



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 23, 2016

Mr. Scott Quinnell
Branch Chief, Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of Transportation,
District 8
464 West 4th Street, MS 828
San Bernardino, California 92401-1400

scott_quinnell@dot.ca.gov

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA) FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD GENERAL 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER NO. SB12002GN FOR US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 2012 CERTIFIED NATIONWIDE PERMITS.

FILE: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRICT 8, INTERSTATE 10 AT SANTA ANA RIVER GEOTECHNICAL EXPLORATION PROJECT (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 362016-19)

Dear Mr. Quinnell:

On August 11, 2016, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a 2012 Certified Nationwide Permit Notice of Intent (NOI) form to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2012 Nationwide Permits, Order No. SB12002GN (General 401 Order)¹, for the California Department of Transportation, District 8, Interstate-10 (I-10) at Santa Ana River Geotechnical Exploration Project (Project).

The proposed Project site is located where I-10 crosses the Santa Ana River, approximately 0.31 mile west of the I-10 and I-215 Interchange in the city of Colton, San Bernardino County, California. The proposed Project site is mapped on the San Bernardino South, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series topographic map, in an un-sectioned portion of the San Bernardino Land Grant.

¹ State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification for 2012 Nationwide Permits, Order No. SB12002GN, is found at - http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/nwp_401.pdf

Approximate coordinates of the Project location are latitude 34° 03' 54.2160" North and longitude -117° 18' 07.8840" West.

Santa Ana Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, is categorically exempt from CEQA review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The work may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action that a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Regional Board staff also determined the proposed Project meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for 2012 Certified Nationwide Permits.

Project Purpose and Description:

The construction activities proposed consist of boring six geotechnical boreholes, each six inches in diameter, to gather subsurface data for a future bridge seismic retrofitting safety project. The drill cuttings will be drummed and removed from the site in accordance with groundwater codes. The borings will be abandoned by grouting to within 24 inches of grade and immediately upon completion, capping to the surface with concrete. The access route to the borehole locations is on a concrete-lined portion of the Santa Ana River.

The Project will result in temporary impacts to approximately 0.000027 acre and 6 linear feet of stream channel, waters of the United States (U.S.). The Project shall be constructed and maintained using methods and avoidance and minimization measures described in application materials.

Receiving Water:	Santa Ana River, Reach 4
Filled Excavated Area:	Permanent Area Impacted: None Temporary Area Impacted: 0.000027 acres stream channel
Total Linear Impacts:	Length Permanently Impacted: None Length Temporarily Impacted: 6 linear feet
Fill Volume:	None
Latitude/Longitude:	34° 03' 54.2160" N/-117° 18' 07.8840" W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project may proceed under the General 401 Order if the following conditions specified in General 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. SB12002GN for 2012 Nationwide Permits and applicable to your Project are adhered to during the proposed activities:

- 1) All activities shall comply with all requirements of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, §13000, et seq.) and applicable State or Regional Water Quality Control Plans. (SB12002GN Condition #4).
- 2) Water may not be diverted for Project activities. (SB12002GN Condition #6).
- 3) The proposed Project shall not result in the taking of any species listed as threatened or endangered or as a candidate for threatened or endangered listing under either the federal or California Endangered Species Act. (SB12002GN Condition #8).
- 4) Project activities may not take place in a Hazardous Waste site listed in Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (i.e., "Cortese List"). (SB12002GN Condition #10).
- 5) No drilling compounds, fluids, or "muds" may be discharged to waters of the State of California or United States. (SB12002GN Condition #13).
- 6) Any waiver of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conditions or regional conditions shall disqualify this Project from enrollment under the General Certification. (SB12002GN Condition #16)

In addition to the conditions of the General 401 Order, the Applicant is required to notify the Regional Board of the start of construction activities as well as the completion of construction activities.

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

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer

cc (via electronic mail):

California Department of Transportation, District 8 - Adam Compton –
adam.compton@dot.ca.gov

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District - Daniel P. Swenson

State Water Resources Control Board, OCC- David Rice

State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ -Water Quality Certification Unit

California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Jeff Brandt

U.S. EPA, Region 9 – Wetlands Regulatory Office – Melissa Scianni

U.S. EPA, Region 9 – Wetlands Regulatory Office - Elizabeth Goldmann