



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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Mr. Tony Giannone
Crown Valley Investments, LLC
905 S. Fair Oaks Boulevard
Pasadena, CA 91105

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED (TRACT NO. 43766) PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2006-1058-KW), ACTON DRAIN, TRIBUTARY TO THE SANTA CLARA RIVER, ACTON, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 07-024)

Dear Mr. Giannone:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of Crown Valley Investments, LLC (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on April 10, 2008.

I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced project 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, 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 Water Quality Certification.

The Applicant shall be liable civilly for any violations of this Certification in accordance with the California Water Code. This Certification 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 Valerie Carrillo, Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.

[Original Signed By]

September 5, 2008

Tracy J. Egoscue
Executive Officer

Date

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.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Land Tech Engineering
3638 Smith Avenue, Suite A
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Bill Orme
State Water Resources Control Board
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Jeff Humble
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Streambed Alteration Team
4949 View Ridge Avenue
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Kenneth Wong
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch, Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

Ken Berg
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92009

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information
File No. 07-024

1. Applicant: Crown Valley Investments, LLC
905 S. Fair Oaks Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105

Phone: (626) 773-8800 Fax: (626) 773-8820
2. Applicant's Agent: Larry Tuma
Land Tech Engineering
3638 Smith Avenue, Suite A
Acton, CA 93510

Phone: (661) 269-2190 Fax: (661) 269-2361
3. Project Name: Tract No. 43766
4. Project Location: Acton, Los Angeles County
- | <u>Longitude</u> | <u>Latitude:</u> |
|------------------|------------------|
| 118.1983 | 34.5097 |
| 118.1983 | 34.5078 |
| 118.1983 | 34.5061 |
| 118.1939 | 34.5097 |
| 118.1939 | 34.5061 |
| 118.1897 | 34.5097 |
| 118.1897 | 34.5078 |
| 118.1897 | 34.5061 |
5. Type of Project: Single-family residential development (39 units)
6. Project Purpose: The purpose of the proposed project is to construct a 39-unit single family housing development and associated infrastructure. The development will include grading for development of single-family lots (average 2-acre lots), storm drainage, and street improvements.
7. Project Description: The proposed project is within an area of approximately 80 acres. Within the total property, 27.60 acres will remain undeveloped and

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grading will be completely avoided.

The project will include the construction of 39 single-family homes on 2-acre average lots. The project will consist of the necessary grading for the roads and the housing pads, three retention/detention basins, and three debris basins.

The storm drain system will be comprised of upstream debris basins, catch basins with pollutant filters and trash gates, and retention/detention basins at the downstream end prior to discharge into the existing drainage course. A box structure is being built at the crossing of the Acton Drain drainage course for the construction of Bandell street which is an existing dirt road that will be extended through the project.

The design of the project complies with the Acton Community Standards District which requires that the project minimize grading and to maintain existing drainage courses in their natural condition to the maximum extent practicable.

The site has two main types of jurisdictional areas, the main Acton Drain (an ephemeral stream) and erosion features.

The majority of Acton Drain and its associated riparian area will be avoided. The Acton drain comprises 0.314 acres of jurisdictional area; of which 0.038 acres will be impacted and 0.276 acres will remain preserved.

There are additional jurisdictional areas (erosion features) which were created after adjacent property development where the drainages cross the property. These drainages will have storm drains installed and will be permanently impacted. The erosion feature drainages comprise 0.148 acres.

The entire project consists of a total of 0.186 acres of impacted area within a total of 0.466 acres of total jurisdictional area.

The project has been designed to capture and treat all of the run-off from the developed areas. All catch basins will be equipped with filter trays to filter pollutants and trash grates to keep trash out of the storm drain system. Downstream of the catch basins, the project has 3 retention/ detention basins which will capture and percolate

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the entire first 0.75 inches of runoff. These basins have also been designed to capture and retain the entire increase in runoff due to project development and to mitigate the peak flow leaving the site to less than the undeveloped flow rate. The basins will also capture and retain all nuisance flow from the development.

LID (Low-Impact Development):

Each of the housing lots within this development are being graded to create building pads only large enough to provide for construction of the houses and yards. The remaining areas within each lot will remain in a natural state and not be impacted. Grading for street construction will only occur within street right of ways.

