

---

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

8 June 2016

Mr. Mark Watson  
1303 Lassen View Drive  
Lake Almanor, CA 96137

### **CLEAN WATER ACT §401 TECHNICALLY CONDITIONED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR DISCHARGE OF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIALS FOR THE WATSON STAIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID#5A32CR00152), LAKE ALMANOR, PLUMAS COUNTY**

#### **ACTION:**

1.  Order for Standard Certification
2.  Order for Technically-conditioned Certification
3.  Order for Denial of Certification

#### **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION STANDARD CONDITIONS:**

1. This Order serves as a Water Quality Certification (Certification) action that is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to § 13330 of the California Water Code and § 3867 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
2. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from 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 23 CCR § 3855(b) of the California Code of Regulations, and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
3. The validity of any non-denial certification action shall be conditioned upon total payment of the full fee required §3833 of the California Code of Regulations.
4. This Certification is no longer valid if the project (as described) is modified, or coverage under § 404 of the Clean Water Act has expired.

**TECHNICALLY CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS:**

In addition to the above standard conditions, the Applicant shall satisfy the following:

1. The Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) in writing at least **seven (7) days** in advance of the start of any work within waters of the United States. The notification shall include the name of the project and the WDID number, and shall be sent to the Central Valley Water Board Contact indicated in this Certification.
2. Except for activities permitted by the U.S. Army Corps under §404 of the Clean Water Act, soil, silt, or other organic materials shall not be placed where such materials could pass into surface water or surface water drainage courses.
3. The Applicant shall maintain a copy of this Certification and supporting documentation (Project Information Sheet) at the Project site during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel (employees, contractors, and subcontractors) performing work on the proposed Project shall be adequately informed and trained regarding the conditions of this Certification.
4. The Applicant shall perform surface water sampling:
  - a) when performing any in-water work;
  - b) in the event that project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or
  - c) when any activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.

The monitoring requirements in Table 1 shall be conducted by taking a sample of the ambient conditions before work begins in the work area, and sampling during work in the work area. The sampling frequency may be modified for certain projects with written approval from Central Valley Water Board staff.

**Table 1:**

Parameter	Unit	Type of Sample	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Turbidity	NTU	Grab <sup>(1)</sup>	Every 4 hours during in-water work	(2,4)
Settleable Material	mL/L	Grab <sup>(1)</sup>	Every 4 hours during in-water work	(2)
Visible construction related pollutants <sup>(3)</sup>	Observations	Visual Inspections	Continuous throughout the construction period	—

Temperature	°F (or as °C)	Grab <sup>(1)</sup> .	Every 4 hours during in-water work	(2,4)
pH	Standard Units	Grab <sup>(1)</sup>	Every 4 hours during in-water work	(2,4)
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L & % saturation	Grab <sup>(1)</sup>	Every 4 hours during in-water work	(2,4)

<sup>(1)</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.

<sup>(2)</sup> Visible construction-related pollutants include oil, grease, foam, fuel, petroleum products, and construction-related, excavated, organic or earthen materials.

<sup>(3)</sup> A hand-held field meter may be used, provided that the meter utilizes a USEPA-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 required by this Certification shall be maintained at the Project site.

As appropriate, (e.g. Lakes) Surface water monitoring shall occur at mid-depth. A surface water monitoring report shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board Contact indicated in this Certification within two weeks of initiation of sampling and every two weeks thereafter. In reporting the monitoring data, the Applicant shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the sampling locations, date, constituents, and concentrations are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to illustrate clearly whether the Project complies with Certification requirements. The report shall include surface water sampling results, visual observations, and identification of the turbidity increase in the receiving water applicable to the natural turbidity conditions specified in the turbidity criteria below.

If no monitoring is conducted, the Applicant shall submit a written statement to the Central Valley Water Board Contact indicated in the Certification stating, "No monitoring was required." with the Notice of Completion.

5. The Central Valley Water Board adopted a *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins*, Fourth Edition, revised June 2015 or *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, 2nd Edition* (Basin Plan) that designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the plan. Turbidity, settleable matter, temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen limits are based on water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan and are part of this Certification as follows:

- a) Activities shall not cause turbidity increases in surface water to exceed:
  - i. where natural turbidity is less than 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs), controllable factors shall not cause downstream turbidity to exceed 2 NTU;
  - ii. where natural turbidity is between 1 and 5 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 1 NTU;

- iii. where natural turbidity is between 5 and 50 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 20 percent;
- iv. where natural turbidity is between 50 and 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 NTUs;
- v. where natural turbidity is greater than 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 percent.

Except that these limits will be eased during in-water working periods to allow a turbidity increase of 15 NTUs over background turbidity. In determining compliance with the above limits, appropriate averaging periods may be applied provided that beneficial uses will be fully protected. Averaging periods may only be used with prior approval of the Central Valley Water Board staff.

