



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 October 2024

Dan Stricklin
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
3995 Old Carson Road,
Pollock Pines, CA 95762
Daniel.Stricklin@smud.org

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT, SOUTH FORK POWERHOUSE TAILRACE CLEANOUT PROJECT, (WDID#5A09CR00136Y5), EL DORADO COUNTY

On 23 September 2024, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Permittee) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 2018 UARP Maintenance Activities Project (Project) Notice of Applicability for the General Section 401 Water Quality Certification Order Requirements (NOA) (WDID#5A09CR00136), dated 27 July 2018. 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 South Fork Powerhouse Tailrace Cleanout Project (Project) qualifies for enrollment under this Programmatic Certification. The proposed activity will take place within approximately 0.02 acre of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under the Programmatic Certification, subject to the conditions and the notification requirements described in the Programmatic Certification. This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the Programmatic Certification pursuant to section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this Notice of Applicability and the Programmatic Certification. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the Programmatic Certification, dated 23 September 2024, and supplementary information (Application Package). If the Project is modified from that described in the Application Package, then coverage under the Programmatic Certification is no longer valid.

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

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project activities will occur at a quarter mile downstream of the Slab Creek Dam and is located approximately 0.75 mile north of North Canyon Road near Camino, California in El Dorado County.

Section 30, Township 12 North, Range 13 East, MDB&M.

Latitude: 38°51'06.26" and Longitude: -120°71'25.29"

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project consists of removal of debris from the South Fork Powerhouse tailrace. By the end of November 2024, the Permittee plans to mobilize an excavator to remove debris from the South Fork Powerhouse tailrace during November, allowing for the lowest minimum streamflow releases below Slab Creek Reservoir and will likely leave the tailrace dry. A temporary access road above the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) will be built by reconfiguring existing riprap adjacent to the Southfork Powerhouse allowing an excavator to access the tailrace (Figure 4). No foreign material will be imported to the site. A pad will be levelled adjacent to the tailrace allowing the excavator to reach the full length of the concrete walls. The temporary excavator pad and roadway will be removed on the way out and the slope protection returned. There are no permanent impacts associated with the tailrace cleanout. Debris trapped in the tailrace (~0.02 acres) is native channel material from upstream. Materials removed from the tailrace will be placed above the OHWM at designated disposal sites.

There are no permanent impacts associated with the tailrace cleanout. Debris trapped in the tailrace (approximately 0.02 acre) is native channel material from upstream.

The Permittee received a renewed Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license on 23 July 2014 that requires minor construction and modification that may impact wetlands and waters of the United States. This Certification provides coverage to the Permittee for the following maintenance activities related to the Project considered unrelated to the FERC license issued to the Permittee:

- Water quality monitoring for turbidity, temperature, pH, and visual observations will be performed consistent with the methodology outlined in SMUDs Programmatic 401 Water Quality Certification (WDID#5A09CR00136A1). Any fish trapped in the tailrace during dewatering will be removed and placed downstream by a qualified biologist.
- To obtain coverage under this Certification, the Applicant must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) (Attachment A), at least 90 days prior to initiating construction. Specific dimensions and volumes, impacts to waters of the United States, and the mitigation for those impacts are required to be provided with each NOI. Central Valley Water Board staff will review the NOI and evaluate whether it meets the Project description in this Certification. If the NOI meets the requirements, Central Valley Water Board staff will issue a NOA within 90 days to provide coverage under this Certification. The Applicant cannot start in-water work until an NOA is issued.

The Central Valley Water Board reserves the authority to request additional information or exclude any work from coverage if it cannot determine that the work is not sufficiently protective of water quality standards or beneficial uses. In such cases, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer will issue a Notice of Exclusion (NOE) within 90 days stating that the segment is not authorized or enrolled in this Certification. Valley elderberry longhorn beetle has been identified in the maintenance area. The Applicant shall implement the United States Fish and Wildlife Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle dated 9 July 1999. Maintenance activities will temporarily impact 0.03 acres of waters of the United States.

