



August 22, 2024

Via Email

Zach Carter, Environmental Scientist III  
Nonpoint Source Branch, Bureau of Water Quality Planning  
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Paperless Submittal  
NDEP401@ndep.nv.gov

**Subject: CWA Section 401 - Water Quality Certification  
Mexican Dam Portage – Non-Motorized River Access  
Carson City Consolidated Municipality, Nevada**

On-behalf of Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, please find enclosed a request for a Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the Mexican Dam Portage – Non-Motorized River Access Project (Project). The project is located on the Carson River approximately 300 feet upstream of the Mexican Dam and is located on land owned by Carson City Consolidated Municipality, Nevada, Section 35, Township 15 North, Range 20 East within the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quad for McTarnahan Hill, Nevada.

An Aquatic Resource Delineation Report has been prepared for the site and is provided under separate cover.

In support of the request for project authorization, this packet includes supplemental information for your review. Specifically, the following items are included within the Preconstruction Notification Packet:

- Attachment 1: Project Maps
- Attachment 2: Site Photos
- Attachment 3: Project Description
- Attachment 4: Engineered Plans and Specifications
- Attachment 5: Nationwide Permits

If I can be of any assistance or answer any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Michael, QSD, CPESC  
Environmental Project Manager  
Resource Concepts, Inc.

*Enclosures*

**CARSON CITY**  
340 North Minnesota St.  
Carson City, NV 89703-4152  
(775) 883-1600 • fax: (775) 883-1656

**Engineering • Surveying • Water Rights  
Resources & Environmental Services**  
[www.rci-nv.com](http://www.rci-nv.com)

**LAKE TAHOE**  
276 Kingsbury Grade, Ste. 206, Stateline, NV  
PO Box 11796, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448-3796  
(775) 588-7500 • fax: (775) 589-6333



**Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application**

Please refer to the “Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application Guidance” document for assistance with completing this application.

<b>A. Pre-Filing Meeting</b>	
Please provide the date that a pre-filing meeting was requested from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Water Quality Planning (BWQP).	<b>May 13, 2024</b>
<i>Note: If a pre-filing meeting has not been requested, please schedule a pre-filing meeting with NDEP BWQP.</i>	

<b>B. Contact Information</b>	
<b>Project Proponent Information</b>	
Company Name: Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department	Address: 3303 Butti Way, Building #9
Applicant Name: Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager	City: Carson City
Phone: 775-887-2262      Fax:	State: Nevada
Email: LBoyer@carson.org	Zip Code: 89701
<b>Agent Information</b>	
Company Name: Resource Concepts, Inc	Address: 340 North Minnesota Street
Agent Name: JoAnne Michael	City: Carson City
Phone: 775-883-1600      Fax: 775-883-1656	State: NV
Email: joanne@rci-nv.com	Zip Code: 89703

<b>C. Project General Information</b>	
<b>Project Location</b>	
Project/Site Name: Mexican Dam Portage	Name of receiving waterbody: Carson River
Address: APN: 01-012-145	Type of waterbody present at project location ( <i>select all that apply</i> ): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perennial River or Stream <input type="checkbox"/> Intermittent River or Stream <input type="checkbox"/> Ephemeral River or Stream <input type="checkbox"/> Lake/Pond/Reservoir <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
City: Carson City	
County: Carson City	
State: Nevada	
Zip Code: 89701	
Latitude (UTM or Dec/Deg): 39.11969323	Longitude (UTM or Dec/Deg): -119.7078502 NAD 83

Township: 15 North	Range: 20 East	Section: 35	¼ Section: SW
<b>Project Details</b>			
Project purpose:		To provide for pedestrian river access and exist to safely portage kayaks and rafts around the Mexican Dam.	
Describe current site conditions:  Attachments can include, but are not limited to, relevant site data, photographs that represent current site conditions, or other relevant documentation.		Access to the site is via an existing road extending from Golden Eagle Lane. The project is located along the west bank of the Carson River approximately 300 feet south, upstream, of the Mexican Dam.  See the Location Map in Attachment 1.  The proposed ramp will be constructed within an upland disturbed area between an existing two-track access road and the riverbank. Vegetation consists of Big sagebrush ( <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> , UPL), Rabbitbrush ( <i>Ericameria nauseosus</i> , UPL), antelope bitterbrush ( <i>Purshia tridentata</i> , UPL); herbaceous understory is sparse and includes bottlebrush squirrel tail ( <i>Elymus elymoides</i> , UPL), cheatgrass ( <i>Bromus tectorum</i> , UPL), common wooly sunflower ( <i>Eriophyllum lanthanum</i> , UPL), and Wright’s buckwheat ( <i>Eriogonum wrightii</i> , UPL). There is a narrow fringe of coyote willow ( <i>Salix exigua</i> , FAC) on the riverbank.  See Attachment 2 – Site Photos of the proposed construction location visual depiction.	
Describe the proposed activity including methodology of each project element:		The project will be completed as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs);</li> <li>2) Clearing and Grading;</li> <li>3) Construction of the Ramp; and</li> <li>4) Site Stabilization.</li> </ol> See Attachment 3 – Project Description for detailed project description.	
Estimate the nature, specific location, and number of discharge(s) expected to be authorized by the proposed activity:		The proposed ramp would result the permanent impacts to 384 square feet (SF) of the Carson River, a Traditional Navigable Water, below the ordinary high-water mark. Approximately 32.3 cubic yards (CY) of soils will be removed below the OHWM and replaced with 24.8 CY of rock.	
Provide the date(s) on which the proposed activity is planned to begin and end and the approximate date(s) when any discharge(s) may commence:		August 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025	
Provide a list of the federal permit(s) or license(s) required to conduct the activity which may result in a discharge into regulated waters (see mandatory attachments):		Clean Water Act Section 404 and Section 10 Nationwide Permit 36 – Boat Ramps (Attachment 5).	

