turn around area is required to comply with the Los Angeles County Fire Authority requirements.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The bank stabilization portion of the project will consist of several components, which include:

- A riprap drop structure with bank stabilization measures will be installed within the creek bed at the site of the road washout to prevent further erosion. The drop structure varies approximately from 52 to 72 feet wide and 60 feet long. The grouted riprap will be installed in an area approximately 52 feet wide by 15 feet long on the upstream side of the structure and about 72 to 85 feet wide by 30 feet long on the downstream side of the structure.
- All areas temporarily disturbed in the process of modifying the stream channel will be revegetated with native riparian vegetation, and all exotic species within the project area will be removed.
- The creek bed immediately downstream of the drop structure will be widened and the northern bank will be graded to a 2:1 slope to allow the creation of wetlands and associated riparian habitat to offset the permanent impacts from placement of the drop structure.
- A curb will be installed along the dirt access road south of the creek, including the fire turnaround area.

In addition, the box culvert at the upstream end of the project area will be replaced with an arizona crossing.

- The box culvert and compacted soils will be removed.
- The elevation of the road approaching the crossing will be increased by approximately 7 feet above current grade.
- A concrete road in a horseshoe shape from approximately 68 feet from the creek centerline on the south side to 73 feet from creek centerline on the north side will be installed.
- Two four foot concrete cutoff walls will be installed upstream and downstream of the creek crossing.
- UngROUTED riprap will be placed upstream and downstream of the crossing and covered with at least 6 inches of topsoil.

The maintenance portion of the project will consist of the following activities:

Mr. Mike McCaskey
Matrix Oil Corporation
File No. 08-023

-3-

August 26, 2010

- ~~The box culvert at the upstream end of the project area will periodically be cleared of sediment that may collect, block, and cause flooding of the road during and following storm events.~~
 - A vegetation management plan has been prepared to allow for long-term maintenance to prevent vegetation from obstructing fire vehicle access. Vegetation maintenance will be limited to the areas on the road side of the new curb.
8. Federal Agency/Permit:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP No. 3-~~13~~ (Permit No. SPL-2008-416-KW)
13. Impacted Waters of the United States:
Federal jurisdictional wetlands: ~~0.046~~ 0.070 temporary acres (~~165238~~ linear feet) and ~~0.037~~ 0.041 permanent acres (~~117148~~ linear feet)

All conditions in Attachment B including total required mitigation remain the same. Please note an annual report is due every January 1st with project status including when no construction has taken place.

I have determined that the proposed modification does not constitute a significant change in the nature or scope of the activities described for the project in your original application. Therefore, no additional action by this agency pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is necessary. This determination is limited to the proposed modifications contained in your notification to this Regional Board dated August 20, 2009 and described herein, and does not eliminate the Applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable laws, requirements and/or permits.

Should you have questions concerning this Certification action, please contact Dana Cole at (213) 576-5733, Section 401 Program.



Samuel Unger
Interim Executive Officer

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