



Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor

Arnold I. Palacios  
Lt. Governor

# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

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Eli D. Cabrera  
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October 29, 2021

Steve McKagan  
NOAA CNMI Field Office  
PO Box 10003 PMB 582  
Saipan, MP 96950

**RE: Waiver of Water Quality Certification – Saipan Coral Nursery Pilot Project Expansion,  
WQC-2021-007**

Dear Mr. McKagan:

We have received your request and supporting materials for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) on September 17, 2021 for the **Saipan Coral Nursery Pilot Project Expansion** (Project) to be installed in the waters of Saipan Lagoon, Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area, Saipan, CNMI. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently reviewing this project under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27 – *Aquatic Habitat Restoration*.

Based on the application materials submitted, including a Project Description and Best Management Practices (BMPs), BECQ 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 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 numbers 664-8500/8501.

Sincerely,

Eli D. Cabrera,  
Administrator

cc: Director, DCRM  
Director, DFW  
Albert Williams-ACOE