Provide a list of all other federal, state, interstate, tribal, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed activity and the current status of each authorization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NV State Lands Authorization to use State-Owned Submerged Lands</li> <li>• NDEP Bureau of Water Pollution Control Temporary Working in Waterways Permit</li> <li>• Carson City Building Permit</li> </ul>	
Total area of impact to regulated waterbodies (acres):	384 square feet of permanent impact to the Carson River, a Traditional Navigable Water, below the Ordinary High-Water Mark.	
Total distance of impact to regulated waterbodies (linear feet):	24 linear feet along the bank of the river	
Amount excavation and/or fill discharged within regulated waters (acres, linear feet, and cubic yards):	Temporary: 60 LF silt fencing	Permanent: 24.8 CY rock fill
Amount of dredge material discharged within regulated waters (acres, linear feet, and cubic yards):	Temporary: 0	Permanent: 0
Describe the reason(s) why avoidance of temporary fill in regulated waters is not practicable (if applicable):	The proposed ramp must extend below the OHWM in order to allow boaters safe entry and exit to and from the river.	
Describe the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts to regulated waters:  Examples include sediment and erosion control measures, habitat preservation, flow diversions, dewatering, hazardous materials management, water quality monitoring, equipment or plans to treat, control, or manage discharges, etc.	See Attachment 3 – Project Description for the complete list of BMPs.  BMPs will include, but not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timing construction to occur under no flow conditions;</li> <li>• Installation of sediment barriers at the base of all temporary areas of disturbance, around soil piles, and staging areas; and</li> <li>• Final site stabilization through placement of rock or revegetation with native seed mix.</li> </ul> See Attachment 1 - Figure 2. Site Plans and Impacts to Aquatic Resources for a depiction of the proposed engineering and construction activity locations as well as locations of proposed temporary and permanent impacts to on-site aquatic resources.	
Describe how the activity has been designed to avoid and/or minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to regulated waters:	Construction of the project will be timed to occur when water levels are at seasonal lows in the river and completed under no-flow conditions; no dewatering is anticipated. The ramp will be constructed to the minimum width necessary to accommodate standard kayaks, canoes, and small rafts only. Interlocking articulated concrete blocks will be used to construct the boat ramp; no concrete will be poured for this project. Disturbed upland areas along the riverbanks will be revegetated with a native seed mix following construction.  See Attachment 3 for a detailed project description and Attachment 4 for the Engineering Plan Sheets.	

Describe any compensatory mitigation planned for this project (if applicable):

The project will result in minimal permanent impacts to the Carson River below the OHWM (384 square feet; 24 linear feet); no mitigation is proposed.

**D. Signature**

Name and Title (Print):

Lyndsey Boyer,  
Open Space Manager

Phone Number:

(775) 283-7341

Date:

