Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

25 June 2025

Jason Cashman
Port of Stockton
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ORDER AMENDING CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 TECHNICALLY CONDITIONED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION; PORT OF STOCKTON, PORT OF STOCKTON 5-YEAR PROGRAMMATIC MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROJECT (WDID#5B39CR00396A1), SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

This Order responds to the 21 May 2025 request for an amendment of the Port of Stockton 5-Year Programmatic Maintenance Dredging Project (Project) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WDID#5B39CR00396). The original Water Quality Certification (Certification) was issued on 13 March 2024. The requested amendment is hereby approved. The original Certification is therefore amended as described below. Please attach this document to the original Certification.

AMENDMENT:
To manage sediment within the Project boundary during years when dredging is not warranted, the Port of Stockton is requesting to add knockdown dredging as an alternative to hydraulic and mechanical dredging. The Certification is amended to include knockdown dredging as shown below:

Project Description
Knockdown dredging, also known as bed-leveling, will consist of a barge or tug dragging a heavy beam (I-beam) across the channel floor to “knock down” or grade localized high spots into adjacent lower spots. This method does not remove material from the waterbody but instead redistributes sediment within the berth to restore navigational depth. The equipment will make a pass over the area while scraping a very thin layer (approximately a few inches) into the depression. Knocking down a shoal that is several feet thick will require multiple passes.

Avoidance and Minimization
Knockdown activities within the Project will adhere to the following avoidance and minimization measures designed to address potential environmental impacts:

- The knockdown operation will occur during the annual dredging window approved for the Port of Stockton's dock maintenance dredging activities, spanning 1 July through 30 November.
- The shoal to be knocked down and the depression into which the shoal will be knocked down will be located within the authorized maintenance dredging footprint.
- Pre- and post-project surveys will be submitted that will include calculations of the volume of sediment relocated.
- Only a towed I-beam will be permitted to knockdown the shoal into the depression.
- The knockdown episode will be conducted to minimize the resuspension of sediment; the I-beam would be towed at a speed no more than 4 knots.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:
No fee was required for this amendment. Total fees of $2,985.00 for the original Certification were received on 22 January 2024. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3383(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3), as was calculated as category B - Dredging Discharges (fee code 86) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

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PUBLIC NOTICE:
The Central Valley Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 from 23 May 2025 to 13 June 2025. The Central Valley Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:
I hereby issue an Order amending the existing Clean Water Act, Section 401 Technically Conditioned Water Quality Certification for the Port of Stockton 5-Year Programmatic Maintenance Dredging Project (WDID#5B39CR00396A1). All other conditions and provisions of the original Water Quality Certification and any previously approved amendments remain in full force and effect, except as modified based on the conditions of this Order. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the original Water Quality Certification, previously approved amendments, or of this Order may result in suspension or revocation of the Water Quality Certification.

Anne Walters

Digitally signed by Anne Walters
Date: 2025.06.25 13:27:15 -07'00'

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Executive Officer

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