



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 24, 2017

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

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
No. 7012 3460 0001 6366 0120

Dear Ms. Rubin:

RE: CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND ORDER  
FOR THE SYLMAR GROUND RETURN SYSTEM REPLACEMENT (4WQC40116086)

Enclosed please find a CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY  
CERTIFICATION AND ORDER, authorized by Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control  
Board Executive Officer, Samuel Unger. This Order is issued to Katherine Rubin, Los Angeles  
Department of Water and Power for Sylmar Ground Return System Replacement (Project).  
Attachments A through C of the Enclosure are also part of the Order.

This Order is issued in response to an application submitted by Los Angeles Department of  
Water and Power for proposed Project discharge to waters of the state, to ensure that the water  
quality standards for all waters of the state impacted by the Project are met. You may proceed  
with your Project according to the terms and conditions of the enclosed Order.

If you require further assistance, please contact Valerie CarrilloZara by phone at (213) 576-6759  
or by email at [Valerie.CarrilloZara@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Valerie.CarrilloZara@waterboards.ca.gov). You may also contact me, by phone at  
(213) 576-6785 or by email at [LB.Nye@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:LB.Nye@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

LB Nye Senior Environmental Scientist  
Section 401 Certification and Wetlands Unit  
Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board

Enclosures (1): Order for Sylmar Ground Return System Replacement, File No: 16-086

cc: [Via email only] (w/ enclosure):

Katherine Rubin  
Department of Water and Power

Bill Orme  
CWA Section 401 WQC Program  
Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board

Melissa Scianni  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Brock Warmuth  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Streambed Alteration Team

Pamela Kostka  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch, Los Angeles District

G. Mendel Stewart  
Johnathan Snyder  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2177 Salk Avenue  
Carlsbad CA 92008

California Coastal Commission  
200 Ocean Gate, 10th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802



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Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND ORDER**

**Effective Date:** May 24, 2017

**Program Type:** Fill/Excavation

**Project Type:** Overhead Utility

**Project:** Sylmar Ground Returns System (Project)

**Applicant:** Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

**Applicant Contact:** Katherine Rubin  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 North Hope Street, Room 1213  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: [213] 367-0436  
Email: [katherine.rubin@ladwp.com](mailto:katherine.rubin@ladwp.com)

**Water Board Staff:** Valerie Carrillo Zara  
Engineering Geologist  
320 W. 4th St, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Phone: [213] 576-6759  
Email: [Valerie.carrillozara@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Valerie.carrillozara@waterboards.ca.gov)

Reg. Meas.	407136
Place ID:	825728
WDID:	4WQC40116086
NWP	12
USACOE#:	SPL-2016-00313-PKK
R4 File No.:	16-086

**Water Board Contact Person:**

If you have any questions, please call Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) Staff listed above or (213) 576-6600 and ask to speak with the Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Unit Program Manager.

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**I. Order**

This Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401 Water Quality Certification action and Order (Order) is issued at the request of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (herein after Permittee) for the Project. This Order is for the purpose described in application submitted by the Permittee. The application was received on June 14, 2016. The application was deemed complete on December 23, 2016.

**II. Public Notice**

The Los Angeles Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 from June 21, 2016 until issuance. The Los Angeles Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

**III. Project Purpose**

The Sylmar Ground Return System (SGRS) is an integral component of the Pacific Direct Current Intertie (PDCI) transmission system, which transmits bulk electrical power between Southern California and the Pacific Northwest. The PDCI is a bipolar direct current (DC) transmission line, and it therefore cannot operate reliably without a functioning ground return system. The marine facility, consisting of buried cables and an electrode array located on the ocean floor in Santa Monica Bay, requires replacement because of physical and operational deficiencies. The SGRS was placed into service in 1970, and the marine facility, which had a projected life of approximately 40 years, has deteriorated due to the long-term corrosive effects related to system operation and the ocean environment. The existing facility also limits the flexibility of system operators to respond to and resolve disruptions on the PDCI. Replacing the existing SGRS marine facility is required to provide for the continued reliable operation of the PDCI.

**IV. Project Description**

The proposed Project, consisting of replacement of the marine facility of the existing SGRS, will be located primarily in Santa Monica Bay. Using existing conduit, the marine cables will be pulled from the existing vault under a parking lot on the south side of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Will Rodgers State Beach and from under the ocean floor to a location approximately 1,200 feet offshore in Santa Monica Bay.

Once the cables have been pulled through the existing conduit to reach soft bottom conditions, the marine cable installation will proceed by means of a water-jet plow, which will bury the cables several feet below the ocean floor to the site of the electrode array, about two miles offshore. This will entail two parallel furrows, approximately 20 feet apart, each containing a 3.2-inch diameter bundled set of three cables encased in a common HDPE jacket. Because of the narrow width of the furrow created by the jet plow and the weak structural capacity and saturation of the soft bottom material, sediment will essentially resettle over the furrow behind the plow, burying the cables and generally restoring the surface of the ocean floor to preconstruction levels. This plowing process will create some turbidity because it will directly disturb the bottom sediment. However, this turbidity will be localized and temporary, and suspended sediment is anticipated to settle rapidly.

