

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION**

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Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification  
and Waste Discharge Requirements  
for Discharge of Dredged and/or Fill Materials

**PROJECT: 4154 Cartagena Drive Palm Removal**  
**Certification Number R9-2019-0101**  
**WDID: 9 000003368**

Reg. Meas. ID:	426202
Place ID:	852478
Party ID:	547569
Person ID:	554133

**APPLICANT: City of San Diego**  
**Transportation & Storm Water Division**  
**2781 Caminito Chollas, MS 46**  
**San Diego, CA 92105**

**ACTION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order for Low Impact Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> Order for Denial of Certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Order for Technically-conditioned Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrollment in SWRCB GWDR Order No. 2003-017-DWQ	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment in Isolated Waters Order No. 2004-004-DWQ

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

An application dated November 1, 2018 was submitted by the City of San Diego, Transportation and Storm Water Division (hereinafter Applicant), for Water Quality Certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) for the proposed 4154 Cartagena Drive Palm Removal Project (Project). The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) deemed the application to be complete on March 13, 2019. The Applicant has also submitted notification to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Project activities authorized under Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit No. 33.

The Project consists of the removal of several invasive palm trees (Mexican fan palms, *Washingtonia robusta*), along with a small amount of understory vegetation and sediment, from a concrete-lined channel in Upper Chollas Creek. The Project is located within the City of San Diego, San Diego County, California, adjacent to 4154 Cartagena Drive (Attachment 2, Figures 1 and 2). The Project's center readings are latitude 32.752503, longitude -117.062261.

The Applicant has paid all required fees for this Certification in the amount of \$1500.00. On March 18, 2019, the San Diego Water Board provided public notice of the Project application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 by posting information describing the Project on the San Diego Water Board's web site and providing a period of twenty-one days for public review and comment. No comments were received.

The Applicant proposes to clear vegetation and sediment from a concrete-lined channel segment of Chollas Creek in order to prevent the vegetation from dislodging, clogging a double culvert immediately downstream, and causing flooding to adjacent commercial and residential properties.

The channel segment where work is proposed is heavily urbanized and is located near the intersection of University Avenue and College Avenue. The channel has 8.5-foot tall, vertical concrete sides and a 26-foot wide, concrete-lined bottom (Attachment 2, Figure 3). The north side of the channel directly abuts commercial development, and the south side of the channel is a steep slope with invasive grasses and coastal scrub. There is perennial low water flow within the channel.

Clearing the vegetation requires the use of heavy equipment in the channel, so surface water flows in Chollas Creek will be temporarily diverted around the Project site. A temporary berm will be constructed from sandbags, and a 4-inch diversion pump attached to a hose will divert surface water flows to a point approximately 500' downstream, where the water will be expelled in-channel. The vegetation will be cleared using hand tools, pushed toward the staging area by heavy equipment, and removed from the channel with an excavator for disposal at an authorized off-site location. If necessary, the City will perform minor concrete repairs to return the channel to as-built conditions. Following vegetation removal, the sandbags and all associated material, diversion pump, and hose will be removed from the channel. No sand will be allowed to discharge into the channel. The work is anticipated to be completed in two days.

Placement of the sandbag berm and vegetation removal will result in temporary and permanent impacts, respectively, to jurisdictional aquatic resources.

Receiving waters potentially affected by the Project are protected in accordance with water quality standards in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)* (Basin Plan). This Certification authorizes temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the United States and/or State affected by the Project. Temporary impacts from sandbag placement will be restored by the Applicant to pre-Project conditions and do not include physical loss of aquatic resource area or degradation of ecological conditions. Permanent impacts, from removal of invasive palms and associated sediment, are minor and not expected to result in loss or degradation of aquatic resources. As such, these permanent impacts do not require compensatory mitigation. Based on all of these considerations, the Applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Certification will ensure that the water quality standards for all waters of the United States and/or State impacted by the Project are met.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>STANDARD CONDITIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>GENERAL CONDITIONS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>PROJECT IMPACTS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD CONTACT PERSON.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION .....</b>	<b>11</b>

### Attachments:

- 1. Definitions**
- 2. Project Figures and Plans**
- 3. CEQA Notice of Exemption**

The San Diego Water Board has independently reviewed the record of the Project to analyze the extent and nature of proposed Project impacts to the water quality and beneficial uses of waters of the United States and/or State and evaluated the need for associated compensatory mitigation to offset impacts attributed to the Project. In accordance with this Certification, the Applicant may proceed with the Project under the following terms and conditions:

## I. STANDARD CONDITIONS

Pursuant to section 3860 of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, the following three standard conditions apply to all water quality certification actions:

- A. This 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 chapter 28, article 6 (commencing with title 23, section 3867), of the California Code of Regulations.
- B. This Certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent Certification application was filed pursuant to California Code of Regulations title 23, section 3855 subdivision (b), and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
- C. This Certification action is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23, chapter 28 (commencing with section 3830) of California Code of Regulations and owed by the applicant.

