



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
DEQ Tel: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540
DCRM Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.deq.gov.mp and www.dcrm.gov.mp



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Zabrina C. Shai
Acting Director, DEQ

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

May 10, 2021

Claudine Camacho
Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Inc. for:
238 E. Marine Corps Dr.
Suite 201 Diamond Plaza
Hagatna, GU 96910

James A. Ada
Department of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building
Oleai Center
Saipan, MP 96950

RE: Waiver of Water Quality Certification – Route 36 (Windward/Chalan Kalabera) Road Improvements - WQC-2021-002

Dear Ms. Camacho:

We have received your revised cover letter and Water Quality Certification application for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) on May 6, 2021 for the **Route 36 (Windward/Chalan Kalabera) Road Improvements** project to be undertaken in the waters of Talofofu, Saipan, CNMI. NMIAC 65-130-615(g) of the CNMI Water Quality Standards authorizes the Administrator of BECQ to waive the requirement for a Section 401 WQC for activities which receive a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) nationwide permit, and which are considered by DEQ to be “minor and non-controversial.”

BECQ has reviewed your application package, including a Water Quality Monitoring Plan and Environmental Protection Plan, and has determined that the proposed construction of stream crossings at Unai Fanhang and Unai Nanasu is a “minor and non-controversial” project. USACE has stated that they intend to authorize this project under *Nationwide Permit 14 – Linear Transportation Projects*. BECQ hereby waives the requirement to obtain a Section 401 WQC for this project as authorized under NMIAC 65-130-615(g) of the CNMI Water Quality Standards.

Despite the waiver for this WQC, there must be reasonable assurance that the proposed project will be conducted in such a manner which will not violate applicable CNMI Water Quality Standards under NMIAC 65-130. BECQ has determined that you must follow the procedures described in the Water Quality Certification Application, the Water Quality Monitoring Plan, and Environmental Protection Plan, including water quality monitoring and proper implementation of Best Management Practices for sediment control, in order to have reasonable assurance that CNMI Water Quality Standards will not be violated. Please ensure that you, the applicant, and the construction contractor fully understand and follow the procedures outlined in these documents. You must notify BECQ 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 number (670) 664-8531 or email Larry Maurin at larry.maurin@becq.gov.mp.

Sincerely,



Eli D. Cabrera,
Administrator

cc: Albert Williams-USACE, Henry Bautista-DPW, Sam Sablan-DCRM