- b) Activities shall not cause settleable matter to exceed 0.1 mL/L in surface waters as measured in surface waters within the work area
  - c) Activities shall not cause temperature in surface waters to increase more than 5°F above natural receiving water temperature for waters with designated COLD or WARM beneficial uses.
  - d) Activities shall not cause pH to be depressed below 6.5 nor raised above 8.5 in surface water.
  - e) Activities shall not cause dissolved oxygen to be reduced below 5.0 mg/L for waters designated with the WARM beneficial use, and 7.0 mg/L for waters designated with the COLD or SPWN beneficial uses, in surface water.
6. The Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board immediately if the above criteria for turbidity, settleable matter, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen or other water quality objectives are exceeded.
  7. This Certification does not allow permanent water diversion of flow from the receiving water. This Certification is invalid if any water is permanently diverted as a part of the Project.
  8. The Applicant shall comply with all California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements, including but not limited to those requirements described in Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2016-0064-R2.
  9. 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 applicable State or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any State law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Order.

- a) If Mr. Mark Watson or a duly authorized representative of the project fails or refuses to furnish technical or monitoring reports, as required under this Order, or falsifies any information provided in the monitoring reports, the applicant is subject to civil monetary liabilities, for each day of violation, or criminal liability.
- b) In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, Central Valley Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Central Valley Water Board deems appropriate, provided 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. (Water Code, §§ 1051, 13165, 13267 and 13383) In response to any violation of the conditions of this certification, the Central Valley Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
- c) Mr. Mark Watson shall allow the staff of the Central Valley Water Board, or an authorized representative(s), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents, as may be required by law, to enter the Project premises for inspection, including taking photographs and securing copies of Project-related records, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Certification and determining the ecological success of the Project.

#### **STORM WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS:**

The Applicant shall also satisfy the following additional storm water quality conditions:

1. During the construction phase, the Applicant must employ strategies to minimize erosion and the introduction of pollutants into storm water runoff. These strategies must include the following:
  - a) the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be prepared during the project planning and design phases and before construction;
  - b) an effective combination of erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be implemented and adequately working prior to the rainy season and during all phases of construction.
2. The Applicant must minimize the short and long-term impacts on receiving water quality from the Project by implementing the following post-construction storm water management practices:
  - a) minimize the amount of impervious surface;
  - b) reduce peak runoff flows;
  - c) provide treatment BMPs to reduce pollutants in runoff;
  - d) ensure existing waters of the State (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, or creeks) are not used as pollutant source controls and/or treatment controls;

- e) preserve and, where possible, create or restore areas that provide important water quality benefits, such as riparian corridors, wetlands, and buffer zones;
  - f) limit disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development (including development of roads, highways, and bridges);
  - g) use existing drainage master plans or studies to estimate increases in pollutant loads and flows resulting from projected future development and require incorporation of structural and non-structural BMPs to mitigate the projected pollutant load increases in surface water runoff;
  - h) identify and avoid development in areas that are particularly susceptible to erosion and sediment loss, or establish development guidance that protects areas from erosion/ sediment loss;
  - i) control post-development peak storm water run-off discharge rates and velocities to prevent or reduce downstream erosion, and to protect stream habitat.
3. The Applicant shall provide the Central Valley Water Board Contact indicated in this Certification a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after the Project completion. The NOC shall demonstrate that the project has been carried out in accordance with the project description in the Certification and in any amendments approved. The NOC shall include a map of the project location(s), including final boundaries of any on-site restoration area(s), if appropriate, and representative pre and post construction photographs. Each photograph shall include a descriptive title, date taken, photographic site, and photographic orientation

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONTACT PERSON:**

George Day, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, California 96002  
gday@waterboards.ca.gov  
(530) 224-4859

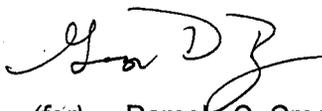
**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby issue an Order certifying that any discharge from Mr. Mark Watson, Watson Stair Replacement Project (WDID# 5A32CR00152) will comply with the applicable provisions of §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. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017 DWQ "Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements For Dredged Or Fill Discharges That Have Received State Water Quality Certification (General WDRs)."

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all Certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in compliance with conditions of this Certification, the Mr. Mark Watson's application package, and the attached Project Information Sheet, and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of

the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River*, Fourth Edition, revised June 2015 (Basin Plan).

Any person aggrieved by this action may petition the State Water Quality Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code § 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, § 2050 and following. The State Water Quality Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this action, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Quality Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.