The electrode array will be located about two miles offshore on the ocean floor at a depth of approximately 100 feet below sea level. Based on a preliminary design, the array will be composed of 36 concrete vaults, arranged in two rows of 18 vaults, with each vault and row spaced approximately 30 feet apart. The vaults will rest directly on the ocean floor. Each vault

will be 20 feet long, eight feet wide, and four feet high and will weigh about 20 tons. The vaults will consist of a fiberglass reinforced concrete floor and ceiling, with pillars in each corner.

Other than concrete pillars supporting the ceiling, the sides will be open but covered with a Kevlar mesh, which will have a maximum one-inch exclusion size. Each vault will house four silicon iron electrode rod elements. Assuming the vaults were oriented perpendicular to the rows, the outside dimensions of the array will be about 650 feet long by 70 feet wide. The actual area of the ocean floor covered by the vaults will be about 5,800 square feet.

## V. Project Location

Project is located at Santa Monica Bay in Los Angeles County in the vicinity of the existing Sylmar Ground Return System marine facility. A map showing the Project location is found in Attachment B of this Order.

Latitude	Longitude
34° 0'45.03 34'17.47	-118°
34° 0'42.33	-118° 34'10.43
34° 0'42.86	-118° 34'10.11
34° 0'44.35	-118° 34'13.27
34° 2'17.92	-118° 33'19.08
34° 2'18.09	-118° 33'19.25
34° 0'44.41	-118° 34'13.58
34° 0'45.80	-118° 34'17.01

## VI. Project Impact and Receiving Waters Information

The Project is located within the jurisdiction of Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Receiving waters and groundwater potentially impacted by this Project are protected in accordance with the applicable water quality control plan (Basin Plan) for the region and other plans and policies which may be accessed online at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans\\_policies/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/). The Basin Plan includes water quality standards, which consist of existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the state, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and the state and federal antidegradation policies.

Receiving Water:	Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles County, offshore zone Will Rodgers State Beach HUC: 18070104050
Designated Beneficial Uses:	IND, NAV, REC-1, REC-2, COMM, MAR, WILD, RARE, MIGR, SPWN, SHELL

## VII. Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

The proposed project will temporarily impact 0.261 acres within Santa Monica Bay by disturbing the sediments.

Table [1]: Total Project Dredge Quantity									
Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary Impact <sup>1</sup>			Permanent Impact					
				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition Only		
	Acres	CY <sup>2</sup>	LF	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF
Ocean/bay/estuary	0.261		10,560						

**VIII. Avoidance and Minimization**

The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:

- A biological monitor will be required on vessels and, when appropriate, in the water during construction activities within Santa Monica Bay and will have the authority in coordination with LADWP to halt and redirect construction activities to avoid adverse impacts to marine wildlife. If a sea turtle or marine mammal is identified within 100 meters of the construction work zone, construction activity shall be temporarily halted until the sea turtle or marine mammal moves safely beyond this distance.
- Construction and vessel crews will be trained to recognize and avoid marine mammals and sea turtles prior to initiation of Project construction activities.
- Vessels involved in construction activities will maintain a steady course and slow speed.
- Any collisions with marine wildlife will be reported promptly to state and federal resource agencies.
- Position of the electrode array will be marked on the surface using buoys, and the USCG and other responsible entities will be notified of the position and as-built characteristics of the array and any underwater cable.
- Should previously unknown archaeological resources be found during project construction activities, all activities shall cease in the immediate area of the discovered resource. A project archaeologist shall be retained to first determine whether the resource discovered is a unique archaeological resource pursuant to Section 21083.2(g) of the PRC or a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.
- If human remains are found, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie other remains shall occur until the Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains.

<sup>1</sup> Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state. Temporary impacts, by definition, are restored to pre-project conditions and therefore do not include a physical loss of area or degradation of ecological condition.

<sup>2</sup> Cubic Yards (CY); Linear Feet (LF)

If the Coroner determines that the remains are or are believed to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 48 hours.

- Advance notice of construction activities shall be provided to local recreational and commercial boaters and fisherman through the USCG Notice to Mariners regarding the restrictions in the use of the Project area with sufficient lead-time for affected persons to plan for alternate times and places to perform offshore activities. In addition, LADWP shall post notices in the harbor master's offices at least 15 days in advance of in-water construction activities.
- Discharge of hazardous materials during construction activities into the Project area shall be prohibited.
- A comprehensive spill prevention control and countermeasure plan shall be developed and kept at the project site that documents management practices that will be enacted to limit the potential for accidental spills.
- An environmental protection plan shall be developed and kept at the project site that addresses issues related to storage and handling of fuel, waste disposal, equipment and vessel operation, and field policies.
- All debris and trash shall be disposed of in appropriate trash containers on land or on construction barges by the end of each construction day.

#### **IX. Compensatory Mitigation**

No compensatory mitigation is required. The sandy soft-bottom ocean floor will be able to re-establish natural condition over time.

#### **X. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

On August 2, 2016, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, as lead agency, certified an environmental impact report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. [2010091044]) for the Project and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on August 5, 2016.

