



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 June 2022

Cicely Muldoon
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite Village, CA 95389

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER SB12006GN,
AMENDED ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER
QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR SMALL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS,
WEST TUOLUMNE MEADOWS POTHOLE DOME “THUMB” RESTORATION
PROJECT (WDID#5B55CR00162), TUOLUMNE COUNTY**

On 16 May 2022, the National Park Service Yosemite National Park submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. SB12006GN, Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the West Tuolumne Meadows Pothole Dome “Thumb” Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. SB12006GN. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order.

A copy of [Order SB12006GN](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/srhcpcert032713.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/srhcpcert032713.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board’s General Orders webpage and is enclosed.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. SB12006GN. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Failure to comply with Order No. SB12006GN constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The 0.82-acre Project consists of restoring wetland topography, hydrology and vegetation of a wetland complex on the west Tuolumne Meadows (Thumb) in Yosemite National Park. Project activities include filling erosion gullies, replanting native

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

vegetation and removing lodgepole pine seedlings.

The Thumb contains erosion gullies that have lowered the water table, drained former wetlands, and now exhibits upland plant species, bare soil, and lodgepole pine seedling establishment. Active restoration is needed to obliterate the gullies, raise groundwater levels, restore dispersed flows of water ("sheet flow"), and restore wetland plant communities. The gullies will be completely filled to the surrounding meadow surface, covered with erosion fabric, and planted with native wetland plants.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include permanent impacts associated with filling the gullies and temporary impacts associated with equipment access. The Project will temporarily impact 0.05 acre and permanently impact 0.57 acre of wetland. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-Project conditions.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project area is located in Tuolumne Meadows between Tioga Road and Pothole Dome in Yosemite National Park. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 37.877191°N and longitude -119.394219°W.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

All fill, conifer removal, and preliminary erosion control and revegetation work will occur in summer and fall 2022 and take approximately 2 months to complete. Ongoing project monitoring, plant care, and any erosion repair will continue through 2025. No work will occur during wet season months.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

Federal dischargers involved in Dredge and Fill Operations only are not subject to permit fees as required by Section 3833(b)(3)(A) and Section 2200(a)(3) of the California Code of Regulations.

MITIGATION AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES:

Mitigation is not required since the Project will result in restoration of a wetland.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

1. Equipment staging for the Project shall be located on established parking areas adjacent to the site.
2. Best practices for stockpiled soil shall include covering the piles, utilizing erosion control measures to keep the soil in place and wetting the soil to prevent wind dispersal.
3. Restoration work shall occur in summer and fall when the meadow is driest.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

Upon completion of the Project, you shall submit a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after Project completion. The NOC shall demonstrate the Project was carried out in accordance with the Project description, include a map of the Project location with final boundaries of the restoration area, and include post-project photographs. More information on the NOC is listed in section B.6 of the Order.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Shawn Agarwal by phone at (916) 464-4849 or by email at Shawn.Agarwal@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by James Marshall (for)
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File # SB12006GN

cc: [Via email only]

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