



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality –
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Jonathan I. Arriola
Director, DEQ

June 11, 2020

John Gourley
Micronesian Environmental Services
P O Box 502802
Saipan, MP 96950

for:

Janice Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P O Box 501304
Saipan, MP 96950

**RE: Waiver of Water Quality Certification – DCRM Coral Culture Facility,
WQC-2020-002**

Dear Mr. Gourley:

We have received your cover letter and Water Quality Certification application for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) waiver on June 1, 2020 for the **DCRM Coral Culture Facility** (project) to be installed in the waters of Saipan Lagoon, Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area, Saipan, CNMI. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that they intend to issue a "Nationwide Permit" (NWP) 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities for this project, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Based on the application materials submitted, DEQ has determined the project to be "minor and non-controversial" and hereby waives the requirement to obtain a Section 401 WQC for this project. You must notify DEQ of any substantial changes to the project that may require reconsideration of this waiver determination.

If you have any questions regarding this Water Quality Certification waiver, please contact our office at telephone numbers 664-8500/8501.

Sincerely,



Jonathan I. Arriola,
Director, DEQ

cc: Director, DCRM
Albert P. Williams-ACOE