

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 22, 2014

Bill Lo
Sunbelt Communities, LLC
27127 Calle Arroyo, Suite 1910
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR THE OAK CREEK CANYON DEVELOPMENT PROJECT,
CITY OF WILDOMAR, RIVERSIDE COUNTY (ACOE CORPS FILE NO. SPL-2014-
00260-JEM) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 332014-06)**

Dear Mr. Lo,

On April 1, 2014, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from Sunbelt Communities for a project in an undeveloped area of the City of Wildomar, Riverside County. The 168 acre project includes 137.82 acres of residential development. The project will include 275 residential parcels, with property sizes from 4,500 square feet. The applicant has submitted filing fees of \$22,721.00, which provides a portion of the fee requirement of \$45,442.00, for consideration of a 401 Certification for the project. 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 proposed 168 acre project, known as the Oak Creek Canyon Subdivision, includes an amendment to The Farm Specific Plan and adoption of supporting zoning to allow for a 275-parcel residential development. The project also includes associated roadways, with associated storm water drainage systems, tied to three parks and eight on-site drainage basins for water quality preservation. As part of the project, Bundy Canyon Road will be realigned consistent with existing Riverside County plans. Approximately 5.2 acres of the site will be designated and zoned for future neighborhood commercial development. Development of the entire project will be implemented in five (5) phased

development units. While numbered sequentially, the five development units might not be developed in numerical sequence and could be developed simultaneously.

The project drains into two watersheds: the Santa Ana and the Santa Margarita watershed. Within those watersheds, the project site drains to six receiving waters, including Murrieta Creek, the Santa Margarita River, and Santa Margarita Lagoon in the Santa Margarita Watershed, and the San Jacinto River, Canyon Lake, and Lake Elsinore in the Santa Ana Watershed. Although project drainages extend beyond the jurisdictional borders of the Santa Ana Region, project activities will cause the permanent impact to 0.152 acre of streambed habitat solely within the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board jurisdiction.

The work will take place within Section 19 of Township 6 South, Range 3 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Romoland* 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map (33.639300° N/ -117.231714° W).

Receiving water: Cottonwood Canyon Creek, Lake Elsinore, San Jacinto and its tributaries, which have present or potential beneficial uses, including: agricultural supply (AGR), ground water recharge (GWR), 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 Streambed Habitat	0.152 acre	3,448 linear feet
Temporary Impact to Streambed Habitat	0.023 acre	235 linear feet

Dredge/Fill volume: N/A

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 14 and 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.

Offsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- 0.30 acre of off-site mitigation credits to be purchased through a resource agency approved in-lieu fee program or off-site mitigation bank within the Santa Ana Watershed, such as the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) or the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD).

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.

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 November 2012 EIR prepared for the proposed project in approving this Certification. More specifically, the Regional Board has considered those sections of the EIR relating to water quality. Based on the mitigation proposed in the EIR, 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 independently 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) Applicant shall ensure that the remaining Certification fee of \$22,721.00 is paid to the State Water Quality Control Board, as well as all other fees associated with this project shall be paid to each respective agency prior to conducting any on-site construction activities.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Applicant shall ensure all procedures and policies specified within the project's Preliminary Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), Identified within the application materials submitted as "JLC2011b", shall adequately address any hydraulic conditions of concern generated during and as a result of this project.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.

- 9) 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.
- 10) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.
- 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/

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.

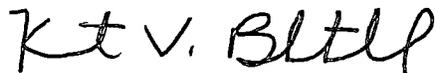
In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean 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

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):

PCR Services Corporation – Amir Morales – a.morales@pcrnet.com
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office - Jim Mace
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife – Jeff Brandt
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