09/10/2024

X



Signature of Responsible Official

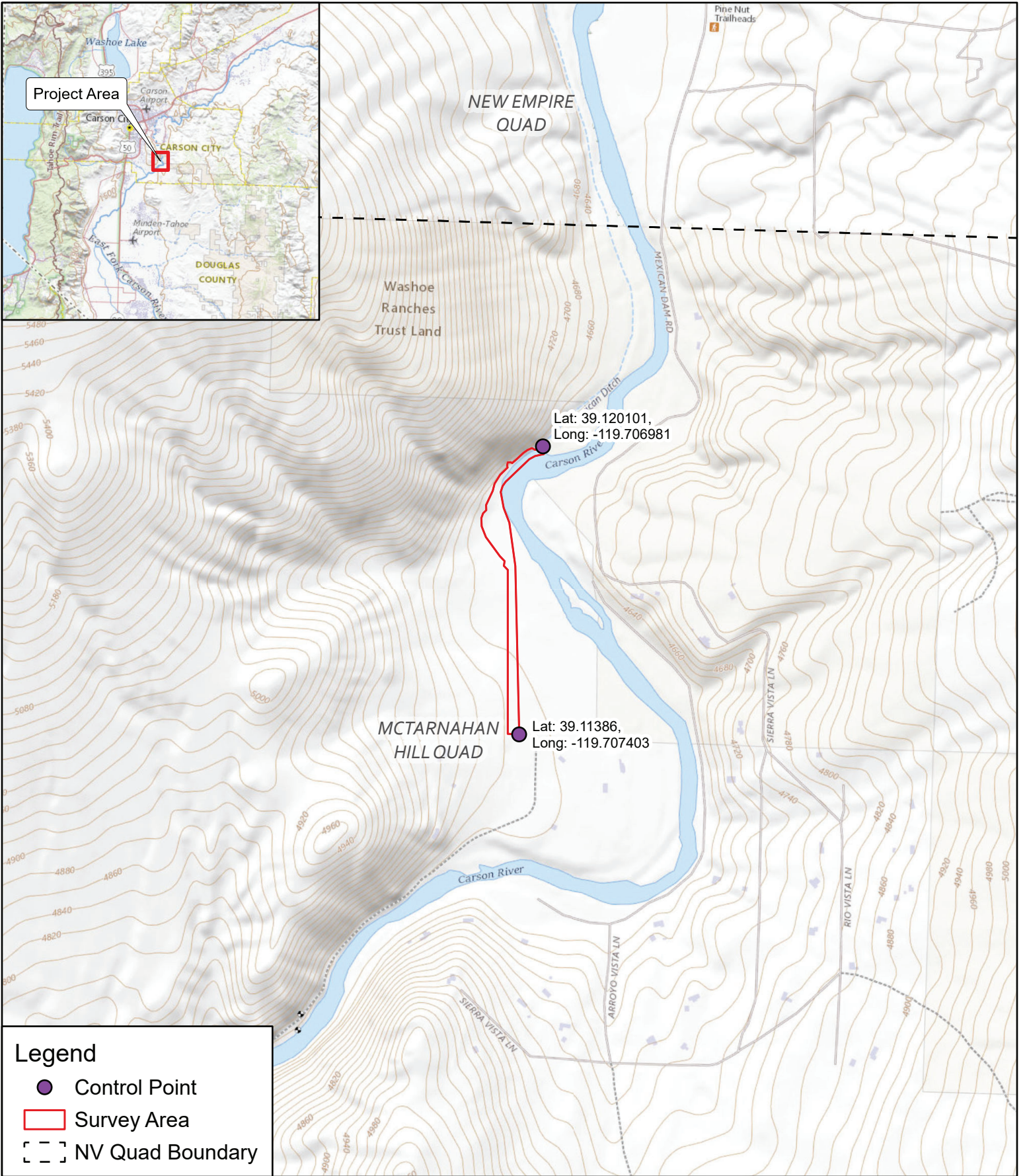
**Mandatory Attachments:**

- **Federal Permit or License Identification:**
  - Project proponents seeking a federal general permit or license must include a copy of the draft federal license or permit and any readily available water quality-related materials that informed the development of the draft federal license or permit, or;
  - Project proponents seeking a federal individual permit or license must include a copy of the federal permit or license application and any readily available water quality-related materials that informed the development of the federal license or permit application.
- **Site Map** - A map or diagram of the proposed project site including project boundaries in relation to regulated waters, local streets, roads, and highways.
- **Engineered Drawings** - Engineered drawings are preferred to be submitted at the 70% design level. If only conceptual designs are available at the time of application, plans for construction should be submitted prior to the start of the project. Specific locations of the proposed activities and details of specific work elements planned for the project should be identified (e.g., staging areas, concrete washouts, perimeter controls, water diversions, or other BMPs).

Submit the completed application materials to NDEP ([ndep401@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:ndep401@ndep.nv.gov)) with the appropriate U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Office copied on the communication (<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Contacts/Contact-Your-Local-Office/>).

