



## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

### CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND ORDER

**Effective Date:** 22 August 2022

**Expiration Date:** 21 August 2027

**Program Type:** Fill/Excavation

**Project Type:** Residential

**Project:** Villages at Elder Creek Estates Unit 1 Project (Project)

**Applicant:** Lennar Homes of California, Inc.

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Letter of Permission	

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**I. Order**

This Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401 Water Quality Certification action and Order (Order) is issued at the request of Lennar Homes of California, Inc. (hereinafter Permittee) for the Project. This Order is for the purpose described in application and supplemental information submitted by the Permittee. The application was received on 31 March 2022. The application was deemed complete on 28 April 2022.

Central Valley Water Board staff requested additional information necessary to supplement the contents of the complete application and the Permittee responded to the request for supplemental information on the following dates:

Date of Request for Supplemental Information: **28 April 2022**  
Date all requested information was received: **19 July 2022**

**II. Public Notice**

The Central Valley Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 from 8 April 2022 to 29 April 2022. The Central Valley Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

**III. Project Purpose**

The purpose of the Project is to develop residential housing and associated infrastructure.

**IV. Project Description**

The 77-acre project consists of mass grading the project site in order to develop residential housing, a park, a school, a one-acre water quality basin, and three landscaped lots. The grading will permanently fill 8.171 acres of aquatic resources.

The project also includes roadway and utility improvements that are required in accordance with Sacramento County. A 42-inch storm drain will be installed that will drain to an outfall on Elder Creek, which is outside the project boundaries. The location of the storm drain has yet to be determined.

**V. Project Location**

Address: East of Elk Grove Florin Road, about 0.25 mile south of the Florin Road/Elk Grove Florin Road intersection

County: Sacramento

Nearest City: Sacramento

Section 6, Township 7 North, Range 6 East, MDB&M.

Latitude: 38.490730° and Longitude: -121.371848°

Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A of this Order.

## VI. Project Impact and Receiving Waters Information

The Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Water Board. Receiving waters and groundwater potentially impacted by this Project are protected in accordance with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, May 2018 (Basin Plan). The plan for the region and other plans and policies may be accessed at the [State Water Resources Control Board's Plans and Policies Web page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans\\_policies/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/)). The Basin Plan includes water quality standards, which consist of existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the state, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and the state and federal antidegradation policies.

Project impact and receiving waters information can be found in Attachment B. Table 1 of Attachment B shows the receiving waters and beneficial uses of waters of the state impacted by the Project. Individual impact location and quantity is shown in Table 2 of Attachment B.

## VII. Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

Mass grading of the project site will permanently impact 8.171 acres of waters of the state. Approximately 4.934 acres of seasonal wetland habitat, 3.204 acres of vernal pool habitat, and 0.033 acres of pond features will be permanently filled as a result of the Project.

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1. Permanent impacts are categorized as those resulting in a physical loss in area and also those degrading ecological condition.

**Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area Impacts**

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Seasonal Wetland	4.934	7,960	n/a
Vernal Pool	3.204	5,169	n/a
Pond	0.033	53	n/a

## VIII. Description of Indirect Impacts to Waters of the State

The Central Valley Water Board recognizes the potential for indirect impacts to waters of the state associated with the Project. The Project will add approximately 41 acres of new impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces cause reduced base flows through decreased groundwater recharge; increased erosion and sedimentation via hydro-modification (i.e., any activity that increases the velocity and volume (flow rate) affecting residence time and alters the natural timing of runoff); and accumulation of pollutants that are subsequently discharged in storm water after construction.