The Los Angeles Water Board is a responsible agency under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069) and in making its determinations and findings, must presume that Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's certified environmental document comports with the requirements of CEQA and is valid. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21167.3.) The Los Angeles Water Board has reviewed and considered the environmental document and finds that the environmental document prepared by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power addresses the Project's water resource impacts. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15096, subd. (f).)

#### **XI. Petitions for Reconsideration**

Any person aggrieved by this action may petition the State Water Board to reconsider this Order in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3867. A petition for reconsideration must be submitted in writing and received within 30 calendar days of the issuance of this Order.

## XII. Fees Received

An application fee of \$600.00 was received on June 14, 2016. An additional fee of \$1344.00 based on total Project impacts was received on January 20, 2017. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3), and was calculated as category B - Dredging Discharges (fee code 86) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

## XIII. Conditions

The Los Angeles Water Board has independently reviewed the record of the Project to analyze impacts to water quality and designated beneficial uses within the watershed of the Project. In accordance with this Order, the Permittee may proceed with the Project under the following terms and conditions:

### A. Authorization

Impacts to waters of the state shall not exceed quantities shown in Table [1].

### B. Reporting and Notification Requirements

The following section details the reporting and notification types and timing of submittals. Requirements for the content of these reporting and notification types are detailed in Attachment [C], including specifications for photo and map documentation during the Project. Written reports and notifications must be submitted using the Reporting and Notification Cover Sheet located in Attachment [C], which must be signed by the Permittee or an authorized representative.

#### 1. Project Reporting

- a. **Annual Reporting:** The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Annual reporting shall continue until a Notice of Project Complete Letter is issued to the Permittee.

#### 2. Project Status Notifications

- a. **Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter:** The Permittee shall submit a Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter following completion of active Project construction activities, including any required restoration and permittee-responsible mitigation. This request shall be submitted to the Los Angeles Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project construction activities. Upon acceptance of the request, Los Angeles Water Board staff shall issue a Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter to the Permittee which will end the active discharge period and associated annual fees.
- b. **Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter:** The Permittee shall submit a Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter when construction and/or any post-construction monitoring is complete,<sup>3</sup> and no further Project activities will occur. This request shall be submitted to Los Angeles Water Board staff within thirty (30) days

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<sup>3</sup> Completion of post-construction monitoring shall be determined by Los Angeles Water Board staff and shall be contingent on successful attainment of restoration and mitigation performance criteria.

following completion of all Project activities. Upon approval of the request, the Los Angeles Water Board staff shall issue a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee which will end the post discharge monitoring period and associated annual fees.

**3. Conditional Notifications and Reports:** The following notifications and reports are required as appropriate.

**a. Accidental Discharges of Hazardous Materials<sup>4</sup>**

Following an accidental discharge of a reportable quantity of a hazardous material, sewage, or an unknown material, the following applies (Wat. Code, § 13271):

- i. As soon as (A) Permittee has knowledge of the discharge or noncompliance, (B) notification is possible, and (C) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures then:
  - first call – 911 (to notify local response agency)
  - then call – Office of Emergency Services (OES) State Warning Center at: (800) 852-7550 or (916) 845-8911
  - Lastly follow the required OES procedures as set forth in:  
[http://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Documents/CalOES-Spill Booklet Feb2014 FINAL BW Acc.pdf](http://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Documents/CalOES-Spill%20Booklet%20Feb2014%20FINAL%20BW%20Acc.pdf)
- ii. Following notification to OES, the Permittee shall notify Los Angeles Water Board, as soon as practicable (ideally within 24 hours). Notification may be via telephone, e-mail, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means.
- iii. Within five (5) working days of notification to the Los Angeles Water Board, the Permittee must submit an Accidental Discharge of Hazardous Material Report.

**b. Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards:** The Permittee shall notify the Los Angeles Water Board of any event causing a violation of compliance with water quality standards. Notification may be via telephone, e-mail, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means.

- i. Examples of noncompliance events include: lack of storm water treatment following a rain event, discharges causing a visible plume in a water of the state, and water contact with uncured concrete.
- ii. This notification must be followed within three (3) working days by submission of a Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards Report.

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<sup>4</sup>"Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. (Health & Saf. Code, § 25501.)

**c. Modifications to Project**

Project modifications may require an amendment of this Order. The Permittee shall give advance notice to Los Angeles Water Board staff if Project implementation as described in the application materials is altered in any way or by the imposition of subsequent permit conditions by any local, state or federal regulatory authority by submitting a Modifications to Project Report. The Permittee shall inform Los Angeles Water Board staff of any Project modifications that will interfere with the Permittee's compliance with this Order.

**d. Transfer of Property Ownership:** This Order is not transferable in its entirety or in part to any person or organization except after notice to the Los Angeles Water Board in accordance with the following terms:

- i. The Permittee must notify the Los Angeles Water Board of any change in ownership or interest in ownership of the Project area by submitting a Transfer of Property Ownership Report. The Permittee and purchaser must sign and date the notification and provide such notification to the Los Angeles Water Board at least 10 days prior to the transfer of ownership. The purchaser must also submit a written request to the Los Angeles Water Board to be named as the permittee in a revised order.
- ii. Until such time as this Order has been modified to name the purchaser as the permittee, the Permittee shall continue to be responsible for all requirements set forth in this Order.