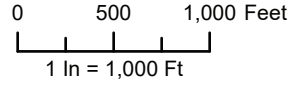
# Attachment 1

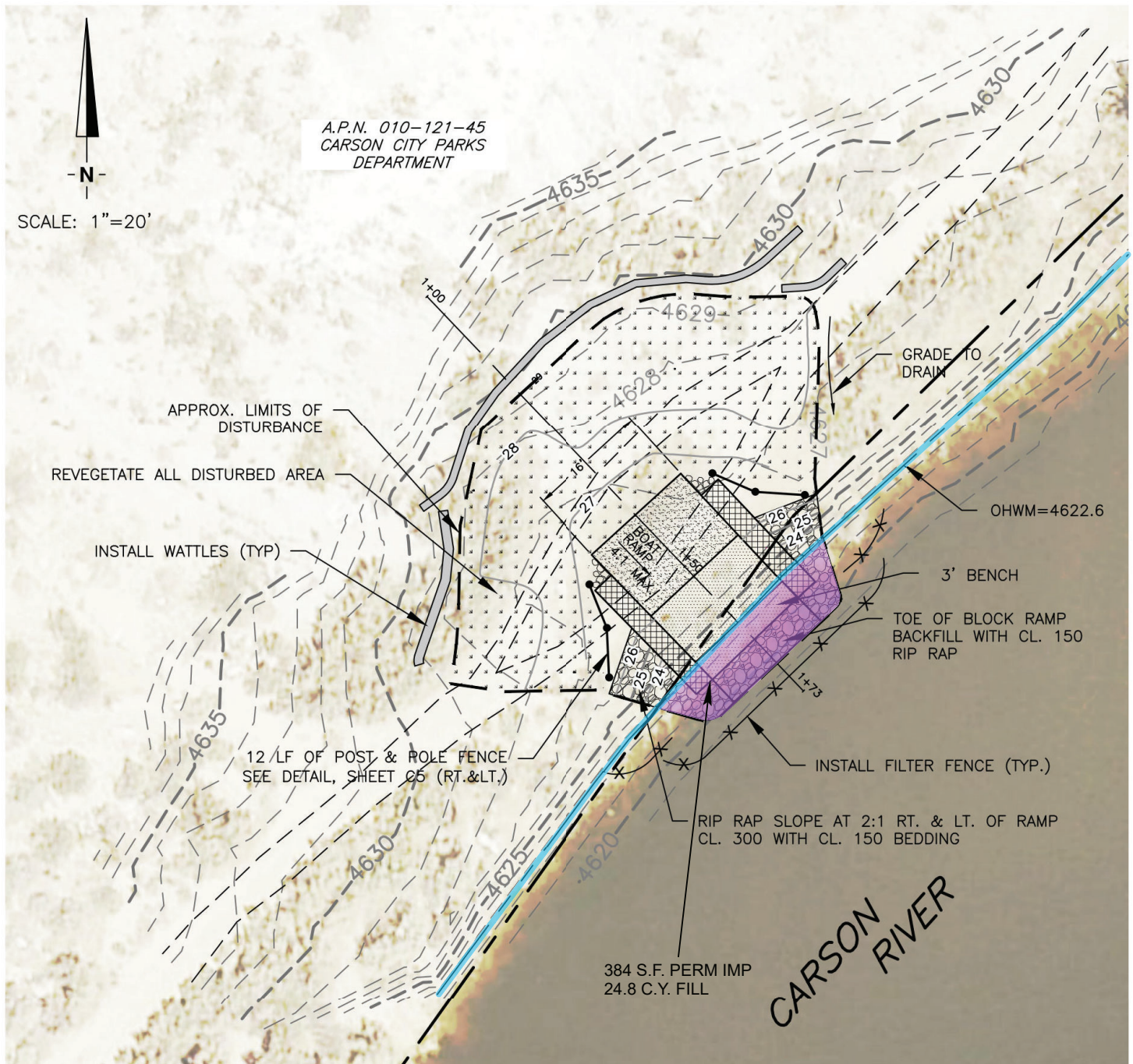
Site Maps



Project: Mexican Dam Portage  
 County: Carson City  
 Surveyors: JoAnne Michael  
 Survey Date: Sept 8, 2023  
 Source: USGS The National Map, 2020  
 Mctarnahan Hill Quad

# Attachment 1 Location Map





**LEGEND**

	FILTER FENCE		ROCKERY WALL
	DIRT PATH		RIP RAP SLOPE PROTECTION
	PROPOSED MAJOR CONTOUR LINE		ANCHOR TRENCH BACKFILL
	PROPOSED MINOR CONTOUR LINE		RAMP AREA BASE SURFACE
	EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR LINE		REVEGETATION
	EXISTING MINOR CONTOUR LINE		FIBER ROLL
	ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK		
	APPROXIMATE PROPERTY BOUNDARY		

**Figure 2**  
**Site Plan and Impacts to Aquatic Resources**



# Attachment 2

Site Photos

## Attachment 2 – Site Photo



Photo 1: Location of proposed ramp within area of existing disturbance adjacent to Carson River.



Photo 2: Location of proposed ramp within area of existing disturbance adjacent to Carson River. Mexican dam in photo background (approximately 300 feet down stream).

### Attachment 2 – Site Photo



Photo 3: Overview of north end of Survey Area. Narrow fringe of *Salix exigua* (FACW) and *Leymus triticoides* (FAC) along riverbank. View looking south along the existing access road at approximate location boat takeout.



Photo 4: Overview of existing access road through upland, south of proposed ramp location. View looking northeast.

Attachment 2 – Site Photo



Photo 5: Overview of access road through upland. Vegetation dominated by *Artemisia tridentata* (UPL). View looking southwest.

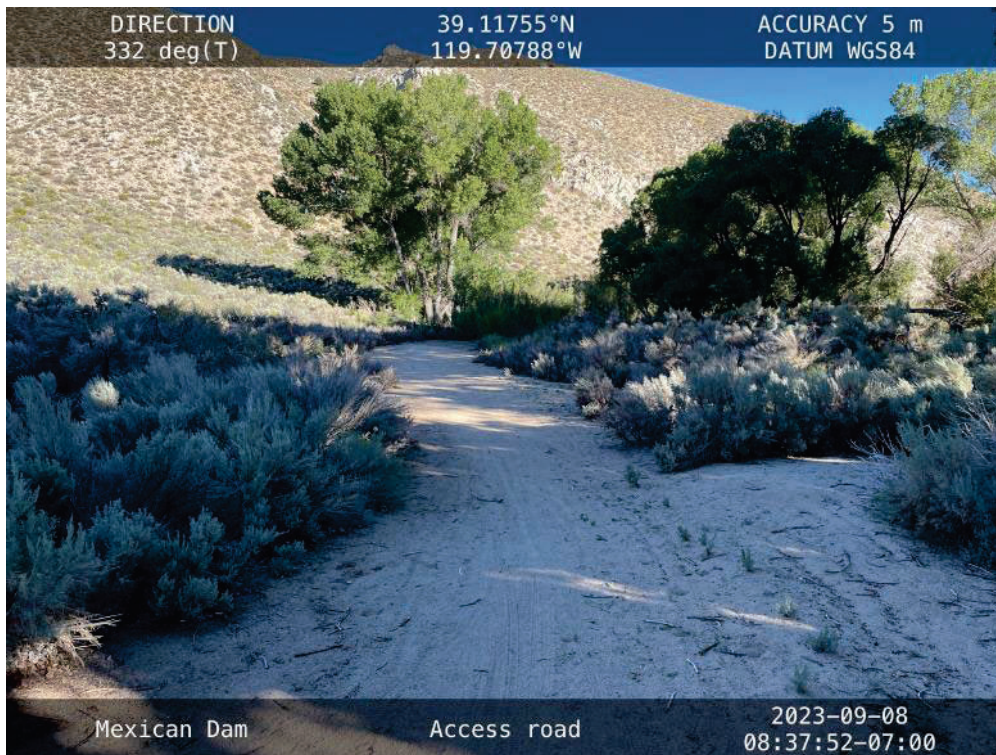


Photo 6: Existing access road through riparian corridor south proposed portage.

Attachment 2 – Site Photo



Photo 7: Existing access road. Adjacent dead vegetation (shown on left) to be cleared and area widened for equipment staging during construction.



Photo 8: Southern extent of existing access road through upland sagebrush scrub.

# **Attachment 3**

Detailed Project Description

## Attachment 3: Mexican Dame Portage Project Description

### Project Description

Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space is proposing to construct a boat ramp on the bank of the Carson River, allowing pedestrians to safely portage kayaks and rafts around the Mexican Dam. The project will also include signage alerting boaters of the upcoming ramp, hazards associated with the Mexican dam, and informational signage at the takeout.

Access to the construction site will be via an existing dirt road that extends from Golden Eagle Lane to the Mexican Dam, located approximately 300 feet north (upstream) of the project area.