APPROXIMATE TIMEFRAME OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

November 2024-December 2024

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$2,985.00 was received on 25 October 2024. 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 F - 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 Sara Gevorgyan, Environmental Scientist, at (916) 464-4710 or Sara.Gevorgyan@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters for:
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: 2018 UARP Maintenance Activities Project (Project) General Section 401
Water Quality Certification Order Requirements (WDID#5A09CR00136)
dated 27 July 2018

Attachments: Figure 1 – Project Location Map
Figure 2 - Site Map

cc: Distribution List, page 4

DISTRIBUTION LIST
[Via email only]

Lauren Skube (SPK-2013-01098)
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Office
Regulatory Division
SPKRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil
Lauren.M.Skube@usace.army.mil

Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2
R2LSA@wildlife.ca.gov

United States Environmental Protection Agency
R9CWA401@epa.gov

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

Richard McHenry
CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance
RMcHenry@calsport.org

Kim Crawford
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Kim.Crawford@smud.org

Figure 1: Project Location Map

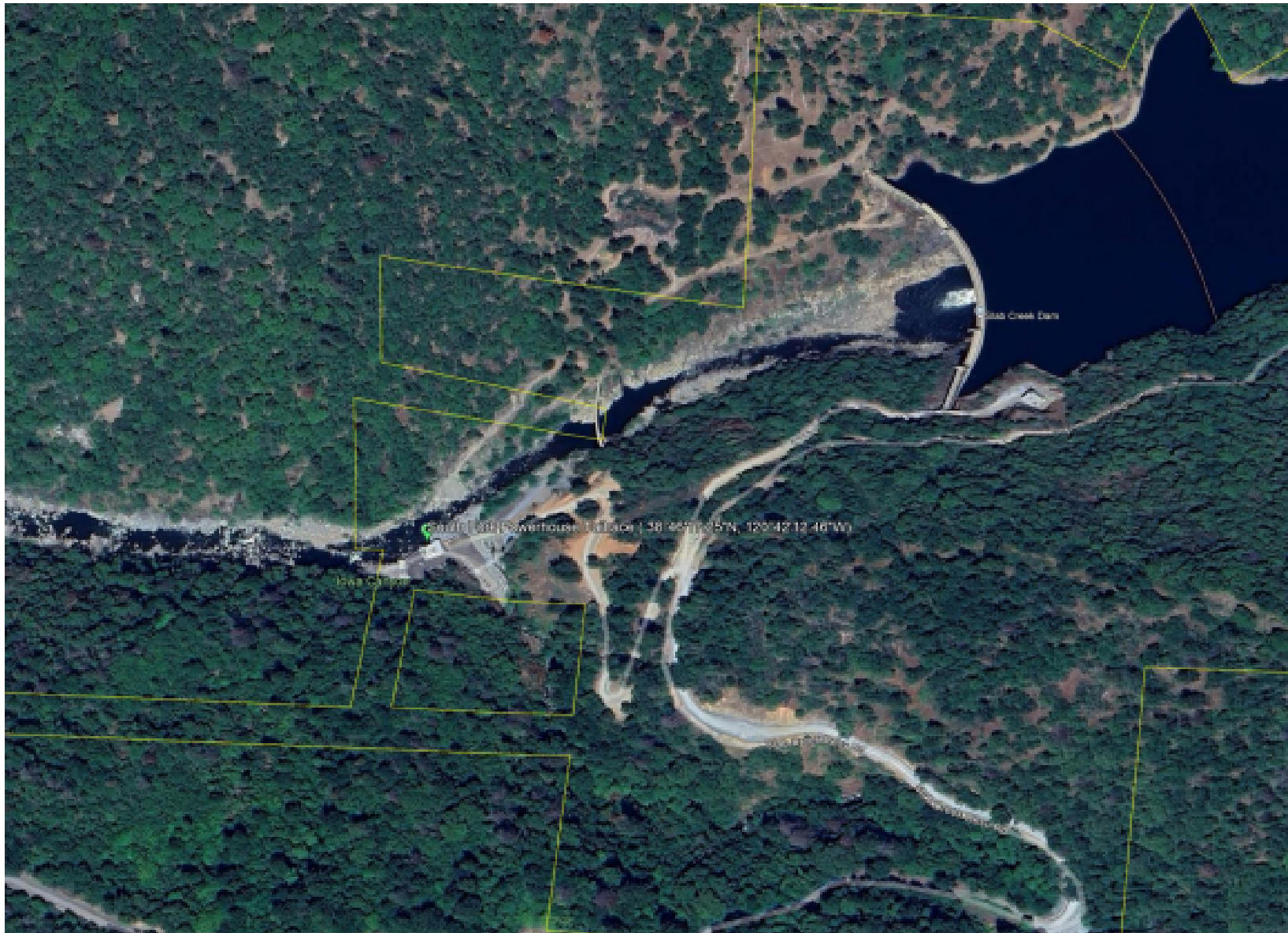


Figure 1. Project Location (FERC Project No. 2101 boundary in yellow).

Figure 2- Site Map

