
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 October 2019

Joe Giulian
County of Merced
715 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Merced, CA 95341

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY OF MERCED, HILLS FERRY ROAD EMERGENCY REPAIR PROJECT (WDID 5B24CR00084), MERCED COUNTY

On 25 October 2019, the County of Merced (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 9 October 2018 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit 8 (General Certification Order) for the Hills Ferry Road Emergency Repair Project (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Applicant, 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 Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 8, Emergency Repair and Protection Activities, 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/generalorders/rgp8_cert.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/rgp8_cert.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 25 October 2019, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Unexpected high water flows within the Merced River washed out the embankment along Hills Ferry Road. The road embankment is continuing to erode into the Merced River. If the embankment is not repaired, the roadway is expected to fail, preventing access to properties and emergency access.

The road embankment will be cleared of vegetation and graded to prepare the surface for installation of rock slope protection (RSP) and imported fill. Following site preparation, Type B riprap fabric will be installed at the top of the riverbank. Approximately 3,396 cubic yards of clean 18-inch Class V RSP will be installed on top of Class 8 RSP Fabric along the embankment. The RSP will be mounded at the toe of slope and extend approximately 64 inches from the toe of slope. Approximately 6,414 cubic yards of imported fill will be installed along the top of bank. The fill will be placed in 12-inch lifts and compacted to 90 percent. The area will be planted with sterile grass seed mix and mulched to control erosion.

Prior to installation of the RSP, a fallen tree and any other additional debris along the embankment area will be removed with a crane, excavator, or similar equipment stationed at the edge of roadway and/or bank. Debris removal would be limited to what is necessary for RSP installation.

Work is planned when the Merced River is below the work area. If the water level in the Merced River increases, plastic sheeting and sandbags will be used to isolate and dewater the work area. If dewatering is necessary, the Applicant shall notify the Central Valley Water Board staff prior to dewatering for approval of the dewatering plan.

The Project will permanently impact 0.397 acre and temporarily impact 0.099 acre of waters of the United States.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located on the north bank of the Merced River on Hills Ferry Road east of the intersection with River Road.

Latitude: 37.34992° and Longitude: -120.97344°

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The approximate timeframe of Project construction is one month, beginning as soon as possible.

APPLICATION FEE:

Submittal of the application fee of \$ 1,949 is required for a valid notice of applicability.

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 G - Emergency Projects authorized by a Water Board General Order (fee code 85) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Debra Mahnke at (559) 445-6281 or Debra.Mahnke@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original signed by Clay L. Rodgers for

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