The project will be completed as follows:

#### 1) *Installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs)*

Prior to construction, BMPs will be implemented to minimize erosion, reduce sediment runoff, and protect natural resources. Boundary fencing (e.g., orange construction fencing or highly visible rope fencing) will be installed and maintained throughout the duration of the project to mark the limits of site grading, equipment staging, material stockpiling, designated pullouts, and to protect adjacent vegetation. Additionally, silt fencing and fiber rolls will be placed downslope of areas to be graded and around all temporary soil stockpiles.

#### 2) *Clearing and Grading*

Vegetation removal may be necessary to ensure the safe access of construction equipment along the access road and at staging areas. Where required, existing vegetation within the construction corridor will be trimmed to allow vehicle access and reduce fire hazards. The staging area at the intersection of an existing trail and access road will be cleared of upland (dead) shrubs to accommodate the storage of construction equipment and materials (see photos in Attachment 2)

The ramp will be graded perpendicular to the existing riverbank. Approximately 32.3 cubic yards (CY) of soil will be removed below the OHWM for the construction of the river access. Excavated soil will be stockpiled in previously disturbed upland staging area or immediately offloaded into a haul truck. Excavated soil will not be discharged into a waters of the US/State and that the material will not remain in a position to discharge to waters of the US/State or violate applicable water quality standards. Total area of disturbance for the ramp and take out area is approximately 3,000 square feet and 9,000 square feet at the staging area. This will result in permanent impacts to 384 square feet (SF) below the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) (see Figure 2 in Attachment 1).

#### 3) *Construction of the Ramp*

The boat ramp will be constructed to be 16 feet wide and approximately 24 feet long with a 4:1 slope. The ramp surface will be constructed with interlocking articulated concrete block below the OHWM and compacted aggregate base above the OHWM. Below the blocks, a geotextile fabric will be placed over native subbase, followed by 6-inch depth of 2.5-inch minus of angular free draining base, then the hand-placed block. To secure the block, it will be cabled together with edges anchored under compacted base at the top edge and 12-to-24-inch diameter rock at the sides and toe of the ramp. No concrete will be poured during the construction of this project.

A three-foot horizontal bench will be constructed at the lower elevation of the ramp to provide an area for boaters to safely disembark their boats before exiting up the ramp. Class 150 riprap (6-to-10-inch diameter) will be used to backfill the anchor trench at the toe of the ramp. Rock fill will match existing riverbank elevations and be infilled with 1.5-inch diameter of angular gravel to reduce scour that would undermine the ramp stability.

To minimize the horizontal extent of disturbance and provide slope stability within the steep cut bank, a rockery wall will be constructed along the ramp edges. The rockery wall will be 3-feet wide at the base, sloped 1 to 4 from base to top, and made from 12 to 24-inch diameter angular rock, back filled with  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1-inch free draining rock. The height of the rockery wall will range from 0 to 3 feet. The rock for the wall will be embedded 12-inches minimum underlain by native base or 6-inch layer of gravel depending on site conditions.

Above the wall, side slopes will be graded at a 5:1 typical slope match existing grade and disturbed soils will be revegetated. At the steepened riverbank, the wall will transition to a 2:1 slope perpendicular to the river. For 3 to 8 feet along the bank each side of the ramp, the bank will be flattened to a 2:1 slope to match the top of wall and smoothly tie into the existing grades. Class 300 rip rap (12-to-20-inch diameter) with Class 150 bedding will be embedded in the bank to prevent scouring.

Approximately 15-feet of post and pole wood fence will be constructed on each side of the ramp to warn adjacent trail users of the ramp location.

#### *4) Site Stabilization and Long-Term Maintenance*

All areas of temporary disturbance that are not covered with rock or articulated blocks will be revegetated. Previously graded and compacted soils will be de-compacted, raked, and reseeded with a native seed mix per the revegetation specifications on plan sheet C5 in Attachment 5 – Engineering Plans. Carson City Parks, Recreation, & Open Space will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the boat ramp surrounding areas affected by construction activities.

### **Construction Equipment**

Standard construction equipment will be used for the project and includes an excavator, loader, compactor, dump truck, and standard utility truck.

### **Staging Areas**

Staging of equipment and materials will be on upland areas adjacent to Golden Eagle Road and at the intersection of the dirt access road with a decommissioned trail (see Attachment 5 – Engineering Plans). Upland shrubs may be cleared within the delineated staging area as needed for safe storage of equipment. All staging areas will be located greater than 100 feet from any aquatic resource and appropriate BMPs will be used.

### **Construction Schedule**

To facilitate construction and for the protection of water quality, the project will be timed to be completed under no flow conditions. Based on review of flow data, site geotechnical report, and discussions with the Federal Water Master, water within this portion of the river is typically at its



lowest during mid-August when upstream water users are still actively irrigating, evapotranspiration is high, and chance of precipitation is low.

To achieve no flow conditions within the project area, construction is planned to begin August 1, 2025, pending obtaining of required permits and occur over several week to be complete no later than October 31, 2025.

### **Best Management Practices**

#### *Schedule*

- Timing of work within the regulated waterway will be coordinated to occur under no flow conditions within the river.

#### *Erosion Control*

- Boundary fencing (i.e., orange construction fencing or highly visible rope fencing) will be placed and maintained as shown on plan sheets to clearly identify the limits of site grading, equipment staging and material stockpiling areas, and identified pullouts to protect adjacent vegetation.
- Vegetation removal will be minimized to the extent practicable. Where necessary within the construction access corridor, existing vegetation will be trimmed to a height necessary for construction equipment access. Any vegetation within the equipment access areas that could pose a fire danger if left in place will be removed.