(for) Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

SZ:sjs

Enclosure: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017 DWQ

cc w/o  
enclosures: Mr. Matt Kelley, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Redding  
Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2, Rancho Cordova  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento  
Mr. Bill Jennings, CALSPA, Stockton  
Mr. Brett Womack, Almanor Dock Supply, Lake Almanor

cc w/o  
enclosures  
by email: Mr. Bill Orme, SWRCB, Certification Unit, Sacramento  
U.S. EPA, Region 9, San Francisco

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Application Date:** 29 February 2016

**Application Complete Date:** 7 June 2016

**Applicant:** Mr. Mark Watson  
1303 Lassen View Drive  
Lake Almanor, CA 96137

**Project Name:** Watson Stair Replacement Project

**Application Number:** WDID No. 5A32CR00152

**U.S. Army Corps File Number:** SPK-2016-00151

**Type of Project:** Removal and replacement of existing wooden stairs.

**Project Location:** Section 01, Township 27 North/, Range 07 East  
Latitude: 40°13'54" and Longitude: -121°08'41"

**County:** Plumas County

**Receiving Water(s) (hydrologic unit):** Lake Almanor, which is tributary to Feather River.  
Feather River Hydrologic Unit-Lake Almanor Hydrologic Area No. 518.41

**Water Body Type:** Lake

**Designated Beneficial Uses:** The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins*, Fourth Edition, revised June 2015 (Basin Plan) has designated beneficial uses for surface and ground waters within the region. Beneficial uses that could be impacted by the project include, but are not limited to: Industrial Supply (IND), Hydropower Generation (POW); Groundwater Recharge, Water Contact Recreation (REC-1); Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM); Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD); Warm Freshwater Spawning (SPWN); and Wildlife Habitat (WILD). A comprehensive and specific list of the beneficial uses applicable for the project area can be found at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/index.shtml).

**Project Description (purpose/goal):** The Watson Stair Replacement Project is located at 1303 Lassen View Drive on Lake Almanor. The project consists of the removal of existing wooden stairs and replacement with metal stairs with stainless steel treads. A 4' by 4' by 18" concrete pad will be poured at the base of the stairs and 4 concrete cylindrical posts will be poured. The stairs will be bolted to the concrete pad and concrete posts. The project will permanently impact 4 linear feet of waters of the United States.

**Preliminary Water Quality Concerns:** Construction activities including soil disturbance, excavation, cutting/filling, and grading activities could result in increased erosion and sedimentation and may impact surface waters with increased turbidity, settleable matter temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen.

**Proposed Mitigation to Address Concerns:** The Applicant will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control sedimentation and erosion. All temporary affected areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities. The Applicant will conduct turbidity, settleable matter temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen testing during in-water work, stopping work if Basin Plan criteria are exceeded or are observed.

**Fill/Excavation Area:** Approximately 4 linear feet of native soil will be excavated into 0.001 acres of waters of the United States.

**Dredge Volume:** Approximately 0.5 cubic yards of native soil will be dredged from 0.001 acres of waters of the United States.

**California Integrated Water Quality System Impact Data:** The Project will permanently impact 4 linear feet and 0.5 cubic yards of lake shoreline from fill and dredging activities.

**Table 1: Impacts from Fill and/or Excavation Activities**

Fill Type	Permanent			Temporary		
	Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards	Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards
Open Water						
Lake Almanor	--	4	--	--	--	--
Open Water Total	--	4	--	--	--	--
<b>Total Impacts</b>		<b>4</b>				

Notes  
 NA Not Applicable

**Table 2: Impacts from Dredging Activities**

Dredge	Permanent			Temporary		
	Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards	Acres	Linear Feet	Cubic Yards
Open Water						
Lake Almanor	--	--	0.5	--	--	--
Open Water Total	--	--	<b>0.5</b>	--	--	--
<b>Total Impacts</b>			<b>0.5</b>			

Notes  
 NA Not Applicable

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit Number:** SPK #2016-00151

**United States Army Corps of Engineers Permit Type:** Nationwide Permit #18 (Minor Discharges)

**Department of Fish and Wildlife Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement:** The Applicant applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement on 7 March 2016. Lake & Streambed Alteration Agreement Number: 1600-2016-0064-R2

**Possible Listed Species:** Not Applicable

**Status of CEQA Compliance:** The California Department of Fish & Wildlife signed a Notice of Exemption on 27 May 2016 approving a Categorical Exception pursuant Class 1 or General Rule Exemption stating the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Compensatory Mitigation:** The Central Valley Water Board is not requesting compensatory mitigation for the project.

**Application Fee Provided:** An application fee of \$600.00 was submitted on 2 March 2016. A total fees of \$600.00 has been submitted to the Central Valley Water Board as required by § 3833(b)(3)(A) and § 2200(a)(3) of the California Code of Regulations.