



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 5, 2014

Erik Lunde
Lake Elsinore Lakeside Estates, LLC
1200 Quail Street, Suite 220
Newport Beach, CA, 92660

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR LAKESIDE ESTATES PROJECT, UNINCORPORATED AREA,
RIVERSIDE COUNTY (ACOE CORPS FILE NO. N/A) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO.
332014-12)**

Dear Mr. Lunde,

On July 17, 2013, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from Lake Elsinore Lakeside Estates, LLC for a project in an unincorporated area of Riverside County. The project consists of the development of a residential community on approximately 60 acres of a 90-acre site. The applicant has also submitted a \$944.00 State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) base filing fee, which was the base fee for 401 certification application fee requirement at the time the application was submitted. Additional fees in the amount of \$25,034.00 for 2,282 linear feet of total impacts to Waters of the State and a water quality assessment surcharge are required to be submitted prior to commencing with any on-site construction activities under this Certification. The fee amount was determined using the iteration of California Code of Regulations, Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1, section 2200 (a) (3) in effect when the application was submitted. 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 project consists of a 60-acre residential development, on a 90-acre project site. The project design includes the construction of 147 residential units, a reservoir, a 0.16 acre pump station, a 6.02 acre debris basin, and a 0.89 acre extended detention basin; together with other drainage and circulation elements. The remaining 30.95 acres (35%) will be retained and preserved in perpetuity as open space, within a conservation easement.

The work will take place within Section 29 of Township 6 South, Range 4 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Lake Elsinore and Wildomar* 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle maps (33° 36' 45" N/ -117° 18' 45" W).

Receiving water: Unnamed intermittent drainages tributary to Lake Elsinore, and Lake Elsinore, which have present or potential beneficial uses, including: municipal and domestic supply (MUN), water contact recreation (REC1), non-contact water recreation (REC2), warm freshwater habitat (WARM), and wildlife habitat (WILD).

Fill area:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Permanent Impact to Riparian Habitat | 0.14 acre | 39 linear feet |
| Permanent Impact to Streambed Habitat | 0.14 acre | 2,243 linear feet |

Dredge/Fill volume: N/A

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 29

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.
- Within the plan's design, the applicant has left seven (7) Open Space Lots, totaling 30.95 acres of the 90 acre project. These lots have been set aside within a conservation easement, to be maintained through perpetuity. The project site occurs within Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRC MSHCP) Criteria Cells.

Offsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- Mitigation for project effects to jurisdictional areas totaling 0.14 acre of non-wetland Waters of the U.S. and 0.28 acre of Waters of the State is proposed through acquisition of mitigation credits from the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District's (RCRCD) In Lieu Fee Program (ILFP. Both the project site and the mitigation areas are subject to the WRC MSHCP, which are within the ILFP service area. A number of the riparian species targeted for conservation through consistency with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP occur in areas for which ILFP mitigation credits are available.

The mitigation provided through acquisition of ILFP credits, that is, riparian habitat restoration, will yield equal or higher quality than the habitat being impacted, and will contribute to the long-term conservation goals of the MSHCP.

The proposed 3:1 mitigation ratio for impacts to 0.14 acre of riparian woodland, and for 0.14 acre of streambed habitat is illustrated in Table 1 below. As proposed, the total area of impact is 0.28 acre. As such, the applicant proposes the acquisition of 0.84 acre of ILFP credits from RCRCD.

| HABITAT | PERMANENT IMPACTS | RATIO | PROPOSED MITIGATION |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Riparian woodland | 0.14 | 3:1 | 0.42 |
| Streambed | 0.14 | 3:1 | 0.42 |
| TOTAL | 0.28 | --- | 0.84 |

Should the proposed project impact state- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, implementation of measures identified in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will ensure those impacts are mitigated to an acceptable level. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented to reduce construction-related impacts to Waters of the State, pursuant to the requirements of the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity Order No. 2009-00009-DWQ, commonly known as the Statewide General Construction Stormwater Permit (General Permit). Provisions within this permit require the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and subsequent Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP).

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 California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15096, as a responsible agency, the Regional Board is required to consider an EIR or Negative Declaration prepared by the lead agency in determining whether to approve a project. A responsible agency has responsibility for mitigating and avoiding only the direct and indirect environmental effects of those parts of the project which it decides to carry out, finance, or approve.

Further, the responsible agency must make findings as required by Sections 15091 and, if necessary, 15093, for each and every significant impact of the project.

As required by Section 15096, the Regional Board has considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared for the proposed project and filed with the Riverside County Planning Department on May 27, 2009, and information provided subsequently in the applicant's application, in approving this Certification. More specifically, the Regional Board has considered those sections of the MND relating to water quality. Based on the mitigation proposed in the MND, and the conditions set forth in this Certification, impacts to water quality will be reduced to a less than significant level and beneficial uses will be protected. Thus, the Regional Board finds that changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the project, which 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) The applicant must comply with the requirements of the applicable Clean Water Act section 404 permit.
- 2) Proposed mitigation shall be timely implemented. Materials documenting the purchase of necessary mitigation credits shall be provided to this office prior to the discharge of fill to, or the dredging or excavation of material from, waters of the state.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.

- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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 SWPPP or WQMP.
- 9) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.
- 10) Applicant shall ensure all procedures and policies specified within the project's WQMP, shall adequately address any hydraulic conditions of concern generated during and as a result of this project.
- 11) Construction de-watering discharges, including temporary stream diversions necessary for project construction may be regulated under Regional Board Order No. R8-2009-0003, 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. R8-2009-0003 at www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/
- 12) Applicant shall ensure that all fees associated with this project shall be paid to each respective agency prior to conducting any on-site construction activities.
- 13) Prior to any grading for the project in areas where wetland or riparian habitat is to be impacted, functional assessments of the areas that are to be impacted shall be conducted following the California Rapid Assessment Method, February 2012 (CRAM 2012). In addition, CRAM 2012 functional assessment studies of proposed wetland and riparian habitat mitigation sites shall be conducted. All CRAM 2012 assessments shall be conducted from October through December, until success criteria are met for consecutive years. This information shall be reported to <http://www.californiawetlands.net/tracker/>

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 issue an order certifying 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.

Erik Lunde
Lake Elsinore Lakeside Estates, LLC
RWQB #: 332013-12 CIWQS #: 797173

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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

Should there be any questions, please contact Marc Brown at (951) 321-4584, or Mark Adelson at (951) 782-3234.

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

cc (via electronic mail):

HELIX Environmental Planning – Barry Jones – barryj@helixepi.com
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office - James Mace
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife – Kim Freeburn
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 Regulatory Office WTR-8