#### *Sediment control*

- All construction activities shall be performed in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Installation and maintenance of erosion control measures in accordance with *the attached Erosion Control Plan* are the responsibility of the contractor and should be installed and approved by an RCI's engineer or environmental specialist prior to the start of construction.
- Erosion control measures shown on these plans are intended as a guide. Additional erosion control measures may be required as determined in the field by an RCI's engineer or SWPPP Developer. This responsibility shall apply throughout the course of construction and until all disturbed areas have become stabilized and shall not be limited to wet weather periods.
- Excavated soils will be stockpiled temporarily within previously disturbed, upland staging areas or immediately offloaded into a haul truck. Sediment barriers will be placed around the downslope perimeter of temporary soil stockpiles.
- All new fiber rolls or erosion control mesh shall be made of loose-weave mesh, such as jute or coconut fiber. Products with plastic cross joints in the netting shall not be allowed.
- All sediment barriers will be inspected on a weekly basis and after precipitation events by the contractor for damage and appropriate placement to reduce potential erosion.
- Additional sediment control material necessary to facilitate rapid construction of temporary devices or to repair damaged erosion control measures shall be available on-site and stockpiled at approved locations.

- Temporary soil stabilization measures shall be maintained until vegetation is established and soil stabilized.

#### *Vehicle Storage and Maintenance*

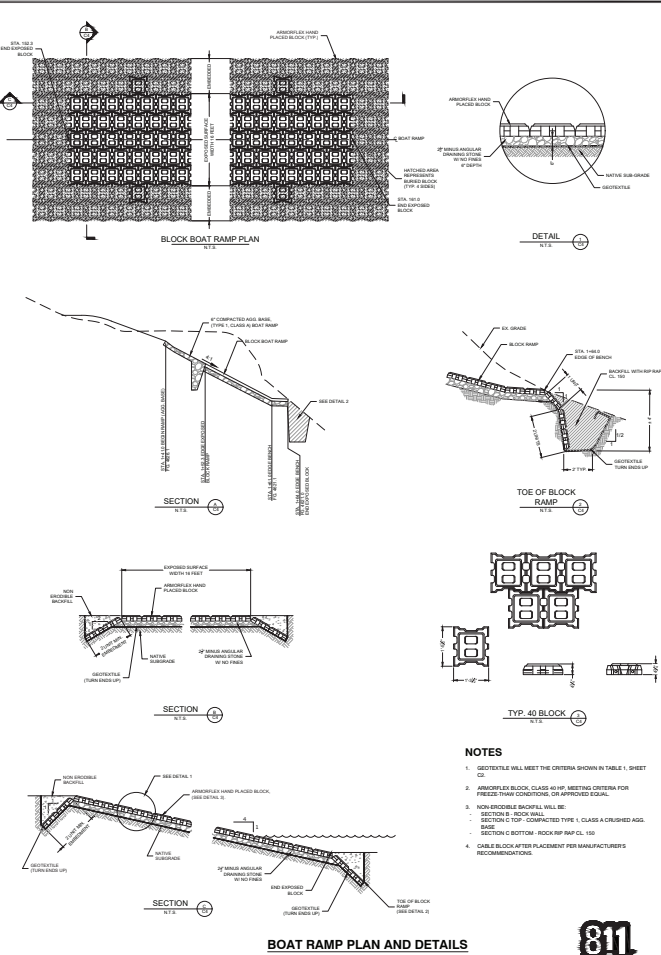
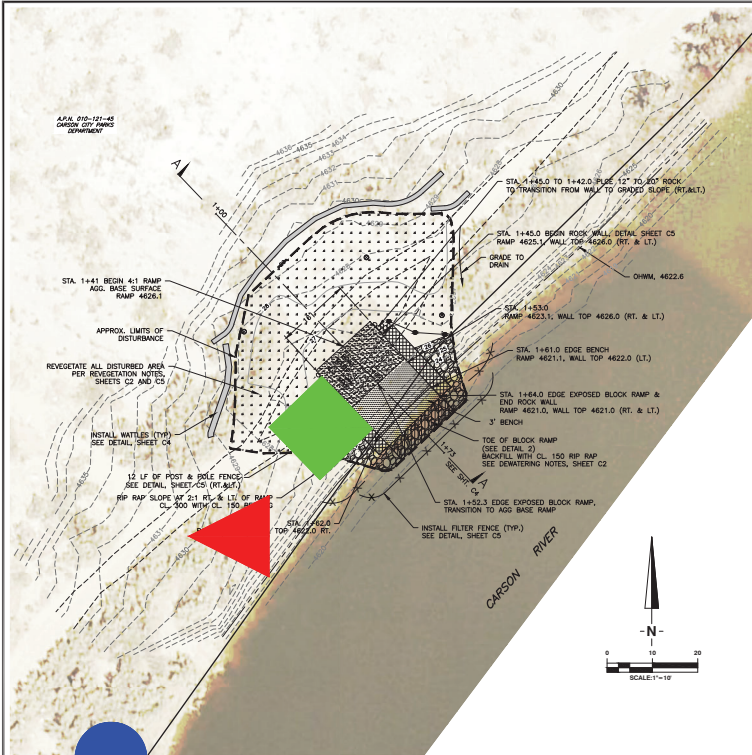
- No construction equipment or materials shall be stored within 100 feet of the river except during active use. Equipment shall be stored in the designated staging area or driven off-site at the end of each workday. Staging and storage areas of equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, and solvents shall be located more than 100 feet from all watercourses and aquatic resources.
- All equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated on-site shall be checked and maintained daily to prevent leaks of materials. If maintenance or refueling of vehicles or equipment must occur on-site, the contractor shall use a designated area and/or secondary containment located more than 100 feet away from watercourses and aquatic resources.
- All construction equipment and vehicles will be washed and inspected for weed seeds and plant parts prior to bringing them onto the property. Vehicles or other traffic that may transport weed seed or plant materials will be restricted from entering the site.