**C. Water Quality Monitoring**

1. **General:** Continuous visual surface water monitoring shall be conducted to detect accidental discharge of construction related pollutants (e.g. oil and grease, turbidity plume, or uncured concrete).
2. **Accidental Discharges/Noncompliance:** Upon occurrence of an accidental discharge of hazardous materials or a violation of compliance with a water quality standard, Los Angeles Water Board staff may require water quality monitoring based on the discharge constituents and/or related water quality objectives and beneficial uses.

**3. In-Water Work:**

During planned work in water any discharge(s) to waters of the state shall conform to the following water quality standards:

- a. Oil and Grease. Waters shall not contain oils, greases, waxes or other materials in concentrations that result in a visible film or coating on the surface of the water or on objects in the water, that cause nuisance, or that otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses.
- b. pH. The pH shall not be changed at any time more than 0.2 units from that which occurs naturally.
- c. Turbidity. 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%.

Sampling shall be conducted in accordance with Table 2 sampling parameters.<sup>3</sup>

Parameter	Unit of Measurement	Type of Sample	Minimum Frequency
Oil and Grease	N/A	Visual	Continuous
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L & % saturation	Grab	Daily for the first week, weekly, thereafter
pH	Standard Units	Grab	Daily for the first week, weekly, thereafter
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	Daily for the first week, weekly, thereafter
Temperature	°F (or as °C)	Grab	Daily for the first week, weekly, thereafter

- 4. Post-Construction:** If, during inspection of the Project, water quality pollution is occurring, contact the Los Angeles Water Board staff member overseeing the Project within three (3) working days. The Los Angeles Water Board may require the submission of a Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards Report. Additional permits may be required to carry out any necessary site remediation.

#### **D. Standard**

1. This Order is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330, and California Code of Regulations, title 23, chapter 28, Article 6 commencing with sections 3867-3869, inclusive. Additionally, the Los Angeles Water Board reserves the right to suspend, cancel, or modify and reissue this Order, after providing notice to the Permittee, if the Los Angeles Water Board determines that: the Project fails to comply with any of the conditions of this Order; or, when necessary to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.) or federal Clean Water Act section 303 (33 U.S.C. § 1313). For purposes of Clean Water Act section 401(d), the condition constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with water quality standards and appropriate requirements of state law.
2. This Order is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license, unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to subsection 3855(b) of chapter 28, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or

<sup>3</sup> Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 136; where no methods are specified for a given pollutant, the method shall be approved by Los Angeles Water Board staff. Grab samples shall be taken between the surface and mid-depth and not be collected at the same time each day to get a complete representation of variations in the receiving water. A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring shall be maintained onsite.

amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

3. This Order is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23 of the California Code of Regulations and owed by the Permittee.
4. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions as provided for under state and federal law. For purposes of Clean Water Act, section 401(d), the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, processes, 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 Order.

#### **E. General Compliance**

1. Failure to comply with any condition of this Order shall constitute a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the Clean Water Act. The Permittee and/or discharger may then be subject to administrative and/or civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 13385.
2. Permitted actions must not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standards, including impairment of designated beneficial uses for receiving waters as adopted in the Basin Plans by any applicable Los Angeles Water Board or any applicable State Water Board (collectively Water Boards) water quality control plan or policy. The source of any such discharge must be eliminated as soon as practicable.
3. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Order, the Los Angeles Water Board may require the holder of this Order to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Water Boards deem appropriate, provide that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. The additional monitoring requirements ensure that permitted discharges and activities comport with any applicable effluent limitations, water quality standards, and/or other appropriate requirement of state law.
4. The Permittee must, at all times, fully comply with engineering plans, specifications, and technical reports submitted to support this Order; and all subsequent submittals required as part of this Order. The conditions within this Order and Attachments supersede conflicting provisions within Permittee submittals.
5. This Order and all of its conditions contained herein continue to have full force and effect regardless of the expiration or revocation of any federal license or permit issued for the Project. For purposes of Clean Water Act, section 401(d), this condition constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements of state law.

#### **F. Administrative**

1. Signatory requirements for all document submittals required by this Order are presented in Attachment [A] of this Order.
2. This Order does not authorize any act which results in the taking of a threatened, endangered or candidate species or any act, which is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2050-2097) or the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544).

If a "take" will result from any act authorized under this Order held by the Permittee, the Permittee must obtain authorization for the take prior to any construction or operation of the portion of the Project that may result in a take. The Permittee is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable endangered species act for the Project authorized under this Order.

3. The Permittee shall grant Los Angeles Water Board staff, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a Water Board representative), upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, permission to:
  - a. Enter upon the Project or compensatory mitigation site(s) premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept.
  - b. Have access to and copy any records that are kept and are relevant to the Project or the requirements of this Order.
  - c. Inspect any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Order.
  - d. Sample or monitor for the purposes of assuring Order compliance.
4. A copy of this Order shall be provided to any consultants, contractors, and subcontractors working on the Project. Copies of this Order shall remain at the Project site for the duration of this Order. The Permittee shall be responsible for work conducted by its consultants, contractors, and any subcontractors.