## II. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A. **Term of Certification.** Water Quality Certification No. R9-2019-0101 (Certification) shall expire upon a) the expiration or retraction of the Clean Water Act section 404 (33 U.S.C. §1344) permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for this Project, or b) five (5) years from the date of issuance of this Certification, whichever occurs first.
- B. **Duty to Comply.** The Applicant must comply with all conditions and requirements of this Certification. Any Certification noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Water Code and is grounds for enforcement action or Certification termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification.
- C. **General Waste Discharge Requirements.** The requirements of this Certification are enforceable through Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material that have Received State Water Quality Certification* (Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ). This provision shall apply irrespective of whether a) the federal permit for which the Certification was obtained is subsequently retracted or is expired, or b) the Certification is expired. Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ is accessible at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/gowdr401regulated\\_projects.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/gowdr401regulated_projects.pdf).

- D. Project Conformance with Application.** All water quality protection measures and BMPs described in the application and supplemental information for water quality certification are incorporated by reference into this Certification as if fully stated herein. Notwithstanding any more specific conditions in this Certification, the Applicant shall construct, implement and comply with all water quality protection measures and BMPs described in the application and supplemental information. The conditions within this Certification shall supersede conflicting provisions within the application and supplemental information submitted as part of this Certification action.
- E. Project Conformance with Water Quality Control Plans or Policies.** Notwithstanding any more specific conditions in this Certification, the Project shall be constructed in a manner consistent with the Basin Plan and any other applicable water quality control plans or policies adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter Cologne Water Quality Act (Division 7, commencing with Water Code Section 13000) or section 303 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C §1313.). The Basin Plan is accessible at:
- [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/index.shtml)
- F. Project Modification.** The Applicant must submit any changes to the Project, including Project operation, which would have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Certification, to the San Diego Water Board for prior review and written approval. If the San Diego Water Board is not notified of a significant change to the Project, it will be considered a violation of this Certification
- G. Certification Distribution Posting.** During Project construction, the Applicant must maintain a copy of this Certification at the Project site. This Certification must be available at all times to site personnel and agencies. A copy of this Certification shall also be provided to any contractor or subcontractor performing construction work, and the copy shall remain in their possession at the Project site.
- H. Inspection and Entry.** The Applicant must allow the San Diego Water Board or the State Water Resources Control Board, and/or their authorized representative(s) (including an authorized contractor acting as their representative), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required under law, to:
1. Enter upon the Project or Compensatory Mitigation premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this Certification;
  2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Certification;

3. Inspect, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Certification; and
  4. Sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring Certification compliance, or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act or Water Code, any substances or parameters at any location.
- I. **Enforcement Notification.** In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Certification, the violation or threatened violation 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.
- J. **Certification Actions.** This Certification may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause including but not limited to the following:
1. Violation of any term or condition of this Certification;
  2. Monitoring results indicating that continued Project activities could violate water quality objectives or impair the beneficial uses of Chollas Creek or its tributaries;
  3. Obtaining this Certification by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts;
  4. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge; and
  5. Incorporation of any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
- The filing of a request by the Applicant for modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Certification condition.
- K. **Duty to Provide Information.** The Applicant shall furnish to the San Diego Water Board, within a reasonable time, any information which the San Diego Water Board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this Certification or to determine compliance with this Certification.
- L. **Property Rights.** This Certification does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.
- M. **Petitions.** Any person aggrieved by this action of the San Diego Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the

action in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3867 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Certification. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided upon request or may be found at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality).

### III. PROJECT IMPACTS

A. **Project Impacts.** Unavoidable Project impacts to Chollas Creek and its tributaries within the Pueblo San Diego Watershed must not exceed the type and magnitude of impacts described in the table below.