#### *Site Stabilization*

- Upon completion of the work, smooth all ground surfaces, remove excess dirt, materials, rubbish and debris. Repair all scars, ruts, or other marks in the ground caused by the construction-related activities.
- All areas disturbed and left undeveloped for a period of more than 30 days shall be stabilized by the application of an approved dust palliative or hydromulch.
- All exposed/disturbed areas shall be revegetated with a native seed mix, in accordance with project specifications shown on the plan sheets provided in Attachment 5.

# **Attachment 4**

Engineered Plans and Specifications



- NOTES**
1. GEOTEXTILE WILL MEET THE CRITERIA SHOWN IN TABLE 1, SHEET C3
  2. ANTIWHEEL BLOCK, CLASS 48 RIP, MEETING CRITERIA FOR FREEZE THAW CONDITIONS, OR APPROVED EQUAL.
  3. NON-ERODIBLE BACKFILL WILL BE:
    - SECTION B - ROCK WALL
    - SECTION C TOP - COMPACTED TYPE 1, CLASS A CRUSHED AGG. BASE
    - SECTION C BOTTOM - ROCK RIP RAP CL. 150
  4. CABLE BLOCK AFTER PLACEMENT PER MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS.

**LEGEND**

	FILTER FENCE		ROCKERY WALL
	DIRT PATH		RIP RAP SLOPE PROTECTION
	PROPOSED MAJOR CONTOUR LINE		ANCHOR TRENCH BACKFILL
	PROPOSED MINOR CONTOUR LINE		RAMP AREA BASE SURFACE
	EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR LINE		REVEGETATION
	EXISTING MINOR CONTOUR LINE		FIBER ROLL
	ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK		
	APPROXIMATE PROPERTY BOUNDARY		

**NOTE**

1. ALL AREAS THAT ARE TEMPORARILY DISTURBED AND DO NOT HAVE ROCK PROTECTION SHALL BE RESEDED PER SPECIFICATIONS ON SHEET C5.

Engineering • Surveying • Water Rights  
Resources • Environmental Services

Carson City  
270 S. Industrial Way, Suite 300  
Carson City, NV 89401  
775.238.3000

**ROI**  
Resource Concepts Inc.

DATE	
REVISION	

CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
MEXICAN DAM PORTAGE

SITE/GRADING PLAN

811  
Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

90% PLAN SET

JOB NO.:	23-207-1
DATE:	09.06.2024
DESIGNED:	JIS
DRAWN:	MER.MLM
CHECKED:	JIS

C4

# Attachment 5

Nationwide Permit



U S Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Sacramento District

# 2021 Nationwide Permit Summary

33 CFR Part 330; Issuance of Nationwide  
Permits – February 25, 2022

**36. Boat Ramps.** Activities required for the construction, repair, or replacement of boat ramps, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States does not exceed 50 cubic yards of concrete, rock, crushed stone or gravel into forms, or in the form of pre-cast concrete planks or slabs, unless the district engineer waives the 50 cubic yard limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge of dredged or fill material will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;
- (b) The boat ramp does not exceed 20 feet in width, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge of dredged or fill material will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;
- (c) The base material is crushed stone, gravel or other suitable material;
- (d) The excavation is limited to the area necessary for site preparation and all excavated material is removed to an area that has no waters of the United States; and,
- (e) No material is placed in special aquatic sites, including wetlands. The use of unsuitable material that is structurally unstable is not authorized. If dredging in navigable waters of the United States is necessary to provide access to the boat ramp, the dredging must be authorized by another NWP, a regional general permit, or an individual permit.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if:

- (1) The discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States exceeds 50 cubic yards, or
- (2) the boat ramp exceeds 20 feet in width. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404).

## A. Regional Conditions

1. [Regional Conditions for California](#)
2. [Regional Conditions for Nevada and Utah](#)

## B. Nationwide Permit General Conditions

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer.

Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP. Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWPs, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWPs, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of 33 CFR 330.1 through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially 33 CFR 330.5 relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

### 1. Navigation.

- (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
- (b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.
- (c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his or her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

2. **Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

**BUILDING STRONG®**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – SACRAMENTO DISTRICT**

1325 J ST. – SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

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[www.twitter.com/USACE\\_Sacramento](https://www.twitter.com/USACE_Sacramento)

[www.flickr.com/photos/sacramentodistrict](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sacramentodistrict)

3. **Spawning Areas.** Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

4. **Migratory Bird Breeding Areas.** Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

5. **Shellfish Beds.** No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

6. **Suitable Material.** No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

7. **Water Supply Intakes.** No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

8. **Adverse Effects From Impoundments.** If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

9. **Management of Water Flows.** To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

10. **Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.** The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

11. **Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

12. **Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.

13. **Removal of Temporary Fills.** Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their

use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

14. **Proper Maintenance.** Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

15. **Single and Complete Project.** The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

16. **Wild and Scenic Rivers.**

(a) No NWP activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: <https://www.rivers.gov/>.

17. **Tribal Rights.** No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

18. **Endangered Species.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is authorized under any NWP which “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the

consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See 50 CFR 402.02 for the definition of “effects of the action” for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation, as well as 50 CFR 402.17, which provides further explanation under ESA section 7 regarding “activities that are reasonably certain to occur” and “consequences caused by the proposed action.”

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity “may affect” or will have “no effect” to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps’ determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have “no effect” on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation or conference with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the NWPs.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an NWP does not authorize the “take” of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with “incidental take” provisions, etc.) from the FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take” means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal applicant should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether an additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their world wide web pages at <https://www.fws.gov/> or <https://www.fws.gov/ipac/> and <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/endangered-species-conservation> respectively.