5. A copy of this Order must be available at the Project site(s) during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel performing work on the Project shall be familiar with the content of this Order and its posted location at the Project site.

**G. Mitigation for Temporary Impacts**

1. The Permittee shall restore all areas of temporary impacts within the proposed project areas.

Table [2]: Required Project Mitigation Quantity for Temporary Impacts								
Aquatic Resource Type	Mit. Type <sup>6</sup>	Units	Method <sup>7</sup>					
			Est.	Re-est.	Reh.	Enh.	Pres.	Unknown
Ocean/ Bay/ Estuary	Restoration	Acres				0.261		

**XIV. Water Quality Certification**

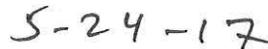
I hereby issue the Order for the Sylmar Ground Return System Replacement , 4WQC40116086 certifying that as long as all of the conditions listed in this Order are met, any discharge from the referenced Project will comply with the applicable provisions of Clean Water Act sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 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).

<sup>6</sup> Mitigation type for onsite restoration of temporary impacts is Permittee Responsible (PR).

<sup>7</sup> Methods: establishment (Est.), reestablishment (Re-est.), rehabilitation (Reh.), enhancement (Enh.), preservation (Pres.). Unknown applies to advance credits with an unknown method and or location.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all Order actions are contingent on: (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the conditions of this Order and the attachments to this Order; and, (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of Statewide Water Quality Control Plans and Policies, the Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans and Policies.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel Unger, PE  
Executive Officer  
Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- Attachment A** Signatory Requirements
- Attachment B** Map
- Attachment C** Report and Notification Requirements

Attachment A  
Signatory Requirements

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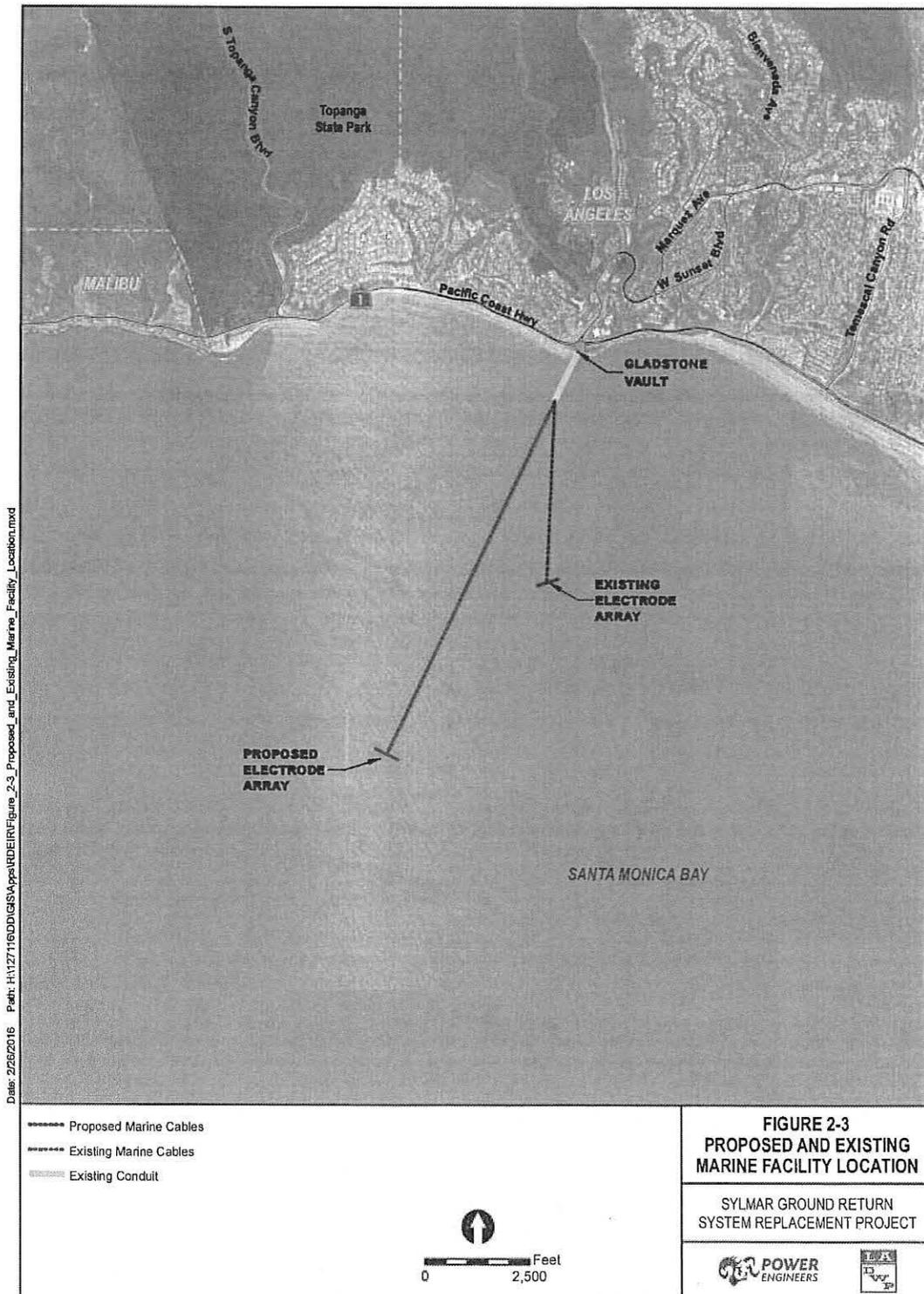
### SIGNATORY REQUIREMENTS