	Impacts (acres)	Impacts (linear feet)	Impacts (cubic yards)	Mitigation for Impacts
<b>Permanent Impacts</b>				
Stream Channel	0	0	5.3 <sup>1</sup>	N/A
<b>Temporary Impacts</b>				
Stream Channel	.001 <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>2</sup>	0	N/A

N/A – Not applicable

1. Permanent impacts from sediment removal.
2. Temporary impacts from the placement of sandbags in channel.

### IV. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. **Annual Project Progress Reports.** The Applicant must submit annual Project progress reports describing compliance with all requirements of this Certification to the San Diego Water Board prior to **March 1** of each year following the issuance of this Certification, until the Project has reached completion. The report must include the following information:

1. The names, qualifications, and affiliations of the persons contributing to the report;
2. The status, progress, and anticipated schedule for completion of Project construction activities;
3. A description of Project construction delays encountered or anticipated that may affect the schedule for construction completion; and
4. A description and cause of each incident of noncompliance during the annual monitoring period; the period of noncompliance including exact dates and times, and, if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

**B. Final Project Completion Report.** The Applicant must submit a Final Project Completion Report to the San Diego Water Board **within 30 days of completion of the Project**. The final report must include the following information:

1. Date of construction initiation;
2. Date of construction completion;
3. As-built drawings of the Project, no bigger than 11”X17”; and
4. Photo documentation of all areas of permanent and temporary impacts, prior to and after Project construction. Photo documentation must be conducted in accordance with guidelines posted at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/401\\_certification/docs/401c/401PhotoDocRB9V713.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/401_certification/docs/401c/401PhotoDocRB9V713.pdf). In addition, photo documentation must include Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for each of the photo points referenced.

**C. Reporting Authority.** The submittal of information required under this Certification, or in response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, is required pursuant to Water Code section 13267 and 13383. Civil liability may be administratively imposed by the San Diego Water Board for failure to submit information pursuant to Water Code sections 13268 or 13385.

**D. Electronic Document Submittal.** The Applicant must submit all reports and information required under this Certification in electronic format via e-mail to [SanDiego@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SanDiego@waterboards.ca.gov) with the following identification in the subject line: [Certification No. R9-2019-0101: 852478:jharris](mailto:SanDiego@waterboards.ca.gov). Electronic documents must be submitted as a single, text searchable PDF file and must include scanned copies of all signature pages; electronic signatures will not be accepted.

Documents over 50 megabytes will not be accepted via e-mail and must be placed on a disc and delivered to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region  
Attn: 401 Certification No. R9-2019-0101: 852478:jharris  
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92108

**E. Document Signatory Requirements.** All applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be signed as follows:

1. For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer of at least the level of vice president.
2. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or proprietor, respectively.



3. For a municipality, or a state, federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
4. A duly authorized representative may sign applications, reports, or information if:
  - a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above.
  - b. The authorization specifies either an individual or position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated activity.
  - c. The written authorization is submitted to the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer.

If such authorization is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the Project, a new authorization satisfying the above requirements must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications, to be signed by an authorized representative.

**F. Document Certification Requirements.** All applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be certified as follows:

*"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."*

## **V. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Discharge Commencement.** The Applicant must notify the San Diego Water Board in writing **at least 5 days prior to** the start of Project construction.
- B. Twenty Four Hour Noncompliance Reporting.** The Applicant shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any such information shall be provided orally to the San Diego Water Board **within 24 hours** of the time the Applicant becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within five days of the time the Applicant becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and, if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The San Diego Water Board, or an authorized representative, may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

- C. **Anticipated Noncompliance.** The Applicant shall give advance notice to the San Diego Water Board of any planned changes in the Project which may result in noncompliance with Certification conditions or requirements.
- D. **Transfer of Property Ownership.** This Certification is not transferable in its entirety or in part to any person or organization except after the Applicant has notified the San Diego Water Board of any change in ownership of the Project area. Notification of change in ownership must include, but not be limited to, a statement that the Applicant has provided the purchaser with a copy of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification and that the purchaser understands and accepts the certification requirements and the obligation to implement them or be subject to liability for failure to do so; the seller and purchaser must sign and date the notification and provide such notification to the San Diego Water Board **within 10 days** of the transfer of ownership.

Upon properly noticed transfers of responsibility, the transferee assumes responsibility for compliance with this Certification and references in this Certification to the Applicant will be interpreted to refer to the transferee as appropriate. Transfer of responsibility does not necessarily relieve the Applicant of this Certification in the event that a transferee fails to comply.

