



Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 5, 2020

Rick Rogers
San Lorenzo Valley Water District
13060 State Route 9
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
Email: rrogers@slvwd.com

VIA ELECTONIC MAIL

Dear Mr. Rogers:

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION NO. 34420WQ02 FOR FALL CREEK FISH LADDER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Thank you for the opportunity to review your March 9, 2020 application for water quality certification of the Fall Creek Fish Ladder Improvement Project (Project). The application was completed on March 16, 2020. All supplemental information requested was received on August 5, 2020. The project, if implemented as described in your application and with the additional mitigation and other conditions required by this Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification), appears to be protective of beneficial uses of State waters. We are issuing the enclosed Certification. Should new information come to our attention that indicates a water quality problem, we may require additional monitoring and reporting, issue waste discharge requirements, or take other action.

Your Certification application and submitted documents indicate that project activities have the potential to affect beneficial uses and water quality. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) issues this Certification to protect water quality and associated beneficial uses from project activities. We need reports to determine compliance with this Certification. All technical and monitoring reports requested in this Certification, or any time after, are required per section 13267 of the California Water Code.

Failure to submit reports required by this Certification, or failure to submit a report of technical quality acceptable to the Executive Officer, may subject you to enforcement action per section 13268 of the California Water Code. The Central Coast Water Board will base enforcement actions on the date of certification. Any person affected by this Central Coast Water Board action may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review this action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320; and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, sections 2050 and 3867-3869. The State Water Board, Office of Chief Counsel, PO Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812, must receive the petition within 30 days of the date of this Certification. We will provide upon request copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions.

If you have questions please contact **Kim Sanders** at (805) 542-4771 or via email at Kim.Sanders@waterboards.ca.gov, or Phil Hammer at (805) 549-3882. Please mention the above certification number in all future correspondence pertaining to this project.

Sincerely,

for

Matthew T. Keeling Executive Officer

Enclosure: Action on Request for CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification

cc: With enclosures

Carly Blanchard
San Lorenzo Valley Water District
Email: cblanchard@slvwd.com

Katerina Galacatos U.S. Army Corps of Engineers E-mail: Katerina.galacatos@usace.army.mil

Randi Adair
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Monica Oey California Department of Fish and Wildlife Email: Monica.Oey@wildlife.ca.gov

Jennifer Siu
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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CWA Section 401 WQC Program
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
E-mail: Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Tessa Gallagher Central Coast Water Board E-mail: Tessa.Gallagher@waterboards.ca.gov

Harvey Packard Central Coast Water Board Email: Harvey.Packard@waterboards.ca.gov

Kim Sanders Central Coast Water Board E-mail: Kim.Sanders@waterboards.ca.gov

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Action on Request for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Discharge of Dredged and/or Fill Materials

PROJECT: Fall Creek Fish Ladder Improvement Project

PERMITTEE: Rick Rogers

San Lorenzo Valley Water District

13060 State Route 9 Boulder Creek, CA 95006

ACTION:

1. ☐ Order for Standard Certification

2. ■ Order for Technically-Conditioned Certification

3.

Order for Denial of Certification

STANDARD CONDITIONS:

- 1. This Certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment per section 13330 of the California Water Code and section 3867 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR).
- 2. This Certification action is not intended to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent Certification application was filed per 23 CCR subsection 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license was being sought.
- 3. The validity of any non-denial Certification action (Actions 1 and 2) is conditioned upon total payment of the fee required under 23 CCR section 3833, unless otherwise stated in writing by the certifying agency.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS:

- This Certification is subject to the acquisition of all local, regional, state, and federal permits and approvals as required by law. Failure to meet any conditions contained herein or any conditions contained in any other permit or approval issued by the State of California or any subdivision thereof may result in the revocation of this Certification and civil or criminal liability.
- 2. In the event of a violation or threatened violation of this Certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Certification.

