

Public Notice – 401 Certification Application

Date:

February 3, 2021

Applicant:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
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Authorized Agent:

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Project Name:

Colorado River Aqueduct Conduit Structural Protection Project, Located in
Unincorporated Riverside County, California.

WDID No. 7A333227001, RM 441995, Place ID 871692

Receiving Water:

Unnamed Dry Lakebeds, Salton Sea

Location:

City or area: Unincorporated Riverside County, California

Work Area	Feature Name	Coordinates (Latitude and Longitude)	USGS Quad Information (Section, Township, Range)
West Thousand Palms Siphon (Work Area 16)	Drainages A and B	33.920691° -116.339401°	East Deception Canyon, California (1988); S10, T3S, R6E
East Wide Canyon Siphon (Work Area 17)	Drainage C	33.938641° -116.385298°	Seven Palms Valley, California (1972); S5, T3S, R6E
“	Drainage D	33.939337° -116.387337°	Seven Palms Valley, California

			(1972); S5, T3S, R6E
Long Canyon Siphon (Work Area 19)	Drainage E and F	33.970827° -116.444100°	Seven Palms Valley, California (1972); S27, T2S, R5E
West Blind Canyon Siphon (Work Area 21)	Drainage G and H	33.988741° -116.496989°	Seven Palms Valley, California (1972); S19, T2S, R5E
Whitehouse Siphon (Work Area 23)	Drainage I and J	33.996448° -116.539880°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S14, T2S, R4E
Big Morongo Siphon (Work Area 24)	Drainage K	33.996052° -116.549350°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S15; T2S, R4E
“	Drainage L	33.995838° -116.554509°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S15; T2S, R4E
“	Drainage M	33.995976° -116.558118°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S15; T2S, R4E
“	Drainage N	33.996005° -116.558907°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S15; T2S, R4E
“	Drainage O	33.996046° -116.560089°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S15; T2S, R4E
“	Drainage P	33.996091° -116.561661°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S15; T2S, R4E

“	Drainage Q	33.996192° -116.562846°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S16; T2S, R4E
“	Drainage R	33.996253° -116.564100°	Desert Hot Springs, California (1972); S16; T2S, R4E

Project Description:

Metropolitan owns, operates, and manages the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), which is a regional water conveyance system that consists of five pumping plants, 450 miles of high voltage power lines, one electric substation, four reservoirs, and 242 miles of aqueducts, siphons, canals, conduits, and pipelines terminating at Lake Mathews in Riverside County, California. The original construction of the CRA was not designed to accommodate loads from the heavy equipment used to conduct current operations and maintenance activities. The access roads used to conduct operations and maintenance activities often cross over or run adjacent to the siphons. Metropolitan has identified several locations where the access road crosses or is located too close to the siphon and there is insufficient ground cover over the siphon to safely support heavy equipment loads. In addition, Metropolitan has identified several transition structures that require new designated crane operating pads in order to ensure heavy equipment is set back at least 12 feet from any structures. Currently, many of the transition structures do not have designated crane operating areas, are located on uneven natural ground surface, are inadequately sized, are excessively sloped, or are too close to transition structures. The proposed project would include (1) realigning segments of the existing unpaved access roads that cross over or are located too close to the buried siphon, (2) constructing concrete protective slabs at points where access roads cross the buried siphon and cannot be realigned, and (3) constructing crushed aggregate crane operating pads adjacent to the transition structures to support heavy equipment and ensure safe crane operations. No work is being performed on the siphons themselves. Twenty-four locations along the CRA that are vulnerable to heavy equipment loading have been identified. Of these project components, only the access road improvements component will result in impacts to waters of the State at 6 of the 24 project locations.

Anticipated Project Start and End Dates:

May 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022

US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Number(s):

Los Angeles - Approved Jurisdictional Determination

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

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