



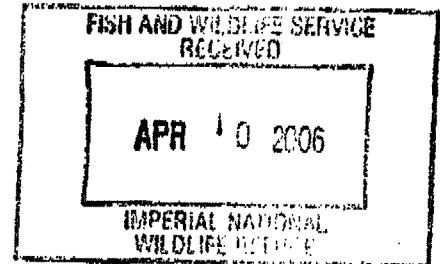
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ARIZONA-NEVADA AREA OFFICE
3838 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 900
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85012-1939

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

April 5, 2006

Office of the Chief
Regulatory Branch

Mr. Ken Edwards
Refuge Manager
USFWS, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
PO Box 72217
Yuma, Arizona 85365-0217



File Number: 2006-00180-MB

Dear Mr. Edwards:

This is in reply to your March 8, 2006 letter concerning your proposal to reconstruct 6 existing wetland ponds requiring the excavation/dredging of approximately 650,000 cubic yards (cy) of native sediments, the discharge of 10,000 cy of riprap to stabilize pond slopes, the discharge of 1,800 cy of gravel for spawning beds, the construction of a new drainage ditch/culvert to accommodate water management, the construction of two new access roads between ponds and access ramps in each pond for staging and launching, and installation of a new surface pump for water supply involving the discharge of fill material in wetlands adjacent to the Colorado River at Imperial National Wildlife Refuge DU2 Ponds (Section 14, T5S, R22W), Yuma, Yuma County, Arizona, as shown on the attached Figures 5-10.

The Corps of Engineers has determined, under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), that your proposed activity complies with the terms of Nationwide Permit No. 27, "Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities." You must comply with all terms and applicable conditions (regional, general, and 401 conditions) described in Enclosure 1 and complete the compliance statement (Enclosure 2).

Furthermore, you must comply with the following **Special Condition(s)**:

- a. The permittee shall comply with all requirements and conditions of Section 401 state water quality certification as shown on Enclosure 1.
- b. Should cultural resources or archeological remains be encountered during construction/excavation, work shall immediately cease in the area of discovery. The permittee shall promptly notify the State Historic Preservation Office at (602)542-7137 and the Corps at (520) 584-1684.
- c. This permit does not authorize dredging in the Colorado River.
- d. The permittee shall immediately remove all excavated and/or dredged material to an upland disposal site.

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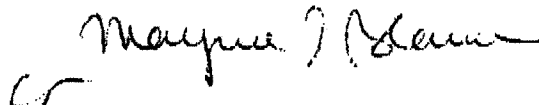
- e. The permittee shall remove all excess fill and/or construction debris/equipment from the site immediately upon completion of construction.
- f. Prior to onset of construction/excavation, the permittee shall provide the contractor(s) with a copy of this permit. The contractor shall read and agree to comply with all conditions herein. A copy of this permit shall be posted on site at all times during construction.

This verification is valid until the nationwide permit(s) referenced above is modified, reissued, or revoked. All of the nationwide permits are scheduled to be modified, reissued, or revoked prior to March 18, 2007. It is incumbent upon you to remain informed of changes to the nationwide permits. We will issue a public notice when the nationwide permits are reissued. Furthermore, if you commence or are under construct to commence the authorized activity before the date that the relevant nationwide permit(s) is modified, reissued or revoked you will have twelve (12) months from the date of the modification, reissuance, or revocation of the nationwide permits to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of the nationwide permits.

A nationwide permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges. Also, it does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others or authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project. Furthermore, it does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, state, or local authorizations required by law.

Thank you for participating in our regulatory program. If you have questions, please contact Marjorie E. Blaine at (520) 584-1684.

Sincerely,



Cindy Lester P.E.
Chief, Arizona Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures