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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

15 November 2024

Ryan Brown  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
350 Salem Street  
Chico, CA 95928

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2023-0058-DWQ, STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OF DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL TO WATERS OF THE STATE FROM EMERGENCY REPAIR AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES, MOUNT HOUGH EMERGENCY LINE REBUILD PROJECT, PLUMAS COUNTY, WDID NO. 5A32CR00248**

On 8 November 2024, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (Applicant) filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting coverage under State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Order No. 2023-0058-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State from Emergency Repair and Protection Activities (General Dredge or Fill WDR) for the Mount Hough Emergency Line Rebuild Project (Project). After review of the NOI 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 the General Dredge or Fill WDR.

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) is being issued at the request of Pacific Gas & Electric Company (hereinafter Enrollee) under the General Dredge or Fill WDR pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

**NOA Effective Date:** 18 November 2024

**NOA Expiration Date:** 14 April 2025

A copy of the General Dredge or Fill WDR is enclosed. You may also access the General Dredge or Fill WDR on State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders Web Page: [Order 2023-0058-DWQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders/2023/emergency-wdr-main.pdf) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders/2023/emergency-wdr-main.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders/2023/emergency-wdr-main.pdf)).

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the General Dredge or Fill WDR. Failure to comply with this NOA and the General Dredge or Fill WDR constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in

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

enforcement action and/or termination of enrollment under the General Dredge or Fill WDR. The Project is described in the NOI Form requesting coverage and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Dredge or Fill WDR is no longer valid if the Project is modified from that described in the Application Package.

**I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The project involves reinstallation of underground electric lines that provide power to an essential communications tower used by multiple governmental agencies, including the US Forest Service, the California Highway Patrol, and Emergency Management Services. The US Forest Service considers this a very high priority project that needs to be completed before the start of the winter. The Enrollee tried to address the situation in a temporary manner by using portable generators, however there is concern that there could be interruptions in service during the winter months due to delays in refueling the generators resulting from access constraints to the top of the mountain due to snow. The tower is located on top of Mount Hough at 7,200-foot elevation.

The Enrollee plans to reinstall around 4.75 miles of underground electric distribution line. Work involves staging materials, installing splice boxes, and installing 4.75 miles of cable in conduit (CIC) with a spider plow. CIC will be installed along China Grade Road near Taylorsville, CA to communications towers on the peak of Mount Hough, largely within Plumas National Forest. Crews will start from the top of Mount Hough and work their way downslope. CIC will be installed generally around 48 inches deep and cable splices will be made inside underground #5 steel boxes at roughly 3,000-foot spans. The Project footprint will be addressed immediately following the spider plow with Best Management Practices (BMPs) and soil stabilization. Project footprint remediation will include site cleanup, final road grading, removal of excess materials, soils stabilization, and vacating staging areas before crews fully demobilize.

**II. PROJECT LOCATION:**

Latitude: 40.069219, and Longitude: -120.842137

**III. PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

The Project started construction on 13 November 2024 and will continue until approximately 22 November 2024.

#### IV. DESCRIPTION OF DIRECT IMPACTS TO WATERS OF THE STATE

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Temporary Impacts<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Aquatic Resources Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cubic Yards</b>	<b>Linear Feet</b>
<b>Ephemeral Stream</b>	0.0006	4.15	14

#### V. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

##### A. Restoration of Temporary Impacts

The Permittee shall restore all areas of temporary impacts, including Project site upland areas, which could result in a discharge to waters of the state to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities.

If restoration of temporary impacts to waters of the state is not completed within 90 days of the completion of discharges, compensatory mitigation may be required to offset temporal loss of waters of the state.

##### B. Water Quality Monitoring

If surface water is present, continuous visual surface water monitoring shall be conducted during active construction periods to detect accidental discharge of construction related pollutants (e.g., oil and grease, turbidity plume, or uncured concrete). Sampling is not required in a wetland where the entire wetland is being permanently filled, provided there is no outflow connecting the wetland to surface waters. The Enrollee shall perform surface water sampling:

1. When performing any in-water work;
2. During the entire duration of temporary surface water diversions;
3. In the event that the Project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or
4. When any activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.

Sampling during in-water work shall be conducted in accordance with Table 2 sampling parameters. The sampling requirements in Table 2 shall be conducted upstream out of the influence of the Project and approximately 300 feet

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<sup>1</sup> Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include area of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state. Temporary impacts, by definition, are restored to pre-project conditions and therefore do not include a physical loss of area or degradation of ecological condition.

downstream of the work area.

**Table 2: Sample Type and Frequency Requirements**

Parameter	Unit of Measurement	Type of Sample	Minimum Frequency
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	Every 4 hours
Visible construction related pollutants <sup>2</sup>	Observations	Visual Inspections	Continuous throughout the construction period

**C. Reporting and Notification Requirements**

The Enrollee shall submit all reports in accordance with Section VI.G and Attachment B of the Dredge or Fill WDR and this Notice of Applicability via email to [Jerred.Ferguson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jerred.Ferguson@waterboards.ca.gov). Include the Project name and WDID No. 5A32CR00248 in the subject line of the email.

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted by the Enrollee within 45 calendar days of completion of Project activities. The NOC shall demonstrate that the work has been carried out in accordance with the description provided in the Enrollee's Notice of Intent.

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this NOA may expose the Enrollee to enforcement action pursuant to the Clean Water Act and California Water Code.

**VI. CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONTACT:**

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Jerred Ferguson at (530) 224-4784 or [Jerred.Ferguson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jerred.Ferguson@waterboards.ca.gov).

Original Signed by Lynn Coster  
For Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11/19/2024  
Date

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<sup>2</sup> Visible construction-related pollutants include oil, grease, foam, fuel, petroleum products, and construction-related, excavated, organic or earthen materials.

Enclosure: State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Order No. 2023-0058-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State from Emergency Repair and Protection Activities

cc via email: Water Quality Certification Program, SWRCB, Sacramento  
Kyle Schneider, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, West Sacramento