
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 16, 2015

Mr. Luke Stowe, CVWD Sr. Env. Specialist
Coachella Valley Water District
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260

SUBJECT: DENIAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE OF THE APPLICATION FOR 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION (WQC) FOR THE PROPOSED COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT OASIS AREA IRRIGATION SYSTEM EXPANSION – ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 34 PROJECT, WDID NO. 7A333150001

Staff of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) is denying without prejudice the application for a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 WQC for Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion - Assessment District No. 34 project (Project), as described below. The application is denied without prejudice until the Regional Water Board receives the following:

- 1) An updated 401 application;
- 2) Final CEQA documentation; and
- 3) The remaining fee due for processing the application

The Project will supply up to 32,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water (transported via the CVWD canal system) per year that will be utilized for irrigation to replace the current groundwater pumping. The Project area lies near the northwest margin of the Salton Sea in Riverside County, California.

On May 21, 2015, Board staff received CVWD's application for a 401 WQC, and requested additional information (Final CEQA) and the fee on August 7, 2015 (please see attached e-mail dated 8/7/2015).

CVWD may reapply following receipt of this denial without prejudice at any time. Regional Water Board staff will retain the application materials submitted to date until a complete application has been submitted. CVWD's new submittals need not include all of the pertinent previously submitted reports unless the information contained in these reports has changed or is no longer valid.

October 16, 2015

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jay Mirpour, Water Resources Control Engineer, at (760) 776-8981 or jmirpour@waterboards.ca.gov.



ROBERT PERDUE, Executive Officer
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

JJM/

cc: James Mace, USACE Riverside Regulatory Field Office
Bill Orme, SWRCB, Division of Water Quality, Water Quality Certification Unit
Elizabeth Goldmann, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Thomas A. Vandenberg, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB

Enc. Staff's E-mail to CVWD dated 8/7/2015

File: CVWD Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project, WDID No.
7A333150001

Mirpour, Jay@Waterboards

From: Mirpour, Jay@Waterboards
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 12:44 PM
To: 'sbigley@cvwd.org'
Cc: Dunn, Kai@Waterboards
Subject: 401 for Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project

Hello Steve:

I am working on the 401 WQC for the subject project. To process the application, please provide:

- 1) Please use the following link to determine the total fee for issuing a water quality certification (look for Dredge & Fill Calculator):

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/401_certification/permit_assistance_401.shtml

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/index.shtml#wqcert

In calculation, we include both temporary and permanent effects and the fee is based on the total discharge to waters that could potentially cause loss, impairment, or degradation.

- 2) Please provide information about the US Army Corps of Engineer's permit No. (or NW NO. if applicable). In addition, please provide your USACE contact name and address for this project.

- 3) An application may be considered complete without a CEQA document, **but we cannot issue certification until we receive the final CEQA document.** A copy of the final California Environmental Quality (CEQA - State) or National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA - federal) document, including notice of determination. A NEPA document must be functionally equivalent to a CEQA document. If exempt from CEQA/NEPA requirements, specify the code section under which it is exempt.

We will process your application as soon as we receive the above mentioned items.

Thank you

Jay Mirpour