

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Mr. Sree Kumar  
County of Los Angeles Flood Control District  
900 S. Fremont Ave., Annex 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
No. 7007 2560 0001 7889 6934

**AMENDMENT OF CONDITIONAL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED SOFT BOTTOM CHANNEL REACH 115 USACE LEVEE CERTIFICATION (Corps' Project No. SPL-2014-00691-BLR) AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE, SAN GABRIEL RIVER ESTUARY, CITY OF LONG BEACH, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 14-132)**

Dear Mr. Kumar:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is in receipt of your notification on March 29, 2016, requesting modification of your Conditional Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the subject project issued on April 27, 2015 (Certification).

As we understand, County of Los Angeles Flood Control District (Applicant) is requesting to extend the expiration date of the Conditional Water Quality Certification in order to be consistent with the expiration of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) 404 permit which expires on March 18, 2017. Certification 14-132 is hereby extended so that the applicant may continue the proposed project through the duration of the valid 401 US ACOE permit.

In response to your request, under Attachment B, Item 32, Conditions of Certification, will read:

32. This Certification shall expire upon expiration of the underlying federal permit, Army Corp of Engineers' Clean Water Act Section 404 permit No. SPL-2014-00691-BLR. The Applicant shall submit a complete application prior to termination of this Certification if renewal is requested.

In addition, to allow for the incorporation of improved clearing methods, the first paragraphs of Item 7, Project Description, will have additional text as follows (additional text in underline):

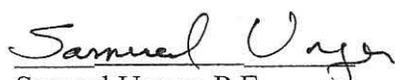
Soft-bottom channel Reach 115 is the soft-bottom portion of the San Gabriel River maintained by LACFCD bank-to-bank, totaling approximately 108 acres. Its upstream limit begins just south of the confluence with Coyote Creek (approximately 1,750 feet north of Interstate 405) and extends 18,354 feet south to Marina Drive (just north of the Pacific Ocean shore) in the City of Long Beach in

Los Angeles County. The process for vegetation removal activities will follow methods recommended by the USACE and will be based on its 2009 Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 1110-2-571 entitled, "Guidelines for Landscape Planting and Vegetation Management at Levees, Floodwalls, Embankment Dams, and Appurtenant Structures" (Vegetation Management Guidelines). All removed vegetation will be taken to the Puente Hills landfill via dump trucks. Riprap/stone and soil will not be removed from the project site. Mowing vegetation instead of scraping sediment to remove vegetation will be used when appropriate.

I have determined that the above-proposed modification does not constitute a significant change in the nature or scope of the activities described for the project in your original application. Therefore, all of the proposed modifications are hereby incorporated into 401 Certification No. 14-132 and no additional action by this agency pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is necessary. This determination is limited to the proposed modifications contained in your notification to this Regional Board dated April 27, 2015 and described herein, and does not eliminate the Applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable laws, requirements and/or permits.

Should you have questions concerning this certification action, please contact Valerie CarrilloZara, P.G., Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.

Sincerely,

  
Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Executive Officer

Sept. 2, 2016  
Date

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

Jemellee Cruz (via electronic copy)  
Los Angeles Flood Control District  
900 S. Fremont Avenue  
Annex Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Bill Orme (via electronic copy)  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
P.O. Box 944213  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2130

Brock Warmuth (via electronic copy)  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Streambed Alteration Team  
3883 Ruffin Rd Suite A  
San Diego, CA. 92123-4813

Bonnie Rogers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch, Los Angeles District  
915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1101  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Paul Amato (via electronic copy)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
WTR-2-4  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

G. Mendel Stewart  
Johnathan Snyder  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2177 Salk Avenue  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Marlene Alvarado  
California Coastal Commission  
200 Ocean Gate, 10th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

