
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

5 October 2023

John J. King
California Department of Water Resources
3310 El Camino Avenue, Ste. 200
Sacramento, CA 95821

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, BIG MEADOWS WEATHER STATION PROJECT, (WDID# 5C54CR00142), TULARE COUNTY

On 8 September 2023, California Department of Water Resources (Permittee) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 12 October 2021 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permits (Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ) for the Big Meadows Weather Station (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Permittee, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has determined that the Project qualifies for enrollment under this General Certification Order. The proposed activity will take place within less than 0.022 acres of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 3a, Maintenance, subject to the conditions and the notification requirements described in the Nationwide Permit ("Special Conditions"). This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the General Certification Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of the [General Certification Order](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this Notice of Applicability and General Certification Order. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the General Certification Order, dated 8 September 2023, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project consists of replacing an existing weather station at Big Meadow with a new, tower-style weather station. The new station will be installed on private property with an open area to allow for unobstructed measurements of snow depth and clear sky to power its solar batteries. The new station will have a ballast tray foundation equipped with a 24-foot tall tipping pole, which will allow workers to safely access data collection instruments. This project will also install a new snow scale 2 feet to 10 feet away from the new station.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include direct placement of the devices within Big Meadows. The Project will temporarily impact 0.02 acre and permanently impact 0.002 acre of meadow (wetland). Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-Project condition.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located at Big Meadows within Sequoia National Forest. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 36.715225 degrees North and longitude - 118.843773 degrees West.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The project will begin October 2023 and last approximately two weeks.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$2,734.00 was received on 22 September 2023. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as Category E - Low Impact Discharges (fee code 87) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Brandon Salazar at (559) 445-6287 or at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.



For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: Via email only:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
R9cwa401@epa.gov

CCs Continued Next Page:

Cece Working
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Headquarters
Cecelia.L.Working@usace.army.mil

cc: Patricia Cole
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
patricia_cole@fws.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 4
R4LSA@wildlife.ca.gov

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Michael J Kwong
California Department of Water Resources
Michael.Kwong@water.ca.gov