

Clean Water Act § 401 Water Quality Certification
Fish Creek Sediment Control Structure Project

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. This § 401 WQC will become part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) § 404 permit SPL-2025-00445.

Based on the information provided and identified in Section 3, ADEQ certifies that the activities taken within the Salt River / Canyon Lake at the confluence with Fish Creek will not violate applicable Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS) in the Salt River or Canyon Lake.

a. Location

Latitude: 33.576701 Longitude: -111.354118
ADEQ PLC: 262656 ADEQ LTF: 115856

b. Project Proponent Information

Marc Wicke
Salt River Project
P.O. Box 52025
Tempe, AZ 85072

Authorizing Signature

Josephine Maressa, Deputy Director
Water Quality Division
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Date

2. Project Location

This project is located on the Salt River and Canyon Lake, at the confluence with Fish Creek, approximately two miles downstream of the Horse Mesa Dam, located in unincorporated Maricopa County, Arizona.

3. Description of Certified Activities

The Salt River Project (SRP) is proposing a lake drawdown on the Salt River to conduct routine maintenance. Lake drawdown periods occur approximately every 20 years for maintenance to the SRP power generation and water supply functions provided by Salt River Project's dam and reservoir.

For the upcoming Canyon Lake drawdown, the Salt River Project would perform the following work with the proposed permanent and temporary impacts to Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) shown for each activity:

- Removal of the sediment delta at the Fish Creek Confluence (permanent: 5.34 acres; temporary: 2.3 acres);
- Construction of a sediment control structure and access roads at the Fish Creek confluence (permanent: 1.61 acres; temporary: 0.32 acre);
- Remediation of two rockfalls that have created hazard conditions (permanent: 1.7 acres; temporary: 1.4 acres);
- Relocation of sediment and rock to a proposed alluvium disposal area (permanent: 1.7 acres; temporary: 4.0 acres);
- Harvesting of rock from the river channel for use as riprap for the proposed sediment control structure and alluvium disposal area (no impacts);
- Perform other general construction activities, such as temporary channel grading, temporary haul and access road construction, batch plant use, and construction staging (temporary: 41.09 acres); and
- Complete other maintenance activities typical for maintenance drawdown cycles (no impacts).

Total permanent impacts to WOTUS: 8.79 acres. Total temporary impacts to WOTUS: 48.81 acres.

To ensure that impacts to WOTUS will be minimized to the extent practicable, the following measures are also being proposed:

- Implementation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan and standard construction best management practices to limit potential water quality impacts;
- Implementation of a spill prevention and containment measures plan;
- Establishment of a 10-foot-wide buffer along riverbank areas to avoid impacts to wetlands and riparian vegetation;
- Excavation of channels within the work area to convey storm runoff and leakage from the Horse Mesa Dam through the work area;
- Sediment used for fill within the project area would be compacted and covered in geotextile fabric;
- Rock from the project area would be installed to armor the sediment from erosion;
- If any sediment and rock material is required from outside the project area, such materials would be inert and free of contaminants; and
- Protection measures to reduce the potential introduction and spread of noxious weeds would be implemented during construction.

4. Information Reviewed

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

- A. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice documents dated March 18, 2026; Regulatory Project Manager: Dr. Jenny Aleman-Zometa.
- B. CWA § 401 WQC application package including the USACE individual permit application and associated details, plans and maps; dated and received by ADEQ on April 9, 2026; Permittee: Salt River Project, attn.: Marc Wicke.
- 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 Canyon Lake are: Aquatic and Wildlife Warm (A&Ww), Full Body Contact (FBC), Fish Consumption (FC), Domestic Water Source (DWS), Agriculture Irrigation (AgI) and Agriculture Livestock (AgL).

5. Notification Provisions

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

For questions or general comments:

Email: sherrill.laurie@azdeq.gov

Telephone: (602) 771-4409

In any correspondence, please reference:

Salt River / Canyon Lake Drawdown

USACE File No.: SPL-2025-00445

ADEQ LTF No.: 115856

6. Certification Notes:

This WQC applies only to the activities described in Section 3 and is based upon the information listed in Section 4.

As noted in Section 1, this WQC will become part of the USACE § 404 permit SPL-2025-00445 and is valid for the same time period as that permit. The project proponent must apply for renewal, modification or extension of this WQC if the CWA 404 permit is renewed, modified, extended or otherwise changed.