- 3. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, the Central Coast Water Board may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this Certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Central Coast Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall have a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits obtained from the reports.
- 4. In response to any violation of the conditions of this Certification, the Central Coast Water Board may add to or modify the conditions of this Certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
- 5. The Central Coast Water Board reserves the right to suspend, cancel, or modify and reissue this Certification, after providing notice to the Permittee, if the Central Coast Water Board determines that the Project fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this Certification.
- 6. A copy of this Certification, the application, and supporting documentation must be available at the Project site during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. A copy of this Certification must also be provided to the contractor and all subcontractors who will work at the Project site. All personnel performing work on the proposed Project shall be familiar with the content of this Certification and its posted location on the Project site.
- 7. The Permittee shall grant Central Coast Water Board staff, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, permission to enter the Project site at reasonable times, to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of this Certification and/or to determine the impacts the Project may have on waters of the State.
- 8. The Permittee must, at all times, fully comply with the application, engineering plans, specifications, and technical reports submitted to support this Certification; all subsequent submittals required as part of this Certification; and the attached Project Information and Conditions. The conditions within this Certification and attachment(s) supersede conflicting provisions within Permittee submittals.
- 9. The Permittee shall notify the Central Coast Water Board within 24 hours of any unauthorized discharge to waters of the U.S. and/or State; measures that were implemented to stop and contain the discharge; measures implemented to clean-up the discharge; the volume and type of materials discharged and recovered; and additional BMPs or other measures that will be implemented to prevent future discharges.
- 10. This Certification is not transferable to any person except after notice to the Executive Officer of the Central Coast Water Board. The Permittee shall submit this notice in writing at least 30 days in advance of any proposed transfer. The notice must include a written agreement between the existing and new responsible party containing a specific date for the transfer of this Certification's responsibility and coverage between the current responsible party and the new responsible party. This agreement shall include an acknowledgement that the existing responsible party is liable for compliance and violations up to the transfer date and that the new responsible party is liable from the transfer date on.
- 11. This Order and all of its conditions contained herein continue to have full force and effect regardless of the expiration or revocation of any federal license or permit issued for the

Project. For purposes of Clean Water Act, section 401(d), this condition constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements of state law. This Order expires if Project construction does not begin within five years from the date of this Order.

12. The total application fee for this project is \$1,949. The remaining application fee payable to the Central Coast Water Board is \$0. Annual fees may apply.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS:

The Central Coast Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, 15302 and 15333. Additionally, the Central Coast Water Board concludes that no exceptions to the CEQA exemption apply to the activities approved by this Order.

CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD CONTACT PERSON:

Kim Sanders (805) 542-4771 Kim.Sanders@waterboards.ca.gov

Please refer to the above certification number when corresponding with the Central Coast Water Board concerning this project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:

I hereby issue an order certifying that as long as all the conditions listed in this Certification are met, any discharge from the Fall Creek Fish Ladder Improvement Project shall comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 ("Effluent Limitations"), 302 ("Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations"), 303 ("Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans"), 306 ("National Standards of Performance"), and 307 ("Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards") of the Clean Water Act. This discharge is also regulated pursuant to State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, which requires compliance with all conditions of this Certification.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all Certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the Permittee's project description, Certification conditions, and the attached Project Information and Conditions, and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Central Coast Water Board's policies and Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan).

Matthew T. Keeling Executive Officer

Central Coast Water Board

August 5, 2020

PROJECT INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

	MATION AND CONDITIONS Descived: Merch 0, 2020							
Application Date	Received: March 9, 2020 Completed: March 16, 2020							
Permittee	Rick Rogers San Lorenzo Valley Water District 13060 State Route 9 Boulder Creek, CA 95006 rrogers@slvwd.com 831-338-2153 x 624							
Permittee Representatives	Carly Blanchard San Lorenzo Valley Water District 13060 State Route 9 Boulder Creek, CA 95006 cblanchard@slvwd.com 331-338-2152 x 639							
Project Name	Fall Creek Fish Ladder Improvement Project							
Application Number	34420WQ02							
Type of Project	Bank and Channel and Beach Modification							
Project Location	Felton Latitude: 37.053223° Longitude: -122.079656°							
County	Santa Cruz							
Receiving Water(s)	Fall Creek 304.00_Big Basin Hydrologic Unit							
Water Body Type	Streambed, riparian							
Designated Beneficial Uses	Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) Agricultural Supply (AGR) Industrial Service Supply (IND) Ground Water Recharge (GWR) Water Contact Recreation (REC-1) Non-Contact Recreation (REC-2) Wildlife Habitat (WILD) Cold Fresh Water Habitat (COLD) Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR) Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN) Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance (BIOL) Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM)							
Project Description (purpose/goal)	The purpose of this project is to improve fish passage and repair structural deficiencies of the intake system. Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) staff understands that the project includes the following activities: Demolishing and removing the intake pipes, numps, screens, and a							

