



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **FM-0**

May 4, 2010

Ms. Valerie Carrillo
Engineering Geologist
Certification and Wetlands Unit
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Ms. Carrillo:

**2009-10 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING REPORTS
SOFT-BOTTOM CHANNEL CLEARING (PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION 99-011, WDR
ORDER NUMBER R4-2010-0021)
DEBRIS BASINS MAINTENANCE CLEARING (FILE NUMBER 02-144 RENEWAL)**

Public Works is submitting the enclosed compact discs containing the Annual Maintenance Report documentation (all in PDF files) in compliance with current permit conditions associated with the 2009-10 Soft-Bottom Channel (SBC) and Debris Basin (DB) maintenance clearing activities.

SOFT BOTTOM CHANNELS

The 2003 renewal of the Section 401 Certification (File number 99-011) was amended in September 2006 and expired on March 15, 2007. On March 14, 2007, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) submitted a complete package to your Board to renew and amend this Certification. The application was deemed complete by your Board on July 10, 2008. The Board extended the amended Certification twice, with the last expiration date on January 31, 2009.

During the September 3, 2009, Board Hearing, the Board waived the 401 Certification. The LACFCD continued to perform its soft-bottom channel maintenance activities based on the terms of the waived Section 401 Certification.

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On February 4, 2010, the Board issued a new Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Order Number R4-2010-0021, which includes a Feasibility Study (FS) to be conducted for all channel reaches, one watershed per year, and be completed within six (6) years. For the first year, the FS is required for reaches within the Los Angeles River Watershed.

The FS for each watershed consists of three main tasks: Workplan, Technical Report, and Recommendations. For the Workplan, which is due on July 4, 2010, a hydraulic study of each channel reach is required to calculate the current flood channel capacity and determine whether or not additional native vegetation can remain or be removed from the channel reach. In addition, the Workplan includes providing a stakeholder notification procedure, outline methodology of the required hydraulic study (includes water quality monitoring and biological studies), technical report, and recommendations.

The following documentation followed the Annual Monitoring Reporting permit conditions per the expired 401 Certification requirements:

- Five CD's containing Aerial Photos for 108 reaches – the new WDR does not require this.
- Two CD's containing the following documentation:
 1. Final SBC clearing schedule
 2. Pre- and Post-Clearing Mitigation Forms
 3. Before and after Biological Resources Monitoring Reports
 4. Before and after clearing photos
 5. During clearing photos
 6. Biologist plant survey reports for proposed new reaches
 7. Water quality monitoring plans and lab results

DEBRIS BASINS

The Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the maintenance of 159 debris basins was issued by the Board on October 24, 2008. The 401 Certification is valid for five (5) years from its issuance date.

- Three CD's containing the following documentation:
 1. Final clearing schedule
 2. Pre- and post-clearing photos from biologist
 3. Photos from field staff
 4. Nesting bird survey reports
 5. Water quality monitoring diversion plans and test lab results.

A total of 92 SBC reaches and 152 DBs were maintained during the 2009-10 maintenance clearing period. This included sediment removal activities from 29 DB's because of the Station Fire and another 6 DB's from recent storms. Nesting bird surveys were conducted by qualified biologists for work performed after March 15, 2010. A complete set of nesting bird survey reports are included in this report.

Please note the following pending or planned debris basin maintenance activities:

1. Pickens and Dunsmuir DBs - basin cleanout activities at these two facilities are still ongoing and are expected to be completed in three weeks.
2. Sombrero DB is scheduled to start another basin cleanout on May 10, 2010, and is expected to be completed by May 24, 2010. The cleanout will only proceed after our biologists have conducted the required nesting bird surveys.
3. In addition, our biologist is also finishing up several debris basin post-mowing site visits.

Post-activity reports for these projects will be forwarded to your agency after their completion.

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This letter also serves as certification of no net loss of wetland habitat associated with this project:

"I declare under penalty of law that this document and all enclosures 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 4th day of May 2010, in Alhambra, California.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jemellee Cruz of my staff at (626) 458-4170 or jcruz@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works



RUDY LEE
Assistant Deputy Director
Flood Maintenance Division

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Enc.

cc: Regional Water Quality Control Board (L.B. Nye)