

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mr. James Tong
City of Santa Clarita
23920 Valencia Boulevard,
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7012 3460 0001 6366 0908

TECHNICALLY CONDITIONED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED LOST CANYON ROAD BRIDGE WIDENING PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2014-00219-BEM), SAND CANYON WASH TRIBUTARY TO THE SANTA CLARA RIVER REACH 7, CITY OF SANTA CLARITA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 14-036)

Dear Mr. Tong:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of City of Santa Clarita (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on August 4, 2014.

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.

Please read this entire document carefully. 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 Zara, P.G., Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

Oct. 6, 2014
Date

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92011

ATTACHMENT A

Project Information
File No. 14-036

1. Applicant: City of Santa Clarita
23920 Valencia Boulevard,
Santa Clarita, CA. 91355
Phone: (661) 255-4348 Fax: (661) 254-3538
2. Project Name: Lost Canyon Road Bridge Widening
3. Project Location: Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
34.419544	118.424145
34.419542	118.424414
34.420004	118.425081
34.420214	118.425058
34.420215	118.423826
34.419989	118.423867

4. Type of Project: Bridge Widening
5. Project Purpose: The existing bridge has been classified as functionally obsolete. The current lane widths are substandard, and the large volume of foot and bicycle traffic associated with the Sulphur Springs Elementary School, which is located 300 feet west of the bridge, exceeds the capacity of the existing pedestrian bridge during morning. Following construction, the widening bridge would meet current design and seismic standards.
6. Project Description: The Lost Canyon Road Bridge was constructed in 1963, is approximately 30 feet wide and 50 feet long, and provides one 14-foot lane in the each of the east and westbound directions for vehicular traffic. There is a separate pedestrian bridge structure, 50 feet long and eight feet wide, along the south side of the vehicle bridge. The pedestrian bridge accommodates light pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Both bridges span Sand Canyon Wash, and are located in a mixed suburban/rural setting characterized by low density and mixed land uses.

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A biological reconnaissance survey was conducted on March 27, 2013 and additional botanical surveys were conducted on April 8, 2013 and July 24, 2013. No federally or state-listed plant or wildlife species were identified within the project area. A survey was conducted on March 27, 2013 to determine whether there are wetlands or other waters of the U.S. in the project area. While there are no wetlands, there is approximately 0.18 acre of non-wetland waters of the U.S. in the project area.

As part of the proposed project, the steel-truss pedestrian bridge along the south side will remain in place. The Lost Canyon Road Bridge will be widened, and the number of vehicle lanes will not change. The proposed widened bridge will accommodate two (2) 12-foot traffic lanes, two (2) 4-foot shoulders, and a 10-foot bike path and sidewalk on the north side of the bridge. The east and westbound lanes will be shifted to the north to accommodate the widening.

Construction of the bridge and roadway surface will be conducted primarily from above; however, equipment and materials will need to access the wash during construction to complete grading, abutment and wingwall construction, excavation and placement of the scour protection slab.

- During construction, 15 steel H-Piles will be driven at the north end widening abutments and will match the existing pile type and layout. The piles are along the bank edge and are outside the ordinary high water mark.
- Existing metal guard railing will be removed from the top of the existing bridge utilizing skid-steer loaders, articulated loaders, and dump trucks.
- Cranes will be used to place the new concrete boxes on the newly constructed substructure.
- Concrete deck will be placed from the top of bridge utilizing timber forms, concrete boom pumps, and concrete trucks.
- Asphalt concrete overlay removal will be completed from the top of the existing bridge utilizing asphalt grinders, skid-steer and articulated loaders, and dump trucks.

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- Concrete railing will be placed from the top of the bridge utilizing timber forms, concrete boom pumps and concrete trucks.
- Approach slab will be placed from the bridge ends utilizing timber forms, concrete boom pumps and concrete trucks.

A concrete scour protection slab will be installed at a minimum of two feet below the surface of the wash beneath the bridge. The scour protection slab will require approximately four feet of excavation (up to six feet at the abutments) and will extend from abutment face to abutment face. There is an existing concrete slab, 15 feet wide by 50 feet long by seven feet deep, that begins 15 feet upstream of the bridge and will be left in place and used as the cut-off wall. The scour protection slab will extend five feet downstream from the bridge wingwalls (on the north side).

The construction of the concrete scour protection slab will require approximately 536 cubic yards of soil to be excavated from the stream channel. After the scour protection slab is constructed, 361 cubic yards of soil will be backfilled over the slab and filled to original grade. The proposed project will require approximately 175 cubic yards of cast-in-place concrete to construct the scour protection slab.

A 14-inch diameter Santa Clarita Water Agency waterline is buried north of the existing bridge. The Santa Clarita Water Agency will temporarily relocate the waterline and construct a temporary waterline; following construction, the waterline will be permanently relocated into the bridge structure.

