

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mr. Rich Hill
Chevron Environmental Management Company
9525 Camino Media
Bakersfield, CA 933311

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7009 2820 0001 6537 9652

**AMENDMENT OF WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED LC-31/36
EROSION REPAIR AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (Corps' Project No.
2010-00773-AJS), VENTURA OIL FIELD, VENTURA COUNTY (File No. 10-132)**

Dear Mr. Hill:

We are in receipt of your notification on April 23, 2014, requesting an amendment of your Conditional Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the subject project issued on Sept 12, 2011 (Certification).

The Chevron Environmental Management Company is requesting to update contact information as well as to include additional activities in this Certification by modifying certain portions of the Project Description, the acreage of impacted to waters of the United States, and the proposed compensatory mitigation.

In response to your request, the Certification is modified as shown below. Deleted text is shown in ~~strike out~~, and additional text is shown underlined.

Under Attachment A, *Item 1, Applicant*, will read:

1. Applicant: Chevron Environmental Management Company
9525 Camino Media
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Phone: (661) ~~654-7273~~ 632-1375 Fax: (661) 654-7434
632-1319

Item 4 *Project Description*, will read:

4. Project Description: Past storms at the project site (Site) have caused significant erosion on the banks of unnamed tributaries of the East Fork of Hall Canyon Creek resulting in the failure of one of the primary drainage culverts, as well as headward erosion, and slope instability. The proposed repair and drainage improvements will reduce future

erosion by stabilizing the bank and reducing the release of sediments to downstream reaches of the unnamed tributaries of the East Fork of Hall Canyon.

Roadways over earthen dam drainage crossings in the upper portion of the East Fork of Hall Canyon have been used for access to the many facilities located in this portion of the Ventura Oil Field. The facilities include oil production wells, tank batteries, and pipelines. The two earthen dams have drainage structures constructed to protect the access roads from erosion. Although most of the tank settings and pipelines in the area have been abandoned, the areas around wells LC-31 and LC-36 are still utilized for oil production through the use of active oil wells and existing pipelines. Over the years, erosion has occurred on slopes supporting the access roads and pipeline corridors. These areas need to be repaired and maintained to facilitate continued access to and protection of the remaining facilities.

The Site is located in two unnamed tributaries of the East Fork of Hall Canyon Creek approximately 0.35 miles northwest of East-Fork of Hall Canyon-Creek. The Project will occur near the confluence of the two unnamed tributaries, upstream to the west approximately 750 feet to the LC-31 area, and upstream to the north approximately 750 feet to the LC-36 area. The western limits of the Site are located near the LC-31 earthen dam and 36-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert inlet structure, and the northern limits are located near the LC-36 earthen dam and 30-inch diameter CMP culvert inlet structure.

Access to the erosion repair areas will occur in areas south of the LC-31 and LC-36 areas due to the presence of several active pipelines located at the top of slope. An existing access road approximately 550 feet in length located near the confluence of the two unnamed tributaries will be established to serve as the primary access to the two slope repair areas. From the terminus of the existing access road, LC-31 will be accessed through the creation of a temporary access road within the drainage channel, and LC-36 will be accessed

through the creation of a temporary access road in an upland area adjacent to the LC-36 drainage channel. These access roads will be utilized to transport destabilized and fill materials and equipment to the erosion repair areas. Following completion of the erosion repair at LC-31 and LC-36, the temporary access roads will be removed and these areas will be restored to pre-project conditions. All equipment staging will occur outside of CDFW and Corps jurisdictional areas in an unpaved upland area immediately east of LC-31.

Repair of the slopes below LC-31 and LC-36 will be accomplished by removing the majority of materials destabilized by past erosion, preparing these areas for fill, and placement and compaction of fill materials using conventional heavy equipment. Soil will be compacted to at least 90% relative compaction. The compaction of the fill material will be accomplished using a sheep's foot roller or vibrating compactor. The slope will be essentially restored to its historical configuration.

Once the compacted fill slopes are restored, the drainage culverts which were removed during past slope destabilization and erosion will be extended down to the toe of the repaired or adjacent existing slopes. The 30-inch CMP at the LC-36 drainage will also be replaced in situ with a 40-inch HDPE drainage culvert, which will be buried beneath the existing earthen access road and secured to the slope, where exposed, with metal posts and cable tie-downs. Additionally, an energy dissipation structure measuring 10 feet wide by 20 feet long (200 square feet, or 0.005 acre) will be constructed at the outlet end of the new welded HDPE drainage culvert using recycled concrete and/or rock rip-rap.

Earthen berms may be constructed adjacent to the top of the slopes on the shoulders of the existing oilfield roads to direct storm run off to prevent erosion on the new fill slopes. Portions of the slopes will be covered with erosion control materials (jute netting as an example) and planted with riparian container plants and hydro seeded with a native seed palette to reduce the potential

for future erosion. Additionally, water velocity dissipation structures will be constructed immediately downstream of the CMP culvert outlets with ungrouted rock rip-rap.