19. **Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles.** The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an NWP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether “incidental take” permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird



Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

**20. Historic Properties.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which may have the potential to cause effects to properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on the historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will

conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects to historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110(k) of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

**21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts.** Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by an NWP, they must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the Federal, Tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

□ 22. **Designated Critical Resource Waters.** Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

□ (a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWP 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

□ (b) For NWP 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWP only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

□ 23. **Mitigation.** The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

□ (a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

□ (b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

□ (c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

□ (d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse

environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, since streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

□ (e) Compensatory mitigation plans for NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

□ (f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

□ (1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWP, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district

engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWP. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits

also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWP.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

24. **Safety of Impoundment Structures.** To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-Federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. **Water Quality.**

(a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed discharge must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a water quality certification previously issued by certifying authority for the issuance of the NWP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed discharge in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP.

(b) If the NWP activity requires pre-construction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, the proposed discharge is not authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver.

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

**26. Coastal Zone Management.** In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP. The district engineer or a state may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

**27. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

**28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) If only one of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States cannot exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with an associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

(b) If one or more of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by those NWPs cannot exceed their respective specified acreage limits. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under NWP 39, and the single and complete project includes the filling of an upland ditch authorized by NWP 46, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the commercial development under NWP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States due to the NWP 39 and 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

**29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications.** If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

“When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit,

including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.”

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(Transferee)

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(Date)

**30. Compliance Certification.** Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The success of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

(a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;

(b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and

(c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation.

The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

**31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.** If an NWP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a “USACE project”), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

**32. Pre-Construction Notification.**

(a) **Timing.** Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be

incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

(1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) Contents of Pre-Construction Notification: The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed activity;

(3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4)

(i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an NWP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non-PCN NWP activities into NWP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial and intermittent streams, on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate;

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

(9) For an activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the "study river" (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an NWP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) Form of Pre-Construction Notification: The nationwide permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 6082) should be used for NWP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

(d) Agency Coordination:

(1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity's adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for: (i) all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States; (ii) NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and (iii) NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

(3) When a agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via e-mail, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or e-mail that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant

loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

(4) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

### C. District Engineer's Decision

1. In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific NWP, the district engineer should issue the NWP verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that NWP, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the single and complete crossings of waters of the United States that require PCNs to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the NWP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings of waters of the United States authorized by an NWP. If an applicant requests a waiver of an applicable limit, as provided for in NWPs 13, 36, or 54, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the NWP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the NWP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by an NWP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the NWP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the NWP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the NWP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the NWP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and

practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add case-specific special conditions to the NWP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.

3. If the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for NWP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters. The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the NWP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure that the NWP activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the NWP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the NWP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the NWP authorization by the district engineer.

4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either: (a) that the activity does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit; (b) that the activity is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or (c) that the activity is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 18, 20, and/or 31),

with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal. When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

#### **D. Further Information**

1. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).

#### **E. Nationwide Permit Definitions**

**Best management practices (BMPs):** Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

**Compensatory mitigation:** The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

**Currently serviceable:** Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

**Direct effects:** Effects that are caused by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

**Discharge:** The term “discharge” means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

**Ecological reference:** A model used to plan and design an aquatic habitat and riparian area restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under NWP 27. An ecological reference may be based on the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic habitat type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region where the proposed NWP 27 activity is located. Alternatively, an ecological reference may be based on a conceptual model for the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type to be restored, enhanced, or established as a result of the proposed NWP 27 activity. An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

**Enhancement:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten,

intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s) but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in an aquatic resource area.

**Establishment (creation):** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in an aquatic resource area.

**High Tide Line:** The line of intersection of the land with the water’s surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gages, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

**Historic Property:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including an archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR part 60).

**Independent utility:** A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete non-linear project in the Corps Regulatory Program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

**Indirect effects:** Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable.

**Loss of waters of the United States:** Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. The loss of stream bed includes the acres of stream bed that are permanently adversely affected by filling or excavation because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters or wetlands for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. Waters of the United States temporarily filled,



flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities that do not require Department of the Army authorization, such as activities eligible for exemptions under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act, are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

**Navigable waters:** Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329.

**Non-tidal wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

**Open water:** For purposes of the NWP, an open water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high-water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of flowing or standing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of “open waters” include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

**Ordinary High Water Mark:** The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

**Perennial stream:** A perennial stream has surface water flowing continuously year-round during a typical year.

**Practicable:** Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

**Pre-construction notification:** A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Pre-construction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where pre-construction notification is not required, and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit.

**Preservation:** The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area or functions.

**Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-

establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

**Rehabilitation:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Restoration:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

**Riffle and pool complex:** Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

**Riparian areas:** Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23).

**Shellfish seeding:** The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

**Single and complete linear project:** A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term “single and complete project” is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

**Single and complete non-linear project:** For non-linear projects, the term “single and complete project” is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of “independent utility”). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be “piecemealed” to avoid the limits in an NWP authorization.

**Stormwater management:** Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

**Stormwater management facilities:** Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

**Stream bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high-water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high-water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

**Stream channelization:** The manipulation of a stream’s course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized jurisdictional stream remains a water of the United States.

**Structure:** An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, a aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

**Tidal wetland:** A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line.

**Tribal lands:** Any lands title to which is either: 1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or 2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

**Tribal rights:** Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.

**Vegetated shallows:** Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have

rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

**Waterbody:** For purposes of the NWPs, a waterbody is a “water of the United States.” If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)).