

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
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(916) 653-5791



September 21, 2015

Mr. Thomas Howard
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Submittal of 2012 Certified Nationwide Permit Notification Form pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the West False River Salinity Barrier Geologic Exploration Project

Dear Mr. Howard:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is submitting to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) a 2012 Certified Nationwide Permit Notification Form pursuant to Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the West False River Salinity Barrier Geologic Exploration Project (Project). DWR has submitted a Pre-Construction Notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit No. 6 (NWP6)(Survey Activities).

In July 2015, DWR installed the Emergency Drought Barrier in West False River to control salinity within the Sacramento River-San Joaquin River Delta. Under this NWP6 DWR would conduct geologic exploration for installation of a future salinity barrier in West False River. Geologic exploration is required to reduce uncertainty associated with the underlying ground that would support a future salinity barrier, locate poor foundations soils like peat, and better estimate engineering design parameters.

Land-based geologic exploration may occur either (1) after USACE authorization but before November 15, 2015, or (2) May 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016. Overwater geologic exploration may occur either (1) after USACE authorization but before November 15, 2015, or (2) August 1, 2016 through November 15, 2016. A total of up to four cone penetrometer tests, two drill holes, and one overwater drill hole would be completed.

Enclosed is a notification package that consists of the 2012 Certified Nationwide Permit Notification Form and supplemental information, including:

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- Attachment A: Water Quality Certification Notification Continuation
- Attachment B: Pre-Construction Notification for Nationwide Permit No. 6
- Attachment C: Biological Assessments prepared for USFWS and NMFS
- Attachment D: Dredge and Fill Fee Calculator

If you have questions, need further information, or DWR can provide assistance with the permitting process, please contact our project manager, Jacob McQuirk, at Jacob.mcquirk@water.ca.gov or (916) 653-9883.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Marshall, Chief
Bay Delta Office

Enclosures

cc: Bill Guthrie
Senior Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street, Room 1350
Sacramento, California 95814