ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Clean Water Act § 401 Water Quality Certification

Replacement of the Ruby Road Bridge Crossing Potrero Creek

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 (A.R.S.) § 49-202. This § 401 WQC will become part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) § 404 Permit SPL-2026-00403.

Based on the information provided and identified in Section 3, ADEQ certifies that the replacement of the Ruby Road Bridge crossing Potrero Creek will not violate applicable Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS).

A. Location

ADEQ PLC: 230162 ADEQ LTF: 118558

B. Project Proponent Information

Jeremy Moore

Arizona Department of Transportation

205 South 17th Avenue

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Authorizing Signature

Josephine Maressa Date

Deputy Director, Water Quality Division

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

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2. Project Location

The project is located at the Ruby Road Bridge crossing Potrero Creek, in Nogales, Arizona. The location may be identified using these coordinates: Latitude: 31.430140 N, Longitude: -110.960895 W.

3. Description of Certified Activities

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) proposes to replace the Ruby Road Bridge over Potrero Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) with a new 540-foot, four-span bridge. This project is being permitted by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit #14 for Linear Transportation Projects.

The replacement bridge will consist of a precast girder and concrete deck superstructure supported by concrete drilled shafts at each abutment and three intermediate pier bents (each comprising drilled shafts, concrete columns, and a pier cap). No permanent structures—including piers and abutments—will be placed within the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) or adjacent jurisdictional wetlands.

To facilitate bridge demolition and construction, the contractor will construct temporary access roads (12 to 14 feet wide) north of the existing structure, approaching the creek from the east and west. Equipment crossing and stream diversion will involve: 1) Excavating an approximately 25-foot-wide by 80-foot-long temporary bypass channel west of, and outside, the OHWM adjacent to the active low-flow channel. 2) Installing five temporary 36-inch pipe culverts using backhoes and excavators. 3) Constructing temporary earthen berms to divert flows into the bypass channel while temporarily filling the natural channel to allow equipment staging and cross-creek transit.

Demolition of the existing superstructure will use excavators, loaders, and dump trucks operating under a containment plan designed to prevent debris from entering the waterway. Removal of the existing bridge pier located within the OHWM will result in temporary aquatic impacts; an isolation berm will dewater and segregate this work zone to prevent flowing water from contacting active demolition areas. Existing concrete debris placed during prior erosion control efforts will remain undisturbed in the channel.

Once structural work is complete, all temporary earthen berms, culverts, and fill material will be removed to mitigate downstream sediment pulses. The contractor will backfill the bypass channel, redirect creek flows to the restored bed, and re-contour the channel and banks to pre-construction elevations. All disturbed areas above the OHWM will be revegetated via reseeding. Associated upland work outside the OHWM includes reconstructing Ruby Road, installing pedestrian sidewalks and retaining walls, upgrading drainage features, and relocating utilities.

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4. Information Reviewed

During the development of this WQC, ADEQ accessed and reviewed the following documents and held the following information-sharing meetings:

A. A CWA § 401 pre-filing notification meeting was waived by ADEQ on August 26, 2026.

B. The CWA § 401 WQC application package and associated details, plans, and maps, dated and received by ADEQ on October 19, 2026.

C. A copy of the USACE Nationwide Permit (NWP) Preconstruction Notification application was received by ADEQ on October 19, 2026.

D. Designated uses for Potrero Creek are Aquatic and Wildlife Warm (A&Ww), Full Body Contact (FBC), Fish Consumption (FC), and Agriculture Livestock (AgL), pursuant to Arizona Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS), Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) Title 18, Chapter 11, Article 1, Appendix B).

E. At the location of the bridge replacement, Potrero Creek is impaired for Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) (2024 CWA Assessment, Appendix C – Impairments).

5. Notification Provisions

For any correspondence regarding this project, the ADEQ mailing address is:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Attn: Rosi Sherrill

Surface Water Permits / 401 WQCs

1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

For questions or general comments:

Email: sherrill.laurie@azdeq.gov

Voice: (602) 771-4409

In any correspondence, please reference:

ADOT Ruby Road Bridge Replacement

USACE File No.: SPL-2024-2026-00403

ADEQ LTF No.: 118558

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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-2026-00403 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.

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