



Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Misael Cabrera  
Director

## Clean Water Act § 401 Water Quality Certification

### Regional General Permit No. 62 – Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado River (LCR), Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Activities

#### 1. Authorization

This State Water Quality Certification (WQC) is issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) under the authority of § 401(a) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) § 49-202.

Based on the information provided and identified in Section 3, ADEQ certifies that the activities proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation will not violate applicable Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS) in the Lower Colorado River.

##### a. Location

Colorado River from Davis Dam to the Southern International Border

ADEQ PLC: 144723

ADEQ LTF: 90455

##### b. Applicant Information

Chris Wallis

Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office

Resource Management Office

7301 South Calle Agua Salada

Yuma, Arizona 85364-9763

#### Authorizing Signature

Trevor Baggione

Water Quality Division

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Date

#### Main Office

1110 W. Washington Street • Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 771-2300

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## 2. Description of Certified Activities

The Colorado River Front Work and Levee System Act of 1927 (Statute 1010) requires the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to maintain the main river conveyance channel, river bank lines, levee system, and flood control structures under its jurisdictional authority. This reissuance allows for the activities above to be conducted in order for Reclamation to continue to fulfill its jurisdictional requirements.

The reissuance of this permit authorizes Reclamation to conduct the activities listed below:

1. Bank Stabilization – On an as-needed basis, perform bank stabilization with lengths ranging from 25 linear feet for spot repairs to no more than 2,500 linear feet for currently unprotected or reinforcement of currently protected bank lines. Armoring of bank lines will require from 2.5 cubic yards (cy) (3.75 tons) to 10 cy (15 tons) per linear foot.
2. Replace/Relocate Culverts, Permeable Structures, and Associated Supporting Inlet/Outlet Work.
  - a. Replace and/or relocate culverts and permeable structures to allow continuous flow of water. Material excavated may be used as backfill, but excess material will be hauled to an upland disposal site.
  - b. The maximum length of a typical new structure would be 100 feet along an existing levee with approximately 3,500 cy of fill for each structure. To facilitate culvert placement activities in existing permeable structures, a small portion of the existing rock wand fill permeable structure shall be left in place on the river side to act as a retaining wall. This shall allow initial placement of culverts by preventing flows from entering the work area. Once the culvert pipe section is placed on the backwater side, the retaining wall will then be removed, and the second pipe sections will be placed on the river side.
  - c. To prevent scouring and destabilization of the streambed after new culverts have been placed, this RGP will also allow the placement of protective riprap (blanket) aprons to be placed on the backwater side of the culvert. The aprons would be placed underwater. Approximately 50 to 100 cy of riprap is authorized under this RGP to be discharged per structure, depending on the number of culverts in the structure.
3. Remove Wash Fan Material. Remove a maximum of 16,000 cy of sediment per wash fan, excavated to a maximum depth of 4 feet, but leaving a small portion of the fan in place for spawning habitat. Some materials excavated may be used for bank line stabilization in the affected wash. Dredges are not authorized for use in wash fan removal. The maximum amount of material to be removed in total per calendar year is 32,000 cy.
4. Dredging of Settling Basins and Above Dams. Conduct dredging in front of dams and in desilting basis. The maximum amount of material allowable for dredging is

2.7 million cy per site. Dredged spoil will be removed to an upland, bermed disposal site with no return water to the river, its tributaries, backwaters, sloughs, or historic channels unless specifically approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a case-by-case basis.

5. Maintain Rock Weirs. Maintain existing rock weirs. Construction of new weirs is not authorized by this RGP.
6. Remove 25,000 Cubic Yards of Material from Inlets/Outlets. Use a dredge, amphibious excavator, or land-based equipment to remove a maximum of 25,000 cy of material per inlet and/or outlet to reopen backwaters and other facilities. Removed material will be disposed of at an upland disposal site. If a dredge is used, the disposal site will be bermed; no return water is allowed to flow directly to the river, its tributaries, backwaters, sloughs, or historic channels unless specifically approved by EPA on a case-by-case basis.
7. Remove Vegetation from Existing Structures. Clear vegetation from an existing facility by dredge or land-based equipment; vegetation may only be cleared during low flows. A maximum of no more than one acre of vegetation may be removed per occurrence, and activities shall be limited to facilities, inlets/outlets, structures, and roads. No vegetation shall be removed below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) during bank stabilization activities.
8. Construct Boat Ramps. Construct boat ramps for equipment access. The maximum width of each ramp shall be 50 feet. 500 cy is the maximum allowable amount of rock that may be used to stabilize the ramp, and a maximum of 1000 cy of material may be removed for ramp construction. This RGP does not allow for the placement of concrete for ramps.

Notification Requirements:

For regulated activities that meet the criteria listed above, notification to ADEQ is not required as long as all special conditions identified in the § 404 permit are met.

In the event Reclamation activities deviate from or exceed limits outlined in this RGP, Reclamation shall prepare a certification request for § 401 review, consistent with the requirements listed in 40 CFR 121.

### **3. Information Reviewed**

During the development of this WQC, ADEQ had access to and reviewed the following documents, which are on file with ADEQ:

- a. CWA § 401 WQC application package, dated August 5, 2021.
- b. U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE) Public Notice of Proposed Reissuance of Regional General Permit No. 62, Bureau of Reclamation O&M Activities for LCR;

comment period April 21, 2021 – May 21, 2021. USACE Project Manager: Therese Carpenter.

- c. State of Arizona Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS), Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) Title 18, Chapter 11, Article 1, Appendix B. Designated uses for the LCR are: Aquatic and Wildlife Cold (A&Wc); Aquatic and Wildlife Warm (A&Ww); Agricultural Irrigation (Agl); Agricultural Livestock (AgL); Domestic Water Source (DWS); Full Body Contact (FBC); and Fish Consumption (FC).
- d. State of Arizona's 2018 303(d) List of Impaired Waters: the Lower Colorado River is impaired for Selenium at its terminus reach in the Yuma area.

#### 4. ADEQ Correspondence

- a. For any correspondence regarding this project, the ADEQ mailing address is:  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Rosi Sherrill, Surface Water Permits / 401 WQCs  
1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
- b. For questions or general comments:  
Email: [sherrill.laurie@azdeq.gov](mailto:sherrill.laurie@azdeq.gov); Voice: (602) 771-4409
- c. In any correspondence, please reference:  
RGP 62, Bureau of Reclamation O&M Activities for LCR  
USACE File No.: SPL-2000-01901  
ADEQ LTF No.: 90455