	 Excavating about 300 cubic yards of sediment from the creek bed and grading the slope to lower the intake screen system by 3.1 feet; Replacing distribution pipes and pumps; Removing about 25 cubic yards of existing rock slope protection (RSP); Installing 81 cubic yards of RSP without the use of geotextile backing, and backfilling and vegetating the RSP; Replacing the existing ladder, catwalks, and railings to maintain access for operations and maintenance; Removing an existing 6-inch diameter water line from the site; Rerouting the water line to the underside of the existing pedestrian bridge; and Upgrading the existing foundation elements along existing concrete walls and weirs that may be exposed during excavation work.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit No.	Nationwide Permit 3(a)(b)(c) – Maintenance
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement	Streambed Alteration Agreement is pending. Final, signed copy shall be forwarded immediately upon execution.
CEQA Information	Categorical Exemption Lead Agency: San Lorenzo Valley Water District
Total Certification Application Fee	\$1,949

Total Authorized Project Fill/Excavation Quantity

	Temporary Impact			Permanent Impact						
Aquatic Resource Type				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition			
	Acres	CY ¹	LF ¹	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF	
Riparian Zone										
Earthen	0.047	76.06	146.50							
Rock Riprap	0.011	115.00	36.00							
Concrete	0.010	6.4	84.5	0.004	7.6	40.5	0.006	1.5	28.00	
Stream Channel										
Earthen							0.008	32	16.67	
Rock Riprap							0.008	93	16.67	
Concrete	0.030	45.00	51.50				0.008	39.5	16.67	

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¹ Cubic Yards (CY); Linear Feet (LF)

Riparian Zone

Required Project Mitigation Quantity for Temporary Impacts									
Aquatic Resource Type	Units	Method ²							
		Est.	Re-est	. Reh.	En	h.	Pres.		
Riparian Zone									
F (1	Acres			0.047	,				
Earthen	LF			146.5	0				
Deals Dianes	Acres			0.011					
Rock Riprap	LF			36.00)				
Conorato	Acres			0.010)				
Concrete	LF			84.5					
Stream Channel									
Concrete	Acres			0.030)				
	LF			51.50)				
Required Project Compensatory Mitigation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area									
Aquatic	Mit. Type ³	Units	Method						
Resource Type			Est.	Re-est.	Reh.	Enh.	Pres.		

Required Project Compensatory Mitigation Quantity for Permanent Degradation of Ecological Condition

Acres

LF

PR

Aquatic Resource Type	Mit. Type	Units	Method					
			Est.	Re-est.	Reh.	Enh.	Pres.	
Riparian Zone	PR	Acres			0.006			
		LF			28			
Stream Channel	PR	Acres			0.024			
		LF			105			

0.004

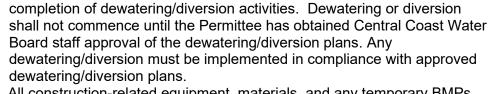
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² Methods: establishment (Est.), reestablishment (Re-est.), rehabilitation (Reh.), enhancement (Enh.), preservation (Pres.)

³ Mitigation Type: in-lieu fee (ILF); mitigation bank (MB); permittee responsible (PR)

The Permittee shall implement compensatory mitigation installation, maintenance, and monitoring as described in the RCDSCC Fall Creek Fish Ladder Project Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan dated July Compensatory 14. 2020. 2. The Permittee shall reduce the current limiting average weir drop height Mitigation Requirements from approximately 18 inches to 12 inches, increasing the migration opportunities for both juvenile and adult salmonids. 3. Onsite compensatory mitigation shall be installed within 12 months of completion of project construction. The Permittee shall comply with the following requirements: 1. All personnel who engage in construction activities or their oversight at the project site (superintendent, construction manager, foreman, crew, contractor, biological monitor, etc.) must attend trainings on the conditions of this Certification and how to perform their duties in compliance with those conditions. Every person shall attend an initial training within five working days of their start date at the project site. Trainings shall be conducted by a qualified individual with expertise in 401 Water Quality Certification conditions and compliance. 2. All work performed within waters of the State shall be completed in a manner that minimizes impacts to beneficial uses and habitat. Measures shall be employed to minimize land disturbances that will adversely impact the water quality of waters of the State. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete Project implementation. 3. Portions of the project that occur below top of creek banks or in other waters of the State shall be stabilized for the winter prior to October 1 of each year, either by completing construction of those portions of the project (including installation of permanent erosion control measures) or by implementing winterization stabilization measures capable of Project effectively stabilizing the area and preventing erosion under winter rain Requirements and flow conditions generated by the 10-year 24-hour storm event. No construction activities shall be conducted below top of creek banks or in other waters of the State during the winter period (October 1 – May 30), unless prior written approval has been obtained from Central Coast Water Board staff. Requests to conduct construction activities below top of creek banks or in other waters of the State during the winter period shall be submitted to Central Coast Water Board staff at least 21 days prior to the planned winter period work date. If approval is obtained, the Permittee shall implement the approved winter work as specified in the Central Coast Water Board staff approval and as described in any documentation submitted by the Permittee while seeking the approval. 4. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be on site prior to the start of construction and kept on site at all times so they are immediately available for installation in anticipation of rain events. 5. The Permittee shall implement and maintain an effective combination of erosion and sediment control measures (e.g., revegetation, fiber rolls, erosion control blankets, hydromulching, compost, straw with tackifiers, temporary basins) to prevent erosion and capture sediment. The Permittee shall implement and maintain washout, trackout, dust control, and any other applicable source control BMPs.

