
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Ms. Katherine Rubin
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1213
Los Angeles, CA 90012

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7014 2870 0001 4613 6301

AMENDMENT TO WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR CASTAIC CREEK MAINTENANCE, ELDERBERRY FOREBAY SEDIMENT REMOVAL, AND SPILLWAY REPAIR WORK PROJECT (Corps' Project No. SPL-2007-1230-GS), CASTAIC CREEK, CITY OF CASTIAC, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 16-082)

Dear Ms. Rubin:

We are in receipt of your notification on November 15, 2016, requesting an amendment of your Conditional Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the subject project issued on October 26, 2016 (Certification File No. 16-082). In order to provide safe access into the Elderberry Forebay to conduct the sediment removal authorized by Certification File No. 16-082, the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power is proposing to extend a boat ramp 60 feet by 54 feet, creating an additional permanent impact of 0.074 acres. This new area of permanent impact is wholly within the authorized temporary impact area. Certification File No. 16-082, requires 60 acres of mitigation for impacts; no further mitigation will be required due to this amendment.

In response to your request the following changes are made (new language is double underlined):

Attachment A, *Item 7, Project Description* will read:

7. Project Description: The Castaic Power Plant facilities include: the Power Plant, appurtenant buildings, structure and equipment; the tailrace channel; Elderberry Forebay; Elderberry dam and appurtenant structures; Castaic Creek Storm Bypass Channel (Bypass Channel); and Check Dams 1, 2, and 3 located within the Bypass Channel.

Similar maintenance work will be required on the debris basins, scheduled for October 2016. Approximately 90,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from the three debris basins in the Bypass Channel; 40,000 cubic yards from Basin 1, 30,000 cubic yards from Basin 2, and 20,000 cubic yards from Basin 3. The debris pile will be prepared by removing

tamarisk and vegetation from the top of spoil pile and re-establishing haul route to and around the debris pile. Invasive species will be removed from the basins, sills, and check dams. Removed sediment from the debris basins will be placed and compacted at the designated debris pile site.

Castaic Creek Maintenance

Check Dams 1, 2, and 3 are located within the Bypass Channel. Debris basins are located upstream of each check dam in order to reduce sediment and debris from entering the reservoir (Elderberry Forebay) which ensures the reliable operations of Castaic Power Plant.

The debris basins and check dams slow the winter runoff laden with sediment and allow the sediment load to drop in the debris basins. These debris basins are almost full. Any additional sediment flow from the bypass channel will be deposited in the adjacent tailrace channel (a water channel below the dam) which may cause mechanical damages during pump-back operations.

Typical project work will include: the removal of sediment and vegetation from the basins behind the check dams; grading for temporary access into the settling basins; deposition of excavated sediment and debris in designated spoil pile area; maintenance and repair of miscellaneous culverts; repair or maintenance of Bypass Channel banks, dikes; restoration/repair/maintenance/replacement of Check Dam structures, foundation, and sills.

Grading for temporary ramps from the access road to the basin will be required to allow ingress and egress of equipment into the settling basins to perform work. Grading and compacting of the spoils pile will be necessary to ensure sheet flow drainage, and concrete may be applied in the case that a check dam may need repair. A stream crossing upstream from Basin 1 will be temporarily reestablished for proposed haul route to the spoils pile by laying down pipe and covering with gravel for equipment and vehicles to drive over. An arroyo toad fence along a portion of the haul route near Basin 1 will be installed. Once sediment removal is completed, the existing grade will be restored.

Debris pile areas, located outside of the waterways have been designed to accept and store debris and sediment that is excavated from the waterways described above.

Some repairs **may** be required to repair check dams, embankments, and other facilities depending on the results of the site investigations. **If so, an Amendment to this Certification** will be required.

Castaic Creek maintenance will temporarily impact 15 acres of the Castaic Creek bypass channel.

Elderberry Forebay Sediment Removal

Elderberry Forebay acts as a reservoir for Castaic Power Plant to store water for pumped-storage hydroelectricity generation and as a storage reservoir for releases to Castaic Lake as requested by the California Department of Water Resources. Due to years of storm runoff laden with debris and sediment flowing into the reservoir, the storage capacity of the reservoir has decreased affecting the hydro-generation activities of the plant.

Typical project work will include the draining of the reservoir, grading for temporary access into the bypass channel and tailrace channel, removal of sediment and vegetation from the bypass channel leading into Elderberry Forebay, removal of debris and sediment from the tailrace channel and Elderberry Forebay, and deposition of excavated sediment and debris in designated spoil pile area.

Grading for temporary ramps from the access road to the bypass channel leading into Elderberry Forebay and the tailrace channel will be required to allow ingress and egress of equipment to perform the sediment removal work. A stream crossing upstream from Basin 1 will be temporarily reestablished for proposed haul route to the spoils pile by laying down pipe and covering with gravel for equipment and vehicles to drive over. Grading and compacting of the spoils pile will be necessary to ensure sheet flow drainage. Once sediment removal is completed, the existing grade will be restored.

Maintenance activities **may** include surveying Elderberry Forebay and use hydraulic dredging to remove approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards. **In that event an Amendment to this Certification** will be required.

Sediment removal involves the removal of debris from the reservoir from the Bypass Channel, Tailrace Channel, and removal of debris and sediment in the reservoir, and will temporarily impact 45 acres.

Elderberry Forebay Boat Ramp

In order to safely access the Elderberry Forebay, the Applicant will extend an existing boat ramp. The extension will be 60 feet by 54 feet, creating a permanent impact of 0.074 acres. This permanent impact will be entirely within the area already permitted for temporary impacts.

Spillway Repair Work

To maintain the function of the spillway, maintenance activities, such as removal of debris from wall drains to prevent water pressure build-up behind the wall, replacement of concrete slabs on grade, and replacement of the fence located near the outlet of the spillway with a breakaway fence to prevent any obstruction in the case of flooding. Work will require the removal of debris from wall drains, replacement of concrete slabs on grade, and replacement of the fence.

Typical project work will include removal of debris from wall drains to prevent water pressure build-up behind the wall, replacement of concrete slabs on grade, and replacement of the fence located near the outlet of the spillway with a breakaway fence to prevent any obstruction in the case of flooding.

Spillway repair work will temporarily impact approximately two acres of the spillway.

Equipment

Equipment used will be water trucks, grader, articulated dump trucks, dozer, excavator, loader, dewatering pumps, and cement trucks. Excavator, dozer, and loader will be used to remove the sediment and debris and dump trucks will be used to haul debris material to spoils piles. Dewatering pumps will

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be used to dewater the basin and water trucks will be used for dust control.

Schedule

Castaic Creek Maintenance – In accordance with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement, all maintenance work will be scheduled between September 1st to March 1st. The anticipated project start date for the upcoming maintenance is October 3, 2016 and project completion is November 9, 2016. Castaic Creek maintenance work is required every 2-3 years depending on the intensity of the storm events.

Elderberry Forebay Sediment Removal – Debris removal is scheduled for October 2016 to December 2016. Surveying and hydraulic dredging of Elderberry Forebay is scheduled to occur in the future, and performed on an as needed basis.

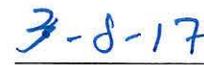
Spillway Repair Work – Repair work will be performed on an as needed basis.

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. 16-082 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 amendment contained in your notification to this Regional Board dated November 15, 2016 and described herein, and does not eliminate the Applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable laws, requirements, or permits.

Should you have questions concerning this certification action, please contact Dana Cole, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-5733.

Sincerely,


Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer


Date

Attached: Distribution List

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