



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

US EPA File # 365
USACE File # SPL-2010-00505-VCC

NOV 2 2015

John Corella
City of Cathedral City
Engineering Department
68-700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Subject: Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the Cathedral Canyon Drive Low Water Crossing Replacement (New Bridge) at the Whitewater River Project

Dear Mr. Bayne:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in receipt of your application for Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 water quality certification for the Cathedral Canyon Drive Low Water Crossing Replacement (New Bridge) at the Whitewater River Project, located in Cathedral City, Riverside County, Latitude 116°28'00"W/Longitude 33°47'26"N. The project would require work in waters of the United States (WUS) that will be permitted under a CWA Section 404 Individual Permit.

Project Description

The City of Cathedral City (Applicant) proposes to replace a low water crossing with an all-weather bridge over the Whitewater River. The bridge will be 88.5 feet wide and 599 feet long, constructed of concrete box girders carried by four reinforced concrete piers constructed in the riverbed, with abutments on each end of the bridge. There will also be a grouted riprap apron extending approximately 120 feet upstream (westerly) of the bridge and approximately 40 feet downstream. There is a concrete hydraulic drop structure located approximately 18 feet upstream of the bridge. The upstream and downstream terminus of the channel apron will be tied down with deep ungrouted riprap cut-off walls, which are designed to provide stability and manage channel flow velocities in the upstream channel reach. Channel side slopes above the apron will be lined with concrete. Downstream of the bridge and riprap apron, the channel will be graded as an earthen channel to match the existing channel geometry.

The Project impacts include grading and clearing, filling of the channel with riprap and concrete, and construction of the bridge. The total direct impact to Waters of the U.S is 2.01 acres. There will be 5.84 acres of temporary impacts. These impacts will be mitigated through the preservation of 9 acres of desert stream in the East Cathedral Canyon Wash area. The proposed project will slightly increase channel flow velocities approximately 500 feet upstream and reduce channel flow velocities downstream. The impacts associated with these changes in flow velocity are expected to be insignificant and manageable by routine maintenance of the channel, which is periodically conducted by RCFD&WCD and CVWD.

Certification

We hereby grant water quality certification provided the following conditions are adhered to during all phases of the project:

- 1) The Applicant shall comply with the terms and conditions of the 404 Individual Permit.
- 2) The duration of this certification is equivalent to that of the 404 permit.
- 3) The Applicant is responsible for obtaining all other permits, licenses, and certifications that may be required by federal, state, or tribal authorities.
- 4) The Project shall be constructed in conformance with the project description provided in the application. Any material changes to these plans must be submitted to EPA for review and approval before the changes are implemented.
- 5) Ground disturbance and vegetation removal and/or cutting shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the project. The applicant must minimize clearing, grubbing, scraping, or otherwise exposing erodible surface.
- 6) Sediment control, erosion control, and/or bank protection measures shall be installed prior to commencement of any ground disturbing activities and shall be maintained during construction and post-construction periods.
- 7) The Applicant must employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce or eliminate any increases in suspended particulates or turbidity that may occur in the project acres and immediately downstream of the area. BMPs shall be implemented according to the application and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region's standard specifications.
- 8) To minimize sedimentation and transport, no work will occur within areas where flowing and/or standing water is present. Additionally, in-channel work will not be performed during, or immediately following, high flow events.
- 9) Temporary structures, including but not limited to the access road, staging areas, berms, dikes, and pads shall be constructed so as to resist erosion by high flow events.
- 10) Except as specified in the application, no debris, silt, sand, cement, concrete, oil or petroleum, organic material, or other construction related materials or wastes shall be allowed to enter into or be stored where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into WUS.
- 11) The Applicant must designate area(s) for equipment staging and storage located entirely outside WUS. All equipment must be inspected for leaks prior to use in WUS. All leaks shall be repaired and equipment cleaned to remove fluid residue prior to use in WUS.
- 12) The Applicant shall have a spill containment plan onsite to ensure that pollutants are prevented from entering WUS. The applicant must designate area(s) entirely outside WUS for chemical

and petroleum or oil storage. A spill response kit will be maintained in this (these) area(s) to mitigate any spills.

- 13) When operations are completed, any excess material shall be removed from WUS. Any excess material from the work or any other pollutant must be appropriately disposed of outside of jurisdictional waters.
- 14) Excavated vegetation and sediment shall be removed and temporarily stored in an area outside the floodway of the Whitewater channel. After this material dries, the Applicant shall sample and characterize the material for off-site disposal. Prior to completion of the project, all excavated material shall be removed and taken to a suitable disposal site located outside of WUS.
- 15) The Applicant shall ensure no adverse changes due to the subject project have occurred to the stability (stream hydraulics, sedimentation, erosion) of any WUS, including upstream and downstream from the project. If any adverse change occurs, the applicant shall restore pre-project conditions of the impacted WUS.
- 16) To compensate for permanent impacts to WUS, the applicant shall place a permanent conservation easement within East Cathedral Canyon Wash on lands owned by the City with potential to be developed into golf course use. These lands will be managed by the Long Term Management Plan submitted by the City and approved by the USACE. The mitigation will include preservation of 9 acres of WUS, consisting of desert dry wash, and 9.5 acres of adjacent desert scrub.
- 17) If, at any time, an unauthorized discharge to WUS occurs, or any water quality problem arises, the associated project activities shall cease immediately until adequate BMPs are implemented. EPA shall be notified promptly after the unauthorized discharge or water quality problem arises.
- 18) A copy of this certification shall be provided to all contractors and subcontractors.

If you have questions regarding this certification, please contact Leana Rosetti of my staff at (415) 972-3070 or rosetti.leana@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Jason Brush
Supervisor
Wetlands Section

cc: Veronica Li, USACE, Los Angeles District
Margaret Park, Environmental Director, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