*All Documents Submitted In Compliance With This Order  
Shall Meet The Following Signatory Requirements:*

1. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) must be signed and certified as follows:
  - a) For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer of at least the level of vice-president.
  - b) For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or proprietor, respectively.
  - c) For a municipality, or a state, federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
2. A duly authorized representative of a person designated in items 1.a through 1.c above may sign documents if:
  - a) The authorization is made in writing by a person described in items 1.a through 1.c above.
  - b) The authorization specifies either an individual or position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated activity.
  - c) The written authorization is submitted to the State Water Board Staff Contact prior to submitting any documents listed in item 1 above.
3. Any person signing a document under this section shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."







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### Copies of this Form

In order to identify your project, it is necessary to include a copy of the Project specific Cover Sheet below with your report: please retain for your records.

### Report Submittal Instructions

1. Check the box on the Report and Notification Cover Sheet next to the report or notification you are submitting.
  - **Part A (Annual Report):** This report will be submitted annually from the anniversary of Project effective date until a Notice of Project Complete Letter is issued.
  - **Part B (Project Status Notifications):** Used to notify the Los Angeles Water Board of the status of the Project schedule that may affect Project billing.
  - **Part C (Conditional Notifications and Reports):** Required on a case by case basis for accidental discharges of hazardous materials, violation of compliance with water quality standards, notification of in-water work, or other reports.
2. Sign the Report and Notification Cover Sheet and attach all information requested for the Report Type.
3. **Electronic Report Submittal Instructions:**
  - Submit signed Report and Notification Cover Sheet and required information via email to [Valerie.CarrilloZara@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Valerie.CarrilloZara@waterboards.ca.gov)
  - Include in the subject line of the email:  
Subject: ATTN: Valerie CarrilloZara ; File No: 16-086; Reg. Measure ID: 407136\_Report

### Definition of Reporting Terms

1. **Active Discharge Period:** The active discharge period begins with the effective date of this Order and ends on the date that the Permittee receives a Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter or, if no post-construction monitoring is required, a Notice of Project Complete Letter. The Active Discharge Period includes all elements of the Project including site construction and restoration, and any Permittee responsible compensatory mitigation construction.
2. **Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter:** This request by the Permittee to the Los Angeles Water Board staff pertains to projects that have post construction monitoring requirements, e.g. if site restoration was required to be monitored for 5 years following construction. Los Angeles Water Board staff will review the request and send a Completion of Discharges Letter to the Permittee upon approval. This letter will initiate the post-discharge monitoring period and a change in fees from the annual active discharge fee to the annual post-discharge monitoring fee.
3. **Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter:** This request by the Permittee to the Los Angeles Water Board staff pertains to projects that either have completed post-construction monitoring and achieved performance standards or have no post-construction monitoring requirements, and no further Project activities are planned. Los Angeles Water Board staff will review the request and send a Project Complete

Letter to the Permittee upon approval. Termination of annual invoicing of fees will correspond with the date of this letter.

4. **Post-Discharge Monitoring Period:** The post-discharge monitoring period begins on the date of the Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter and ends on the date of the Notice of Project Complete Letter issued by the Los Angeles Water Board staff. The Post-Discharge Monitoring Period includes continued water quality monitoring or compensatory mitigation monitoring.
5. **Effective Date:** Date of Order issuance.

### Map/Photo Documentation Information

When submitting maps or photos, please use the following formats.

#### 1. **Map Format Information:**

Preferred map formats of at least 1:24000 (1" = 2000') detail (listed in order of preference):

- **GIS shapefiles:** The shapefiles must depict the boundaries of all project areas and extent of aquatic resources impacted. Each shape should be attributed with the extent/type of aquatic resources impacted. Features and boundaries should be accurate to within 33 feet (10 meters). Identify datum/projection used and if possible, provide map with a North American Datum of 1983 (NAD38) in the California Teale Albers projection in feet.
- **Google KML files** saved from Google Maps: My Maps or Google Earth Pro. Maps must show the boundaries of all project areas and extent/type of aquatic resources impacted. Include URL(s) of maps. If this format is used include a spreadsheet with the object ID and attributed with the extent/type of aquatic resources impacted.
- **Other electronic format** (CAD or illustration format) that provides a context for location (inclusion of landmarks, known structures, geographic coordinates, or USGS DRG or DOQQ). Maps must show the boundaries of all project areas and extent/type of aquatic resources impacted. If this format is used include a spreadsheet with the object ID and attributed with the extent/type of aquatic resources impacted.
- Aquatic resource maps marked on paper **USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps** or **Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quads (DOQQ)** printouts. Maps must show the boundaries of all project areas and extent/type of aquatic resources impacted. If this format is used include a spreadsheet with the object ID and attributed with the extent/type of aquatic resources impacted.