- 6. Erosion and sediment control measures and other construction BMPs shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with all specifications governing their proper design, installation, operation, and maintenance.
- 7. At any time of year, the Permittee shall not conduct construction activities below top of creek banks or in other waters of the State during rain events or on any day for which the National Weather Service has predicted a 25% or more chance of at least 0.1 inch rain in 24 hours (Predicted Rain Event). The Permittee shall install effective erosion control, sediment control, and other protective measures no later than the day prior to the Predicted Rain Event, and prior to the start of any rainfall. Construction activities below top of creek banks or in other waters of the State may resume after the rain has ceased, the National Weather Service predicts clear weather for at least 24 hours, and site conditions are dry enough to continue work without discharge of sediment or other pollutants from the project site.
- 8. Any material stockpiled that is not actively being used during construction shall be covered and surrounded with a linear sediment barrier.
- 9. The Permittee shall retain a spill plan and appropriate spill control and clean up materials (e.g., oil absorbent pads) onsite in case spills occur.
- 10. The Permittee shall confine all trash and debris in appropriate enclosed bins and dispose of the trash and debris at an approved site at least weekly.
- 11. All construction vehicles and equipment used on site shall be well maintained and checked daily for fuel, oil, and hydraulic fluid leaks or other problems that could result in spills of toxic materials.
- 12. The Permittee shall designate a staging area for equipment and vehicle fueling and storage at least 100 feet away from waterways, in a location where fluids or accidental discharges cannot flow into waterways.
- 13. All vehicle fueling and maintenance activity shall occur at least 100 feet away from waterways and in designated staging areas wherever possible. The permittee shall prevent pollutant discharge from staging areas that are within 100 feet of the waterbody by implementing the following measures described in the application:
 - a. Installing fiber rolls; and
 - b. Application of plastic liner that will be secured in place with gravel-filled sandbags.
- 14. Dewatering and stream diversion measures are not authorized based on the application. If the project requires dewatering or diversion, the Permittee shall submit detailed dewatering/ diversion plans for Central Coast Water Board staff approval at least 21 days prior to any dewatering or diversion. Dewatering/diversion plans shall include the area to be dewatered, timing of dewatering, and method of dewatering to be implemented. All temporary dewatering/diversion methods shall be designed to have the minimum necessary impacts to waters of the State to isolate the immediate work area. All dewatering/diversion methods shall be installed such that natural flow is maintained upstream and downstream of the project area. Any temporary dams or diversions shall be installed such that the diversion does not cause sedimentation, siltation, or erosion upstream or downstream of the project area. All dewatering/diversion methods shall be removed immediately upon



- 15. All construction-related equipment, materials, and any temporary BMPs no longer needed shall be removed and cleared from the site upon completion of the project.
- 16. Central Coast Water Board staff shall be notified if mitigations as described in the 401 Water Quality Certification application for this project are altered by the imposition of subsequent permit conditions by any local, state or federal regulatory authority. The Permittee shall inform Central Coast Water Board staff of any modifications that interfere with compliance with this Certification.

