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SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mr. Ron Dragoo, P.E.
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
30940 Hawthorne Boulevard
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7011 2970 0000 0645 0174

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED SAN RAMON CANYON STORM DRAIN TUNNEL PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2011-01140-CO), SAN RAMON CANYON DRAINAGE, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 11-201)

Dear Mr. Dragoo:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of City of Rancho Palos Verdes (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on May 24, 2012.

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.

Samuel Unger
Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

July 2, 2012
Date

ATTACHMENT A

**Project Information
File No. 11-201**

1. Applicant: Mr. Ron Drago, P.E.
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
30940 Hawthorne Boulevard
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Phone: (310) 544-5253 Fax: (310) 544-5292

2. Applicant's Agent: Ms. Saundra F. Jacobs, REA
SFC Consultants
65 Post, Suite 1000
Irvine, CA 92618

Phone: (949) 702-1145 Fax: (949) 266-9390

3. Project Name: San Ramon Canyon Storm Drain Tunnel Project

4. Project Location: Rancho Palos Verdes, Los Angeles County

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
33.73244	118.32915
33.72225	118.33445

5. Type of Project: Storm Drain Tunnel Project

6. Project Purpose: The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is proposing to create a new drainage system to replace the existing clogged and buried storm drain inlet under West 25th Street.

7. Project Description: The existing San Ramon Canyon drainage system conveying flows under West 25th Street is currently undersized. During storm events, the existing storm drain inlet is clogged and buried, which floods the road with water and sediment. The existing inlet structure is a 48-inch diameter pipe system. The excess flow of water is forced to cross W. 25th Street/Palos Verdes Drive South, carrying with it boulders, mud, and other debris across the W. 25th Street roadway and into the mobile home properties to the south. The San Ramon Canyon storm drain project is intended to prevent degradation of topsoil, property damage, and avoid a hazard to public safety. Further, the storm drain project will minimize road closure of Palos Verdes Drive South/W. 25th Street during storm events.

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in width, which includes 14-feet of road, 2-feet of K-rail on the downward slope side of the road, and 1-foot of shoulder on the downward slope side of the k-rail. The access road will gently slope westward away from the canyon so that no storm water flows directly over the road and into the canyon. Over excavation of the canyon wall will be required in order to properly place the retaining wall and associated access road appurtenances. Excavated sediment would then be replaced at no greater than a 2:1 slope. Because of the extensive engineering and construction required of this access road and retaining wall, this first access road will be subsequently paved after construction with neutral colors and serve as the permanent maintenance road for the City.

The second construction access road will be located on the southern-most switchback of Palos Verdes Drive East, and provide temporary access for the buttress fill portion of the project. The site for this road was chosen due to the minimal amount of grading that would be required as the existing underground sewer line easement is in the same location. Access from this location will be considerably easier and require little or no grading. At the project's completion, this second temporary access road will be re-vegetated with a native hydro seed mix.

Tunnel and Cut and Cover Pipe: A large diameter tunnel will be constructed from the inlet structure to a point below the steep slopes, south of W. 25th Street, approximately 1,900 feet in length. Approximately 3,000 cubic yards of sediment will be cut for the tunnel and used in the buttress fill. A pipe will be installed in this tunnel and the annular space between the pipe and tunnel will be filled by pumping a cement-slurry into the space. The pipe from the storm drain tunnel will connect to a section of pipe that will be installed using a cut and cover method of installation. The cut and cover pipe section will be located within the existing 100-foot wide utility easement and require approximately 7,090 cubic yards of excavated cut. The pipe will extend approximately 1,900 feet to a point approximately two hundred feet from the ocean bluff top where it will connect to another tunnel, approximately 300 feet in length, to the outlet structure. After construction, this area will be restored to enhance the open space and recreational uses in this area.

Outlet Structure: The outlet structure would be located above the

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Six alternatives were considered when designing the project. Based on the alternatives reviewed, when compared to the proposed project, the proposed project presented the least amount of jurisdictional and native habitat impacts.

8. Federal Agency/Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP No. (Permit No. 2011-01140-CO)
9. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: California Department of Fish and Game
Streambed Alteration Notification
10. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: A Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project was approved and filed on December 20, 2011.
11. Receiving Water: San Ramon Canyon (Hydrologic Unit No. 405.11)
12. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN*, GWR, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, RARE
*Conditional beneficial use
13. Impacted Waters of the United States: Vegetated streambed: 0.07 temporary acres (1,100 linear feet)
14. Dredge Volume: None
15. Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented by the Applicant: The Applicant also conducted the McCarrell Canyon Storm Drain Project in Rancho Palos Verdes in 2008 and 2009. Certification No. 08-047 was issued for that project.
16. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- Sediment from areas disturbed by construction shall be retained on site using structural controls to the maximum extent practicable.
 - Stockpiles of soil shall be properly contained to eliminate or reduce sediment transport from the site to the streets, drainage facilities or adjacent properties via runoff, vehicle tracing, or wind.

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Regional Water Quality Control Board.

- Any spillage of fuel, oil or hazardous materials from construction equipment or vehicles or significant releases of sediment due to construction activities or BMP failures that impact downstream storm drain areas must be immediately and properly cleaned up and removed, for spills of significant volume notifications must be immediately made to the city of Rancho Palos Verdes for assessment of best corrective action.
- Contaminated water, soil, sand or other material and hazardous wastes generated from the cleanup must be disposed by pre-approved methods.
- Notifications of spills and significant releases of sediment due to construction activities BMP failures impacting downstream areas or storm drains must be immediately made to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

17. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has proposed to enhance and restore 2.75 acres within the project vicinity, including 0.21 acres of jurisdictional waters.

18. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation

The Regional Board will require the Applicant to provide compensatory mitigation at a ratio of 3:1 for temporary impacts associated with the proposed project.

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

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification File No. 11-201

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 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 the Land Disposal Unit at (213) 620-2253 for further information regarding the disposal of solid wastes.
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.
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

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Bank stabilization and grading, as well as any other ground disturbances, are subject to restoration and revegetation requirements, and may require additional Certification action.

22. 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 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)

Analyses must be performed using approved US Environmental Protection Agency methods, where applicable. These constituents shall be measured at least once prior to diversion and then 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. 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%. Any such violations may result in corrective and/or enforcement actions, including increased monitoring and sample collection.

23. The Applicant shall restore **all 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. Restored areas shall be monitored and maintained with native species as necessary for five years. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.
24. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION to offset the proposed temporary loss of 0.07 acres waters of the United States by creating or restoring riparian

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(h) A certified Statement from the permittee or his/her representative that all conditions of this Certification have been met.

27. Prior to any subsequent maintenance activities within the subject drainages/basin, 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 proposed schedule; (b) a description of the drainage's/basin's existing condition/capacity; (c) the area of proposed temporary impact within waters of the State; (d) a description of any existing aquatic resources (e.g., wetland/riparian vegetation); and (e) any proposed compensatory mitigation. Notifications must be submitted a minimum of **three (3) weeks** prior to commencing work activities.

28. 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.

29. 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)"

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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.
36. 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.