Improvements in the function of the existing 36-inch CMP at LC-31 and the ~~30~~ 40-inch CMP at LC-36 drainage culvert inlets will consist of adding a debris screen and perforated vertical extension to each inlet. The vegetation in the area immediately upstream (north) of the CMP drainage culvert inlets will be removed and these areas will be maintained free of vegetation for the life of the environmental permits. An earthen access road will be created in these areas for drainage culvert inlet maintenance purposes. The intent of maintaining areas upstream of the inlets free of vegetation and the creation of the earthen access ramps is to allow access for annual clearing of accumulated debris within or surrounding the inlets prior to the start of the rain season.

At the convergence area of the LC-31 and LC-36 drainages, two (2) damaged 50-foot-long, 30-inch diameter drainage culverts will be removed, followed by the grading of the streambed and banks back to their natural configuration. Revegetation of this area will then be accomplished using native vegetation in-kind to East Fork Hall Canyon.

Item 5, *Impacted Waters of the United States*, will read:

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| 5. Impacted Waters of the United States: | Non-wetland waters (vegetated streambed): 0.1 <u>0.1008</u> temporary acres (880 <u>980 linear feet</u>), and 0.01 <u>0.014</u> permanent acres (<u>2040 linear feet</u>) |
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Item 7, *Avoidance/ Minimization Activities*, The first BMP will be modified to read:

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| 6. Avoidance/ Minimization Activities: | The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices (BMPs), including, but not limited to, the following: |
|--|---|

- Disturbance or removal of vegetation will not exceed the limits indicated in the Biological Resource Study as submitted to this Regional Board on May 18, 2011, and the LC-36 Drainage Improvement Project Modification, dated April 2014.
- The disturbed portions of Corps jurisdictional areas will be restored to their original condition.

Item 8, *Proposed Compensatory Mitigation*, will read:

7. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has proposed mitigation in a "*Mitigation and Biological Monitoring Plan for the LC-31 and LC36 Erosion Repair and Drainage Improvement Project Within Two Unnamed Tributaries of the East Fork of Hall Canyon Ventura County, California*" which includes onsite restoration of impacted areas and offsite mitigation area of 0.48 acres. Mitigation of the first phase of the Project was completed according to this Plan. For the second phase of the Project, the Applicant has proposed mitigation in the LC-36 Drainage Improvement Project Modification, dated April 2014, which is composed of 0.351 acres, and includes all temporarily impacted areas (0.330 acres), plus acreage linking the existing LC-31 and LC-36 planting areas at the Convergence Area.

Item 9, *Required Compensatory Mitigation*, will read:

8. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant shall restore all temporary impacts. Additionally the Applicant shall provide ~~0.13~~ 0.14 acres of compensatory mitigation of vegetated streambed for impacts created to waters of the state and U.S. which may be included in the offsite mitigation area. See *Attachment B, Conditions of Certifications, Additional Conditions* for modifications and additions to the above proposed compensatory mitigation.

Additionally, Attachment B, Items 20 and 21, indicating temporary impacts, will read:

20. The Applicant shall restore the proposed ~~0.1~~ **0.1008** acres 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.

21. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION to offset the proposed temporary loss of ~~0.1~~ **0.1008** acres waters of the United States by creating or restoring riparian habitat at a minimum 1:1 area replacement ratio (~~0.1~~ **0.1008** acres). The Applicant shall also provide compensatory mitigation for the proposed permanent impacts to ~~0.01~~ **0.014** acres of vegetation within waters of the United States/Federal jurisdictional wetlands by creating or restoring riparian habitat/Federal jurisdictional wetland habitat at a minimum 3:1 area replacement ratio (~~0.03~~ **0.042** acres) for a total of ~~0.13~~ **0.15** acres. If the Applicant proposes funding to a third-party organization for the creation or restoration of vegetated streambed riparian habitat within waters of the United States/Federal jurisdictional wetlands, as in-lieu fees or in combination with on-site mitigation, then funding shall apply to mitigation acreage only exclusive of administrative costs. The mitigation site shall be located within the Ventura County Coastal Streams Watershed or Ventura River Watershed unless otherwise approved by this Regional Board. The Applicant shall submit a **Proposed Mitigation Report** which shall include:

I have determined that the above-proposed modifications do not constitute a significant change in the nature or scope of the activities described for the project in your original application. Therefore, all of the proposed modifications are hereby incorporated into 401 Certification No. 07-131 and 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 October 8, 2008 and described herein, and does not eliminate the Applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable laws, requirements and/or permits.


Mr. Rich Hill
Chevron Environmental Management Company

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10-132
LC-31-36

Should you have questions concerning this certification action, please contact Dana Cole, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

6-9-14
Date

Attached: Distribution List

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