The Permittee shall conduct the following monitoring:

- 1. Visually inspect the project site and areas of waters of the State adjacent to project impact areas following completion of project construction and for three subsequent rainy seasons to ensure that the project is not causing excessive erosion, stream instability, or other water quality problems. If the project does cause water quality problems, contact the Central Coast Water Board staff member overseeing the project. You will be responsible for obtaining any additional permits necessary for implementing plans for restoration to prevent further water quality problems.
- 2. Monitor the compensatory mitigation site for three years. If success criteria are not achieved within that time, continue annual monitoring and maintenance until success criteria are achieved. Compensatory mitigation monitoring shall include assessment of growth, percent cover, general health and stature, signs of reproduction, progress towards achieving success criteria, and any other measures identified in the RCDSCC Fall Creek Fish Ladder Project Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan dated July 14, 2020.

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

The Permittee shall provide the following reporting to RB3_401Reporting@waterboards.ca.gov [Note: Annual fees are based on submittal and approval of reporting item 2 below]:

- Streambed Alteration Agreement Submit a signed copy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's streambed alteration agreement to the Central Coast Water Board immediately upon execution and prior to any discharge to waters of the State.
- 2. Certification Termination Report To terminate Certification coverage, the Permittee must submit for Central Coast Water Board staff review and approval a Certification Termination Report demonstrating compensatory mitigation success criteria achievement and monitoring completion. The Certification Termination Report shall include all information required for Annual Project Status Reports as specified below. The Certification Termination Report may serve as the final Annual Project Status Report. The Certification Termination Report submittal must include "Certification Termination Report" in the title.
- 3. Annual Project Status Report The Permittee shall submit to the Central Coast Water Board an Annual Project Status Report by May 31 of each

year following the issuance of this Certification, regardless of whether project construction has started or not. At a minimum, Annual Project Status Reports shall address activities conducted during the prior calendar year. The Permittee shall submit Annual Project Status Reports until the Permittee has conducted all required monitoring, mitigation has achieved all success criteria, and the Permittee has submitted a Certification Termination Report. Each Annual Project Status Report shall include at a minimum:

- a. The status of the project: construction not started, construction started, or construction complete.
- b. The date of construction initiation, if applicable.
- c. The date of construction completion, if applicable.
- d. If project construction is complete:
 - i. A summary of daily activities, monitoring and inspection observations, and problems incurred and actions taken;
 - ii. Identification of when site personnel trainings occurred, description of the topics covered during trainings, and confirmation that every person that engaged in construction activities or their oversight at the project site was initially trained.
 - iii. A description of the results of the annual visual inspection of the project site and areas of waters of the State adjacent to project impact areas, including:
 - 1. Erosion conditions;
 - 2. Stream stability conditions;
 - 3. Water quality and beneficial use conditions;
 - 4. Clearly identified photo-documentation of all areas of permanent and temporary impact, prior to and after project construction; and
 - 5. Clearly identified representative photo-documentation of other project areas, prior to and after project construction.
 - 6. If the visual inspection monitoring period is over, but water quality problems persist, the Annual Report shall identify corrective measures to be undertaken, including extension of the monitoring period until the project is no longer causing excessive erosion, stream instability, or other water quality problems.
- e. Mitigation reporting, if mitigation installation has started, including the following information:
 - i. Date of initiation of mitigation installation and date mitigation installation was completed;
 - ii. If mitigation installation was completed, confirmation mitigation was installed according to the requirements of this Certification and as described in the application, the RCDSCC Fall Creek Fish Ladder Project Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan dated July 14, 2020, and any other associated submittals;
 - iii. Analysis of monitoring data collected in the field;
 - iv. Quantification of growth, percent cover, general health and stature, signs of reproduction, and documentation of progress toward achieving all mitigation performance criteria;

- v. Qualitative and quantitative comparisons of current mitigation conditions with preconstruction conditions and previous mitigation monitoring results;
- vi. Any remedial or maintenance actions taken or needed;
- vii. Any additional information specified in the RCDSCC Fall Creek Fish Ladder Project Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan dated July 14, 2020; and
- viii. Annual photo-documentation representative of all mitigation areas, taken from vantage points from which Central Coast Water Board staff can identify changes in size and cover of plants. Compare photos of installed mitigation with photos of the mitigation areas prior to installation.
- f. A description of mitigation completion status that identifies the amount of mitigation monitoring and maintenance remaining or certifies and demonstrates that mitigation is complete and all required mitigation monitoring and maintenance has been conducted and all success criteria achieved. If the monitoring period is over, but all success criteria have not been achieved, the Annual Project Status Report shall identify corrective measures to be undertaken, including extension of the monitoring period until the criteria are met.