2. **Photo-Documentation:** Include a unique identifier, date stamp, written description of photo details, and latitude/longitude (in decimal degrees) or map indicating location of photo. Successive photos should be taken from the same vantage point to compare pre/post construction conditions.

**REPORT AND NOTIFICATION COVER SHEET**

**Project:** Sylmar Ground Return System Replacement

**Permittee:** Katherine Rubin  
Department of Water and Power

**Reg. Meas. ID:** 407136                      **Place ID:** 825728

**File No: 16-086**

**Report Type Submitted**

**Part A – Project Reporting**

**Report Type**                       **Annual Report**

**Part B - Project Status Notifications**

**Report Type**                       **Commencement of Construction**

**Report Type**                       **Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter**

**Report Type**                       **Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter**

**Part C - Conditional Notifications and Reports**

**Report Type**                       **Accidental Discharge of Hazardous Material Report**

**Report Type**                       **Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards Report**

**Report Type**                       **In-Water Work/Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report**

**Report Type**                       **Modifications to Project Report**

**Report Type**                       **Transfer of Property Ownership Report**

**Report Type**                       **Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance Report**

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."

Print Name <sup>1</sup>

Affiliation and Job Title

Signature

Date

**<sup>1</sup>STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION (include if authorization has changed since application was submitted)**

I hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to act in my behalf as my representative in the submittal of this report, and to furnish upon request, supplemental information in support of this submittal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Permittee's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*This Report and Notification Cover Sheet must be signed by the Permittee or a duly authorized representative and included with all written submittals.**

**Part A – Project Reporting**

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Annual Report</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notify the Los Angeles Water Board staff of Project status during both the active discharge and post-discharge monitoring periods.
<b>When to Submit</b>	Annual reports shall be submitted each year on [Date][Date]. Annual reports shall continue until a Notice of Project Complete Letter is issued to the Permittee.
<b>Report Contents</b>	<p>The contents of the annual report shall include the topics indicated below for each project period. Report contents are outlined in Annual Report Topics below.</p> <p><b><u>During the Active Discharge Period</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Topic 1: Construction Summary</b></li> <li>• <b>Topic 2: Mitigation for Temporary Impacts Status</b></li> <li>• <b>Topic 3: Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts Status</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>During the Post-Discharge Monitoring Period</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Topic 2: Mitigation for Temporary Impacts Status</b></li> <li>• <b>Topic 3: Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts Status</b></li> </ul>
<b>Annual Report Topics (1-3)</b>	
<b>Annual Report Topic 1</b>	<b>Construction Summary</b>
<b>When to Submit</b>	With the annual report during the Active Discharge Period.
<b>Report Contents</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project progress and schedule including initial ground disturbance, site clearing and grubbing, road construction, site construction, and the implementation status of construction storm water best management practices (BMPs). If construction has not started, provide estimated start date and reasons for delay.</li> <li>2. Map showing general Project progress.</li> <li>3. If applicable: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Summary of Conditional Notification and Report Types 6 and 7 (Part C below).</li> <li>b. Summary of Certification Deviations. See Certification Deviation Attachment for further information.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Annual Report Topic 2</b>	<b>Mitigation for Temporary Impacts Status</b>
<b>When to Submit</b>	With the annual report during both the Active Discharge Period and Post-Discharge Monitoring Period.

<b>Report Contents</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planned date of initiation and map showing locations of mitigation for temporary impacts to waters of the state and all upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.</li> <li>2. If mitigation for temporary impacts has already commenced, provide a map and information concerning attainment of performance standards contained in the restoration plan.</li> </ol>
<b>Annual Report Topic 3</b>	<b>Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts Status</b>
<b>When to Submit</b>	With the annual report during both the Active Discharge Period and Post-Discharge Monitoring Period.
<b>Report Contents</b>	<p><b>*If not applicable report N/A.</b></p> <p><b>Part A. Permittee Responsible</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planned date of initiation of compensatory mitigation site installation.</li> <li>2. If installation is in progress, a map of what has been completed to date.</li> <li>3. If the compensatory mitigation site has been installed, provide a final map and information concerning attainment of performance standards contained in the compensatory mitigation plan.</li> </ol> <p><b>Part B. Mitigation Bank or In-Lieu Fee</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Status or proof of purchase of credit types and quantities.</li> <li>2. Include the name of bank/ILF Program and contact information.</li> <li>3. If ILF, location of project and type if known.</li> </ol>

**Part B – Project Status Notifications**

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Commencement of Construction</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notify Los Angeles Water Board staff prior to the start of construction.
<b>When to Submit</b>	Must be received at least seven (7) days prior to start of initial ground disturbance activities.
<b>Report Contents</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Date of commencement of construction.</li> <li>2. Anticipated date when discharges to waters of the state will occur.</li> <li>3. Project schedule milestones including a schedule for onsite compensatory mitigation, if applicable.</li> </ol>