## VI. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE

- A. The City of San Diego is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.) section 21067, and CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000 et seq.) section 15367, and has filed a Notice of Exemption dated October 11, 2018 for the Project. (Attachment 3). The Lead Agency has determined the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and the Project is exempt pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).
- B. The San Diego Water Board is a Responsible Agency under CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21069; CEQA Guidelines section 15381). The San Diego Water Board has considered the Lead Agency's Notice of Exemption and finds that the Project as proposed will not have a significant effect on resources within the San Diego Water Board's purview.
- C. As a Responsible Agency under CEQA, the San Diego Water Board will file a Notice of Determination in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15096 subdivision(i).

## VII. SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD CONTACT PERSON

Jill Harris, Senior Environmental Scientist  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region  
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92108  
Telephone: 619-521-8050  
Email: Jill.Harris@waterboards.ca.gov

## VIII. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the proposed discharge from the **4154 Cartagena Drive Palm Removal Project** (Certification No. R9-2019-0101) 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. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "*Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification (General WDRs)*," which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification. Please note that enrollment under Order No. 2003-017-DWQ is conditional and, should new information come to our attention that indicates a water quality problem, the San Diego Water Board may issue individual waste discharge requirements at that time.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all Certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited to, and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with, the applicants' Project description and/or the description in this Certification, and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Basin Plan.

I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the forgoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Certification No. R9-2019-0101 issued on April 9, 2019.

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DAVID W. GIBSON  
Executive Officer  
San Diego Water Board

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Date

# ATTACHMENT 1

## DEFINITIONS

**Activity** - when used in reference to a permit means any action, undertaking, or project including, but not limited to, construction, operation, maintenance, repair, modification, and restoration which may result in any discharge to waters of the state.

**Buffer** - means an upland, wetland, and/or riparian area that protects and/or enhances aquatic resource functions associated with wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes, marine, and estuarine systems from disturbances associated with adjacent land uses.

**California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)** - is a wetland assessment method intended to provide a rapid, scientifically-defensible and repeatable assessment methodology to monitor status and trends in the conditions of wetlands for applications throughout the state. It can also be used to assess the performance of compensatory mitigation projects and restoration projects. CRAM provides an assessment of overall ecological condition in terms of four attributes: landscape context and buffer, hydrology, physical structure and biotic structure. CRAM also includes an assessment of key stressors that may be affecting wetland condition and a "field to PC" data management tool (eCRAM) to ensure consistency and quality of data produced with the method.

**Compensatory Mitigation Project** - means compensatory mitigation implemented by the Applicant as a requirement of this Certification (i.e., applicant -responsible mitigation), or by a mitigation bank or an in-lieu fee program.

**Discharge of dredged material** – means any addition of dredged material into, including redeposit of dredged material other than incidental fallback within, the waters of the United States and/or State.

**Discharge of fill material** – means the addition of fill material into waters of the United States and/or State.

**Dredged material** – means material that is excavated or dredged from waters of the United States and/or State.

**Ecological Success Performance Standards** – means observable or measurable physical (including hydrological), chemical, and/or biological attributes that are used to determine if a compensatory mitigation project meets its objectives.

**Enhancement** – means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s) but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Establishment** – means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist. Creation results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Fill material** – means any material used for the primary purpose of replacing an aquatic area with dry land or of changing the bottom elevation of a water body.

**Isolated wetland** – means a wetland with no surface water connection to other aquatic resources.

**Mitigation Bank** – means a site, or suite of sites, where resources (e.g., wetlands, streams, riparian areas) are restored, established, enhanced, and/or preserved for the purpose of providing mitigation for impacts authorized by this Certification.

**Preservation** - means the removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

**Re-establishment** - means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/ historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

**Rehabilitation** - means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/ historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Restoration** - means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

**Start of Project Construction** - For the purpose of this Certification, "start of Project construction" means to engage in a program of on-site construction, including site clearing, grading, dredging, landfilling, changing equipment, substituting equipment, or even moving the location of equipment specifically designed for a stationary source in preparation for the fabrication, erection or installation of the building components of the stationary source within waters of the United States and/or State.

**Uplands** - means non-wetland areas that lack any field-based indicators of wetlands or other aquatic conditions. Uplands are generally well-drained and occur above (i.e., up-slope) from nearby aquatic areas. Wetlands can, however, be entirely surrounded by uplands. For example, some natural seeps and constructed stock ponds lack aboveground hydrological connection to other aquatic areas. In the watershed context, uplands comprise the landscape matrix in which aquatic areas form. They are the primary sources of sediment, surface runoff, and associated chemicals that are deposited in aquatic areas or transported through them.

**Water quality objectives and other appropriate requirements of state law** – means the water quality objectives and beneficial uses as specified in the appropriate water quality control plan(s); the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act; and any other appropriate requirement of state law.