Landscaping will be in conformance with the Acton Community Standards District, which includes re-vegetating with drought tolerant, native vegetation. Planting of landscaped areas requires the use of drought tolerant low water use plants as specified by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8. Federal Agency/Permit: | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP No. 39 (Permit No. 2006-1058-KW) |
| 9. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: | California Department of Fish and Game
Streambed Alteration Agreement
No. 2006-0103-R5 |
| 10. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: | A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the proposed project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. The Mitigated Negative Determination was signed and approved by County of Los Angeles Planning Commission on May 03, 2001. |
| 11. Receiving Water: | Acton Drain, tributary to Santa Clara River (Hydrologic Unit No. 403.55) |
| 12. Designated Beneficial Uses: | MUN*, IND, PROC, AGR, GWR, FRSH, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, RARE, WET |

*Conditional beneficial use

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14. Impacted Waters of the United States: Non-wetland waters (streambed): 0.186 permanent acres
15. Dredge Volume: None
16. Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented by the Applicant: The Applicant has not identified any related projects carried out in the last 5 years or planned for implementation in the next 5 years.
17. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- The project will have erosion control devices in place when the grading permit is issued. Best Management Practices will be called out and detailed in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. All precautionary measures will be executed to minimize impacts to existing streambeds that have been determined to be within jurisdiction, including monitoring for dust, paint, grease and asphalt.
 - All conditions of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement will be met.
 - Erosion control will be required around all graded areas, along with stabilization of slopes with native vegetation.
 - Grading within drainage courses will be limited to the dry season, May 1 through October 1 and /or when the stream is not actively flowing and no measurable rain is forecast within 72 hours.
 - The project has been designed to minimize grading of the natural areas. Grading is limited to the building pads, streets and flood control basins. .
 - The major drainage course, Acton Drain will remain natural except for the construction of one road crossing (concrete box).

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18. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has proposed to mitigate for project impacts with the preservation and/or restoration of 0.621 acres of stream habitat in accordance with the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authorities. Mitigation shall be within the upper Santa Clara River watershed. This mitigation has been required by California Department of Fish and Game, and corresponds to a mitigation ratio of 3.34:1.

19. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Regional Board will require 0.621 acres of compensatory mitigation to be provided for project impacts. This will correspond to a mitigation ratio of 3.34:1.

See *Attachment B, Conditions of Certifications, Additional Conditions* for modifications and additions to the above proposed compensatory mitigation.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS

Pursuant to §3860 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR), the following three standard conditions shall apply to this project:

1. This Certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to §13330 of the California Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with 23 CCR §3867).
2. This Certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to 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 the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
3. Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required pursuant to 23 CCR Chapter 28 and owed by the Applicant.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

Pursuant to 23 CCR §3859(a), the Applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

1. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board copies of any other final permits and agreements required for this project, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) Section 404 Permit and the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement. **These documents shall be submitted prior to any discharge to waters of the State.**
2. The Applicant shall adhere to the most stringent conditions indicated with either this certification, the CDFG's Streambed Alteration Agreement, or the ACOE Section 404 Permit.
3. The Applicant shall comply with all water quality objectives, prohibitions, and policies set forth in the *Water Quality Control Plan, Los Angeles Region (1994)*.
4. The Avoidance/Minimization activities proposed by the Applicant as described in Attachment A, No. **16**, are incorporated as additional conditions herein.

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5. The Applicant and all contractors employed by the Applicant shall have copies of this Certification, the approved maintenance plan, and all other regulatory approvals for this project on site at all times and shall be familiar with all conditions set forth.
6. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, operation, and storage of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. At no time shall the Applicant use any vehicle or equipment which leaks any substance that may impact water quality. Staging and storage areas for vehicles and equipment shall be located outside of waters of the State.
7. All excavation, construction, or maintenance activities shall follow best management practices to minimize impacts to water quality and beneficial uses. Dust control activities shall be conducted in such a manner that will not produce downstream runoff.
8. No construction material, spoils, debris, or any other substances associated with this project that may adversely impact water quality standards, shall be located in a manner which may result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. Designated spoil and waste areas shall be visually marked prior to any excavation and/or construction activity, and storage of the materials shall be confined to these areas.
9. All waste and/or dredged material removed shall be relocated to a legal point of disposal if applicable. A legal point of disposal is defined as one for which Waste Discharge Requirements have been established by a California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and is in full compliance therewith. Please contact Rodney Nelson, Land Disposal Unit, at (213) 620-6119 for further information.
10. The Applicant shall implement all necessary control measures to prevent the degradation of water quality from the proposed project in order to maintain compliance with the Basin Plan. The discharge shall meet all effluent limitations and toxic and effluent standards established to comply with the applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements, including the provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act. This Certification does not authorize the discharge by the applicant for any other activity than specifically described in the 404 Permit.
11. The discharge shall not: a) degrade surface water communities and populations including vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant species; b) promote the breeding of mosquitoes, gnats, black flies, midges, or other pests; c) alter the color, create visual contrast with the natural appearance, nor cause aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the receiving waters; d) cause formation of sludge deposits; or e) adversely affect any designated beneficial uses.

