



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
*ing Secretary for
 mental Protection*

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
 Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 - Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles>

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
 Governor

Hayden Sohm
 County of Los Angeles
 Dept. of Parks and Recreation
 265 Cloverleaf Drive
 Baldwin Park, CA 91706

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATION AREA-LEGG LAKE BOAT LAUNCH RAMPS PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2010-00291-PHT), RIO HONDO, TRIBUTARY TO THE LOS ANGELES RIVER, CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 10-033)

Dear Mr. Sohm:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on June 8, 2011.

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 Dana Cole, Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-5733.

Samuel Unger
 Samuel Unger, P.E.
 Executive Officer

July 20, 2011
 Date

California Environmental Protection Agency



DISTRIBUTION LIST

Bryan Moscardini
County of LA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Bill Orme (via electronic copy)
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 944213
Sacramento, CA 94244-2130

Sarah Rains
(via electronic copy)
California Department of Fish and Game
Streambed Alteration Team
4949 View Ridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Spencer Macneil
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch, Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

Eric Raffini (via electronic copy)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Jim Bartel
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92009

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information

File No. 10-033

1. Applicant:

Hayden Sohm
County of LA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
265 Cloverleaf Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

Phone: (626) 369-8693 Fax: (626) 369-5809

2. Applicant's Agent:

Bryan Moscardini
County of LA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Phone: (213) 351-5133 Fax: (213) 639-3959

3. Project Name:

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area-Legg Lake Boat Launch Ramps

4. Project Location:

South El Monte, Los Angeles County

Latitude

Longitude

34.0335

118.0644

34.0366

118.0593

34.0374

118.0614

5. Type of Project:

Boat ramp construction

6. Project Purpose:

Construct three separate boat ramps allowing the Department to launch a dedicated maintenance boat for skimming the lake surface for trash, in response to the Legg Lake Trash TMDL

7. Project Description:

Legg Lake is comprised of three concrete-edged and concrete-lined man-made lakes.

Rinsed gravel, rip-rap and push-slab cured concrete will be placed in the waterbodies to construct the boat ramps. Twelve-foot wide

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aprons will be constructed along the hard-edged lake shore to provide for the boat ramps by creating concrete slabs along the shoreline and adjacent turf areas.

Push-slab construction involves creating individual sections of the boat ramps, which are formed, poured, and cured on dry land. The ramps will be pushed into place creating a continuous ramp into Legg Lake.

As the construction zones are extremely shallow, the ramps can be pushed right out into the lakes. This will avoid the need for creating a coffer dam or lowering of the lake levels. Rinsed gravel and rip rap will form the base for the ramp construction.

There will be no heavy equipment used within the project footprint or near the shoreline. Wet slurry concrete will be kept 50 feet from the shoreline of the lake. In addition, secondary containment such as silt fencing, sandbagging and fiber rolls will be used to protect the lake during the pour and curing of the slabs. All construction debris will be taken to a legal point of disposal.

8. Federal Agency/Permit:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP No. 36 (Permit No. 2010-00291-PHT)

9. Other Required
Regulatory Approvals:

California Department of Fish and Game has not required a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification No. 1600-2010-0260-R5, November 5, 2010).

10. California
Environmental Quality
Act Compliance:

The County of Los Angeles determined that the proposed project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15303(e) New Construction or Conversion of (Accessory) Small Structures, and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). A Notice of Exemption was prepared and filed by the County on Feb 23, 2010 with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

11. Receiving Water:

Rio Hondo (Hydrologic Unit No. 405.15)

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12. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN*, GWR, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, RARE, WET
*Conditional beneficial use
13. Impacted Waters of the United States: Lake/Reservoir: 0.015 permanent acres (54 linear feet)
14. Dredge Volume: None
15. 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.
16. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices (BMPs), including, but not limited to, the following:
- The project will be scheduled to avoid storm run-off events.
 - Sand bagging, silt fencing, and fiber rolls will be deployed to control erosion.
 - The push slab construction will avoid the need for creating a coffer dam or lowering of the lake levels.
 - The concrete work area will be isolated within the scope of work.
 - Proper framing and secondary containment will be used to protect the lake during the pour and curing of the slabs.
 - The push ramp shall have a four-foot access area around the perimeter of the push ramp, with a sand bag wall bordering the perimeter.
 - The concrete isolation area shall be kept 50 feet or more from the water in Legg Lake.

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- All concrete wash-out shall be placed into a concrete dumpster, and taken to a legal point of disposal.
- The BMPs as described in the *Concrete Washout Area* and submitted to this Regional Board on June 8, 2011 will be adhered to.
- Construction related spills, if they occur, will be contained, reported, and taken to a legal point of disposal.

17. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

As compensatory mitigation for the construction, the Applicant proposes to restore 165 linear feet and 2000 square feet of shoreline with native vegetation.

18. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The applicant shall provide 0.046 acres of mitigation for impacts to 0.015 acres. See *Attachment B, Conditions of Certifications, Additional Conditions* for modifications and additions to the above proposed compensatory mitigation.

ATTACHMENT B

Conditions of Certification

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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)*, as amended.
4. The Avoidance/Minimization activities proposed by the Applicant as described in **Attachment A, No. 16**, are incorporated as additional conditions herein.
5. The Applicant and all contractors employed by the Applicant shall have copies of this Certification and all other regulatory approvals for this project on site at all times and shall be familiar with all conditions set forth.

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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 the Land Disposal Unit, at the Regional Board 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.
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.

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13. 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.
14. The Applicant shall utilize the services of a qualified biologist with expertise in riparian assessments during any vegetation clearing activities. The biologist shall be available on site during construction activities to ensure that all protected areas are marked properly and ensure that no vegetation outside the specified areas is removed. The biologist shall have the authority to stop the work, as necessary, if instructions are not followed. The biologist shall be available upon request from this Regional Board for consultation within 24 hours of request of consultation.
15. 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.
16. All project and construction 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.
17. While working in surface waters, during gravel or rip-rap installation or when installing push slab concrete, the applicant shall monitor water quality. The Applicant shall develop and submit a **Surface Water Monitoring Plan** (plan) to this Regional Board. The plan shall include erosion and sediment controls, and a map or drawing indicating the locations of installations. The plan shall be submitted prior to any work in surface waters. 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

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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.

18. The Applicant shall restore 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. 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.
19. The Applicant shall also provide compensatory mitigation for the proposed permanent impacts to **0.015 acres** within waters of the United States/Federal jurisdictional wetlands by creating or restoring riparian habitat/Federal jurisdictional wetland habitat at a minimum **3.07:1** area replacement ratio (**0.046 acres, 165 linear feet**). The mitigation site shall be located within the Rio Hondo Watershed unless otherwise approved by this Regional Board. The Applicant shall submit a **Proposed Mitigation Report** which shall include:
 - (a) The boundary of the mitigation site shall be clearly identified on a map of suitable resolution and quality and shall also be defined by latitude and longitude.
 - (b) The type(s) of mitigation shall be described (e.g., removal of exotics and/or replanting with native species, etc.)
 - (c) Success criteria shall be established.

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 all agreements made between the Applicant and a third party organization regarding compensatory mitigation efforts.

20. If the Applicant proposes funding to a third-party organization in total or in combination with the above for the creation or restoration of streambed riparian habitat within waters of the United States/Federal jurisdictional wetlands, then funding shall apply to mitigation acreage only, exclusive of administrative costs. The mitigation site shall be located within

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the Rio Hondo Watershed unless otherwise approved by this Regional Board. The Applicant shall submit a **Proposed Mitigation Report** which shall include:

- (d) Documentation from the third party indicating that funds have been used for mitigation acreage only, which do not include administrative costs.
- (e) The boundary of the mitigation site shall be clearly identified on a map of suitable resolution and quality and shall also be defined by latitude and longitude.
- (f) The type(s) of mitigation shall be described (e.g., removal of exotics and/or replanting with native species, etc.)
- (g) Success criteria shall be established.

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 all agreements made between the Applicant and a third party organization regarding compensatory mitigation efforts.

- 21. 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.
- 22. 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) or any delays in the mitigation process. At a minimum the Annual Reports shall include the following documentation and answered appropriately whether or not mitigation has been performed:
 - (h) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project and mitigation site conditions;
 - (i) Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in decimal-degrees format outlining the boundary of the project and mitigation areas;
 - (j) The overall status of project including a detailed schedule of work;
 - (k) Copies of all permits revised as required in Additional Condition 1;
 - (l) Water quality monitoring results for each reach (as required) compiled in an easy to interpret format;
 - (m) A certified Statement of "no net loss" of wetlands associated with this project;

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- (n) Discussion of any monitoring activities and exotic plant control efforts; and
 - (o) A certified Statement from the permittee or his/her representative that all conditions of this Certification have been met.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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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26. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **10-033**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
27. 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.
28. The project shall comply with the local regulations associated with the Regional Board's **Municipal Stormwater Permit** issued to Los Angeles County and co-permittees under NPDES No. CAS004001 and Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-182. This includes the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) and all related implementing local ordinances and regulations for the control of stormwater pollution from new development and redevelopment.
29. The project shall comply with all requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) **General Permit** for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, Order No. 99-08-DWQ. All stormwater treatment systems shall be located outside of any water of the State and shall not be used as a wetland or riparian mitigation credit.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. *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

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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.
33. 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.