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**Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board**

September 24, 2015

Mr. Kerwin Russell  
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District  
4500 Glenwood Dr. Building A  
Riverside, CA 92501

Russell@RCRCD.org

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS  
CERTIFICATION FOR ALTFILLISCH PROPERTY RESTORATION PROJECT, CITY  
OF NORCO, RIVERSIDE COUNTY (ACOE CORPS FILE NO. NOT AVAILABLE)  
(SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 332015-17)**

Dear Mr. Russell,

On July 31, 2015, we received from the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) (Applicant) an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") for an ecological restoration and enhancement project (Project) to control *Arundo donax* and other invasive plants adjacent to the Santa Ana River in the City of Norco. The Applicant submitted a filing fee of \$200.00 with the Certification application materials, which satisfies the Project fee requirement for consideration of a 401 Certification. This fee amount was determined using the Dredge and Fill Fee Calculator on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) web site, which is based on the most current iteration of California Code of Regulations, Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1, Section 2200 (a) (3).

This letter responds to your request for Certification that the proposed Project, described in your application and summarized below, will comply with State water quality standards outlined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (1995) (Basin Plan) and subsequent Basin Plan amendments:

**Project Description:** The RCRCD proposes to restore 75.82 acres of riparian gallery forest adjacent to the Santa Ana River. Project activities include the physical removal of non-native plant species using hand power tools and rubber tire mulching units. Herbicide will be applied after mechanical removal to

control the re-growth of non-native vegetation. The restoration may require that areas disturbed as a result of land use changes be re-contoured. Any areas disturbed as a result of non-native plant removal and recontouring activities will be planted with seed and pole cuttings from native plant species.

The work will take place in an un-sectioned area west of Hamner Avenue and north of the Santa Ana River in the City of Norco in Riverside County. The project is located within the U.S. Geological Survey *Corona North* 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map (33° 56' 35.61" N/ -117° 33' 56.93" W).

Receiving water: Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River. Beneficial use designations (existing or potential) of the receiving waters include: Agricultural Supply (AGR), groundwater recharge (GWR), contact recreation (REC1), non-contact recreation (REC2), warm freshwater habitat (WARM), wildlife habitat (WILD), and Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species (RARE).

Fill area:

Temporary Impact to Waters of the U.S.	75.82 acres	5,500 linear feet
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Dredge/Fill volume: N/A

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit No. 41 – Invasive Exotic Plant Removal

You have proposed to mitigate water quality impacts as described in your Certification application. The proposed mitigation is summarized below:

Onsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- Standard water quality related best management practices (BMPs) will be employed during construction activities.

Offsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- None, the Project is considered an Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Project.

Should the proposed Project have the potential to impact State- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, the Applicant will ensure that the Project

implements measures identified in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to mitigate those impacts to an acceptable level.

Appropriate BMPs will be implemented to reduce construction-related impacts to waters of the State according to the requirements of Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ, the State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

This Water Quality Certification is subject to the acquisition of all local, regional, State, and federal permits and approvals as required by law. Failure to meet any conditions contained herein, or any conditions contained in any other permit or approval for this Project issued by the State of California, or any subdivision thereof, may result in appropriate enforcement action, including imposition of administrative civil liability.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the RCRCRD filed a CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 "Class 1" Categorical Exemption with the Riverside County Clerk on August 20, 2015, this Exemption declares the proposed Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the District's determination. The Regional Board has independently considered the CEQA Categorical Exemption in the issuance of this Certification and finds that no changes or alterations to the proposed Project are necessary to avoid or mitigate impacts to water quality to a less than significant level.

**This 401 Certification is contingent upon the execution of the following conditions:**

- 1) This Order for Water Quality Certification will remain valid until the USACE 2012 Nationwide permits expire on March 18, 2017, or through an extended period beyond the expiration date that is authorized in writing by the USACE.
- 2) The Applicant must comply with the requirements of the applicable Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.
- 3) A copy of this Certification and any subsequent amendments must be maintained on-site for the duration of work as a denoted element of any project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- 4) All materials generated from construction activities associated with this Project shall be managed appropriately. This shall include identifying all potential pollution sources within the scope of work of this Project, and incorporating all necessary pollution prevention BMPs as they relate to each potential pollution source identified. Additionally no materials maybe stored within waters of the United States or waters of the State of California.

- 5) The Project proponent shall utilize BMPs during project construction to minimize the controllable discharges of sediment and other wastes to drainage systems or other waters of the State and of the United States.
- 6) Substances resulting from Project-related activities that could be harmful to aquatic life, including, but not limited to, petroleum lubricants and fuels, cured and uncured cements, epoxies, paints and other protective coating materials, portland cement concrete or asphalt concrete, and washings and cuttings thereof, shall not be discharged to soils or waters of the State. All waste concrete shall be removed.
- 7) Motorized equipment shall not be maintained or parked within or near any stream crossing, channel or lake margin in such a manner that petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas under any flow conditions. Vehicles shall not be driven or equipment operated in waters of the State on-site, except as necessary to complete the proposed Project. No equipment shall be operated in areas of flowing water.
- 8) This Water Quality Certification is subject to the acquisition of all local, regional, State, and federal permits and approvals as required by law. Failure to meet any conditions contained herein or any the conditions contained in any other permit or approval issued by the State of California or any subdivision thereof may result in the revocation of this Certification and civil or criminal liability.
- 9) Construction dewatering discharges, including temporary stream diversions necessary to carry out the Project, are subject to regulation by Regional Board Order No. R8-2015-0004, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters that Pose an Insignificant (De Minimus) Threat to Water Quality. For more information, please review Order No. R8-2015-0004 at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/)

Under California Water Code, Section 1058, and Pursuant to 23 CCR §3860, the following shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions:

(a) Every certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section §13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with Section 3867) of this Chapter.

(b) Certification is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to Subsection §3855(b) of this Chapter and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

- (c) Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under this Chapter and owed by the Applicant.

If the above stated conditions are changed, any of the criteria or conditions as previously described are not met, or new information becomes available that indicates a water quality problem, the Regional Board may require the Applicant to submit a Report of Waste Discharge and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements.

In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this Certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under State law. For purposes of Section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any State law authorizing remedies, penalties, process 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 Certification. Violations of the conditions of this Certification may subject the Applicant to civil liability pursuant to Water Code Section 13350 and/or 13385.

This letter constitutes a Water Quality Standards Certification issued pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. I hereby certify that any discharge from the referenced Project will comply with the applicable provisions of 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) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law.

This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ (Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ), "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Standards Certification. Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ is available at: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2003/wqo/wqo\\_2003-0017.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo_2003-0017.pdf)

Should there be any questions, please contact Jason Bill at (951) 782-3295 or [Jason.Bill@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.Bill@waterboards.ca.gov), or Wanda Cross at (951) 782-4468 or [wanda.cross@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wanda.cross@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold  
Executive Officer

cc (via electronic mail):

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office - James Mace

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife – Kim Freeburn-Marquez

State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel - David Rice

State Water Resources Control Board DWQ - Water Quality Certification Unit

U.S. EPA -Supervisor of the Wetlands Section – Jason A. Brush