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12. The Applicant shall allow the Regional Board and its authorized representative entry to the premises, including all mitigation sites, to inspect and undertake any activity to determine compliance with this Certification, or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code.
13. Application of pesticides must be supervised by a certified applicator and be in conformance with manufacturer's specifications for use. Compounds used must be appropriate to the target species and habitat. All pesticides directed toward aquatic species must be approved by the Regional Board. Pesticide utilization shall be in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order Nos. 2004-0008-DWQ and 2004-0009-DWQ.
14. The Applicant shall not conduct any construction activities within waters of the State during a rainfall event. The Applicant shall maintain a **five-day (5-day) clear weather forecast** before conducting any operations within waters of the State.
15. If rain is predicted after operations have begun, grading activities must cease immediately and the site must be stabilized to prevent impacts to water quality, and minimize erosion and runoff from the site.
16. The grading, stabilization and re-vegetation will be phased to limit the exposed or working face such that the graded area can be stabilized within 24 hours after the first prediction of rain during the 5-day forecast or within 24 hours after final grading of the phased area.
17. No activities shall involve wet excavations (i.e., no excavations shall occur below the seasonal high water table). A minimum **5-foot** buffer zone shall be maintained above the existing groundwater level. If construction or groundwater dewatering is proposed or anticipated, the Applicant shall file a **Report of Waste Discharge** to this Regional Board and obtain any necessary NPDES permits/Waste Discharge Requirements prior to discharging waste. Sufficient time should be allowed to obtain any such permits (generally 180 days). If groundwater is encountered without the benefit of appropriate permits, the Applicant shall cease all activities in the areas where groundwater is present, file a Report of Waste Discharge to this Regional Board, and obtain any necessary permits prior to discharging waste.
18. All project/maintenance activities not included in this Certification, and which may require a permit, must be reported to the Regional Board for appropriate permitting. Bank stabilization and grading, as well as any other ground disturbances, are subject to restoration and revegetation requirements, and may require additional Certification action.
19. All surface waters, including ponded waters, shall be diverted away from areas undergoing grading, construction, excavation, vegetation removal, and/or any other activity which may result in a discharge to the receiving water. If surface water diversions are anticipated, the

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Applicant shall develop and submit a **Surface Water Diversion Plan** (plan) to this Regional Board. The plan shall include the proposed method and duration of diversion activities, structure configuration, construction materials, equipment, erosion and sediment controls, and a map or drawing indicating the locations of diversion and discharge points. Contingency measures shall be a part of this plan to address various flow discharge rates. The plan shall be submitted prior to any surface water diversions. If surface flows are present, then upstream and downstream monitoring for the following shall be implemented:

- pH
- temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- turbidity
- total suspended solids(TSS)
- Downstream TSS shall be maintained at ambient levels
- Where natural turbidity is between 0 and 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), increases shall not exceed 20%. Where natural turbidity is greater than 50 NTU, increases shall not exceed 10%.

Analyses must be performed using approved US Environmental Protection Agency methods, where applicable. These constituents shall be monitored for on a daily basis during the first week of diversion and/or dewatering activities, and then on a weekly basis, thereafter, until the in-stream work is complete.

Results of the analyses shall be submitted to this Regional Board by the 15th day of each subsequent sampling month. A map or drawing indicating the locations of sampling points shall be included with each submittal. Diversion activities shall not result in the degradation of beneficial uses or exceedance of water quality objectives of the receiving waters. Any such violations may result in corrective and/or enforcement actions, including increased monitoring and sample collection.