A low flow diversion will be required for the project. In the event that the channel flows exceed the conveyance capacity of the low flow diversion system, an Evacuation Plan would be implemented. Whenever the National Weather Service is predicting a storm event with at least 50 percent probability of precipitation, the Resident Engineer will be consulted. If it is found that the conveyance capacity of the low flow diversion will be exceeded, the contractor will restore the channel to its original conditions, remove the water diversion system, and remove all equipment from the channel.

Construction will start during spring of 2015 and is expected to be

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completed in December 2015.

7. Federal Agency/Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP No. 14 (Permit No. 2014-00219-BEM)
8. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Streambed Alteration Agreement
9. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: On March 3, 2014 a Mitigation Negative Declaration was issued for this project.
10. Receiving Water: Sand Canyon Wash, tributary to the Santa Clara River Reach 7. (Hydrologic Unit Code: 180701020107)
11. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN*, IND, PROC, AGR, GWR, FRSH, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, RARE, WET
- *Conditional beneficial use
12. Impacted Waters of the United States: Non-wetland waters (unvegetated streambed): 0.17 temporary and 0.75 permanent acres (400 linear feet)
13. Dredge Volume: None
14. 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.
15. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- Sandbags used in or adjacent to the streambed will be filled with streambed sediment.
 - Upon completion, the streambed material will be used to re-contour the temporary construction area.
 - Soil disturbance will be limited to only those areas of proposed facilities and approved temporary construction impacts

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- Only construction activities that need to take place within the channel will be allowed in the channel. All other construction activities will take place outside of the channel. This includes the cutting, grinding, cleaning, coating, etcetera of lumber, steel, concrete, pipe, wire, and all other materials.
- A stream diversion will only be implemented when approved by CDFW.
- Prior to clearing and grubbing, exotic invasive plant species will be removed from the project site and will be properly disposed of.
- Demolition waste will be removed as soon as the on-site demolition activities have concluded. They will be placed on plastic or in a container and kept covered during non-work hours. Demolition waste will be stockpiled or stored outside of the wash.
- Sediment controls such as silt fence, fiber rolls or sandbags will be installed prior to construction and maintained throughout construction. Accumulated silt and sediment will be removed when it reaches one-half the height of the BMP.
- Silt-laden runoff will not be allowed to enter the wash or directed to where it could enter the wash. Erosion control measures, such as, silt fences, fiber rolls, or sandbags will be used wherever silt-laden water has the potential to leave the work site and enter the wash.
- A spill clean-up kit will be kept on site during work hours and all employees will be aware of its location and trained in its use. All spills will be cleaned immediately and properly disposed of.
- Construction vehicles and powered equipment will use drip pans when parked, during non-work hours, and when being fueled. Vehicles and equipment will be parked on stabilized surfaces when available to minimize tracking. During non-work hours powered equipment will be parked outside the streambed. Vehicles and equipment will not be operated in ponded or flowing surface water.

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- Equipment and materials will not be allowed to be within the streambed during rainfall events or when water is flowing in the wash. Tracked out material, demolition debris, temporary asphalt concrete patching or any other foreign material will be removed from the roadway by sweeping or vacuuming immediately.
- No hazardous materials will be stored in the streambed. All hazardous material will be removed from the streambed each work day.

16. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has proposed invasive vegetation removal within 0.53 acres (approximately 400 feet long by 57.5 feet wide) for the life of the permit downstream of the Sand Canyon Wash.

17. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Regional Board will require the Applicant to provide mitigation for any permanent impacts associated with the proposed project at a ratio of 2:1 which is 1.50 acres.

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

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Conditions of Certification File No. 14-036

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 Wildlife's (CDFW) 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 CDFW'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. **15**, 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 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.
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 target species and habitat. All pesticides directed toward aquatic species must be approved

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by the Regional Board. Pesticide utilization shall be in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order Nos. 2011-0002-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 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.
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 (ROWD)** to this Regional Board and obtain any necessary NPDES permits/Waste Discharge Requirements 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 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:

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- 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.

20. 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.
21. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION to offset the proposed permanent impacts to **0.75 acres** of vegetation within waters of the United States to include invasive plant removal (enhancement) at a minimum **2:1** area replacement ratio (**1.50 acres**). The mitigation site shall be located within the Santa Clara River 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 project activities which take place within waters of the United States and shall include

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

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:
- (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 whether or not work has begun on the Project and a detailed schedule;
 - (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.
23. 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.

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(d) For a municipal, State, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.

24. 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)”

25. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project **File Number 14-036**. Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
26. 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.
27. 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. R4-2012-0175. The project shall also comply with all requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) **General Permit** for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, Order No. 2012-0011-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.
28. 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.
29. 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

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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.

30. *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.

31. This Certification shall expire **five (5) years** from date of this Certification. The Applicant shall submit a complete application at least 90 days prior to termination of this Certification if renewal is requested.