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notify Los Angeles Water Board staff that post-construction monitoring is required and that active Project construction, including any mitigation and permittee responsible compensatory mitigation, is complete.
<b>When to Submit</b>	Must be received by Los Angeles Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project construction activities.
<b>Report Contents</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Status of storm water Notice of Termination(s), if applicable.</li> <li>2. Status of post-construction storm water BMP installation.</li> <li>3. Pre- and post-photo documentation of all Project activity sites where the discharge of dredge and/or fill/excavation was authorized.</li> <li>4. Summary of Certification Deviation discharge quantities compared to initial authorized impacts to waters of the state, if applicable.</li> <li>5. An updated monitoring schedule for mitigation for temporary impacts to waters of the state and permittee responsible compensatory mitigation during the post-discharge monitoring period, if applicable.</li> </ol>

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notify Los Angeles Water Board staff that construction and/or any post-construction monitoring is complete, or is not required, and no further Project activity is planned.
<b>When to Submit</b>	Must be received by Los Angeles Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project activities.
<b>Report Contents</b>	<p><b>Part A: Mitigation for Temporary Impacts</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A report establishing that the performance standards outlined in the restoration plan have been met for Project site upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.</li> <li>2. A report establishing that the performance standards outlined in the restoration plan have been met for restored areas of temporary impacts to waters of the state. Pre- and post-photo documentation of all restoration sites.</li> </ol>

**Part B: Permittee Responsible Compensatory Mitigation**

3. A report establishing that the performance standards outlined in the compensatory mitigation plan have been met.
4. Status on the implementation of the long-term maintenance and management plan and funding of endowment.
5. Pre- and post-photo documentation of all compensatory mitigation sites.
6. Final maps of all compensatory mitigation areas (including buffers).

**Part C: Post-Construction Storm Water BMPs**

7. Date of storm water Notice of Termination(s), if applicable.
8. Report status and functionality of all post-construction BMPs.

**Part C – Conditional Notifications and Reports**

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Accidental Discharge of Hazardous Material Report</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notifies Los Angeles Water Board staff that an accidental discharge of hazardous material has occurred.
<b>When to Submit</b>	Within five (5) working days following the date of an accidental discharge. Continue reporting as required by Los Angeles Water Board staff.
<b>Report Contents</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The report shall include the OES Incident/Assessment Form, a full description and map of the accidental discharge incident (i.e. location, time and date, source, discharge constituent and quantity, aerial extent, and photo documentation). If applicable, the OES Written Follow-Up Report may be substituted.</li> <li>2. If applicable, any required sampling data, a full description of the sampling methods including frequency/dates and times of sampling, equipment, locations of sampling sites.</li> <li>3. Locations and construction specifications of any barriers, including silt curtains or diverting structures, and any associated trenching or anchoring.</li> </ol>

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards Report</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notifies Los Angeles Water Board staff that a violation of compliance with water quality standards has occurred.
<b>When to Submit</b>	The Permittee shall report any event that causes a violation of water quality standards within three (3) working days of the noncompliance event notification to Los Angeles Water Board staff.
<b>Report Contents</b>	The report shall include: the cause; the location shown on a map; and the period of the noncompliance including exact dates and times. If the noncompliance has not been corrected, include: the anticipated time it is expected to continue; the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance; and any monitoring results if required by Los Angeles Water Board staff.

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>In-Water Work and Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notifies Los Angeles Water Board staff of the completion of in-water work.
<b>When to Submit</b>	Within three (3) working days following the completion of in-water work. Continue reporting in accordance with the approved water quality monitoring plan.
<b>Report Contents</b>	As required by the approved water quality monitoring plan.

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Modifications to Project Report</b>
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<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notifies Los Angeles Water Board staff if the Project, as described in the application materials, is altered in any way or by the imposition of subsequent permit conditions by any local, state or federal regulatory authority.
<b>When to Submit</b>	If Project implementation as described in the application materials is altered in any way or by the imposition of subsequent permit conditions by any local, state or federal regulatory authority.
<b>Report Contents</b>	A description and location of any alterations to Project implementation. Identification of any Project modifications that will interfere with the Permittee's compliance with the Order.

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Transfer of Property Ownership Report</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notifies Los Angeles Water Board staff of change in ownership of the Project or Permittee-responsible mitigation area.
<b>When to Submit</b>	At least 10 working days prior to the transfer of ownership.
<b>Report Contents</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A statement that the Permittee has provided the purchaser with a copy of this Order and that the purchaser understands and accepts:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the Order's requirements and the obligation to implement them or be subject to administrative and/or civil liability for failure to do so; and</li> <li>b. responsibility for compliance with any long-term BMP<sup>2</sup> maintenance plan requirements in this Order.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. A statement that the Permittee has informed the purchaser to submit a written request to the Los Angeles Water Board to be named as the permittee in a revised order.</li> </ol>

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance Report</b>
<b>Report Purpose</b>	Notifies Los Angeles Water Board staff of transfer of long-term BMP maintenance responsibility.
<b>When to Submit</b>	At least 10 working days prior to the transfer of BMP maintenance responsibility.
<b>Report Contents</b>	A copy of the legal document transferring maintenance responsibility of post-construction BMPs.

<sup>2</sup> Best Management Practices (BMPs) is a term used to describe a type of water pollution or environmental control.