20. The Applicant shall restore the proposed **all areas** of TEMPORARY IMPACTS to waters of the United States and all other areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. Restoration shall include grading of disturbed areas to pre-project contours and revegetation with native species. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.
21. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION to offset the permanent impacts to **0.186 acres** of vegetation within waters of the United States wetlands by creating or restoring riparian habitat at a minimum **3.34:1** area replacement ratio (**0.621 acres**). As an alternative, the Applicant may provide adequate funding to a third party organization for the creation or restoration of a total of **0.621 acres** of riparian habitat within waters of the United States/Federal jurisdictional wetlands. The mitigation site shall be located within the

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- upper Santa Clara River Watershed unless otherwise approved by this Regional Board. The boundary of the mitigation site shall be clearly identified on a map of suitable quality and shall be defined by latitude and longitude. This information shall be submitted to this Regional Board for approval prior to any disturbance within waters of the United States and shall include copies of any agreements made between the Applicant and a third party organization regarding compensatory mitigation efforts.
22. All open space and mitigation areas shall be placed within a conservation easement to ensure preservation in perpetuity. Documentation of proper easement placement shall be submitted to the Regional Board within one year.
23. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Mitigation Monitoring Reports** (Annual Reports) by **January 1st** of each year for a minimum period of **five (5) years** following this issuance of 401 Certification or until mitigation success has been achieved and documented. The Annual Reports shall describe in detail all of the project/construction activities performed during the previous year and all restoration and mitigation efforts; including percent survival by plant species and percent cover. The Annual Reports shall describe the status of other agreements (e.g., mitigation banking). At a minimum the Annual Reports shall include the following documentation:
- (a) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project and mitigation site conditions;
 - (b) Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in decimal-degrees format outlining the boundary of the project and mitigation areas;
 - (c) The overall status of project including a detailed schedule of work;
 - (d) Copies of all permits revised as required in Additional Condition 1;
 - (e) Water quality monitoring results for each reach (as required) compiled in an easy to interpret format;
 - (f) A certified Statement of “no net loss” of wetlands associated with this project;
 - (g) Discussion of any monitoring activities and exotic plant control efforts; and
 - (h) A certified Statement from the permittee or his/her representative that all conditions of this Certification have been met.
24. Prior to any subsequent maintenance activities within the project areas, including clearing, maintenance by-hand, and/or the application of pesticides, the Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board a NOTIFICATION of any such activity. Notification shall include: (a) the

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proposed schedule; (b) a description of the existing conditions; (c) the area of proposed temporary impact within waters of the State; (c) a description of any existing aquatic resources (e.g., wetland/riparian vegetation); and (d) any proposed compensatory mitigation. Notifications must be submitted a minimum of **three (3) weeks** prior to commencing work activities.

25. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Regional Board shall be signed:
- (a) For corporations, by a principal executive officer at least of the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if such representative is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which discharge originates.
 - (b) For a partnership, by a general partner.
 - (c) For a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor.
 - (d) For a municipal, State, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.

26. Each and any report submitted in accordance with this Certification shall contain the following completed declaration:

“I declare under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who managed the system or those directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Executed on the _____ day of _____ at _____.

(Signature)
(Title)”

27. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **07-024**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
28. Any modifications of the proposed project may require submittal of a new Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification application and appropriate filing fee.

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29. Coverage under this Certification may be transferred to the extent the underlying federal permit may legally be transferred and further provided that the Applicant notifies the Executive Officer at least 30 days before the proposed transfer date, and the notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new Applicants containing a specific date of coverage, responsibility for compliance with this Certification, and liability between them.
30. The Applicant or their agents shall report any noncompliance. Any such information shall be provided verbally to the Executive Officer 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 Executive Officer, 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.
31. *Enforcement:*
 - (a) 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, 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.
 - (b) In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this Certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the SWRCB deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall be a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
 - (c) In response to any violation of the conditions of this Certification, the SWRCB or RWQCB may add to or modify the conditions of this Certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.

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32. This Certification shall expire **five (5) years** from date of this Certification. The Applicant shall submit a complete application prior to termination of this Certification if renewal is requested.