## IX. Avoidance and Minimization

To minimize the potential effects of construction on water quality and resources, the Permittee shall implement all measures required as described in the Order. The project will be conducted under the conditions of the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP). According to the Permittee, the following measures imposed by the SSHCP will be in place during construction activities to avoid, reduce, and minimize impacts to waters of the state:

- **Construction Fencing**

Orange construction fencing will be installed to ensure that ground disturbance does not extend beyond the allowed construction footprint (i.e., the limit of project construction plus equipment staging areas and access roads). Plan Permittees and Third-Party Project Proponents implementing ground-disturbing Covered Activities will mark the outer boundary of any Preserve Setback or Stream Setback adjacent to or within the project site with orange construction fencing prior to ground disturbance. This fencing will remain in place until project completion, as identified by the Plan Permittee.
- **Erosion Control**

Plan Permittees and Third-Party Project Proponents implementing ground-disturbing Covered Activities will install temporary control measures for sediment, stormwater, and pollutant runoff as required by the Plan Permittee to protect water quality and species habitat. Silt fencing or other appropriate sediment control device(s) will be installed downslope of any Covered Activity that disturbs soils. Fiber rolls and seed mixtures used for erosion control will be certified as free of viable noxious weed seed. Erosion controls installed in or adjacent to Plan Area modeled habitat for giant gartersnake (*Thamnophis gigas*), western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), California tiger salamander (California tiger salamander), or western spadefoot (see Chapter 3) must be of appropriate design and materials that will not entrap the species (e.g., not contain mesh netting). Regular monitoring and maintenance of the project's erosion control measures will be conducted until project completion to ensure effective operation of erosion control measures.
- **Equipment storage and Fueling**

Plan Permittees and Third-Party Project Proponents implementing ground-disturbing Covered Activities will ensure that equipment storage and staging will occur in the development footprint only (not sited in any existing on-site Preserve, planned on-site Preserve, Preserve Setback, Stream Setback, or aquatic land cover type). Fuel storage and equipment fueling will occur away from waterways, stream channels, stream banks, and other environmentally sensitive areas within the development footprint. However, certain equipment storage and fueling activities can be allowed on Preserves within habitat re-establishment/establishment sites if no location outside of the site is available. If a Covered Activity results in a spill of fuel, hydraulic fluid, lubricants, or other petroleum products, the spill will be absorbed and waste disposed of in

a manner to prevent pollutants from entering a waterway, Preserve, Preserve Setback, or Stream Setback.

- **Erodible Materials**

Plan Permittees and Third-Party Project Proponents implementing Covered Activities must not deposit erodible materials into waterways. Vegetation clippings, brush, loose soils, or other debris material will not be stockpiled within stream channels or on adjacent banks. Erodible material must be disposed of such that it cannot enter a waterway, Preserve, Preserve Setback, Stream Setback, or aquatic land cover type. If water and sludge must be pumped from a subdrain or other structure, the material will be conveyed to a temporary settling basin to prevent sediment from entering a waterway.

- **Dust Control**

Plan Permittees and Third-Party Project Proponents implementing ground-disturbing Covered Activities will water active construction sites regularly, if warranted, to avoid or minimize impacts from construction dust on adjacent vegetation and wildlife habitats. No surface water will be used from aquatic land covers; water will be obtained from a municipal source or existing groundwater well.

- **Construction Lighting**

Plan Permittees and Third-Party Project Proponents implementing ground-disturbing Covered Activities will direct all temporary construction lighting (e.g., lighting used for security or nighttime equipment maintenance) away from adjacent natural habitats, and particularly Riparian and Wetland habitats and wildlife movement areas.

- **Biological Monitoring**

If a Covered Activity includes ground disturbance within Covered Species modeled habitat, an approved biologist will be on site during the period of ground disturbance and may need to be on site during other construction activities depending on the Covered Species affected. After ground-disturbing project activities are complete, the approved biologist will train an individual to act as the on-site construction monitor for the remainder of construction, with the concurrence of the Permitting Agencies. The approved biologist and the on-site monitor will have oversight over implementation of Avoidance and Minimization Measures and will have the authority to stop activities if any of the requirements associated with those measures are not met. If the monitor requests that work be stopped, the Wildlife Agencies will be notified within one working day by email. The approved biologist and/or on-site monitor will record all observations of listed species on California Natural Diversity Database field sheets and submit them to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The approved biologist or on-site monitor will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a Covered Species or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped individual. The

approved biologist and on-site monitor's names and telephone numbers will be provided to the Wildlife Agencies prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities. Refer to species-specific measures for details on requirements for biological monitors.

- **Training of Construction Staff**

A mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Program will be conducted by an approved biologist for all construction workers, including contractors, prior to the commencement of construction activities. The training will include how to identify Covered Species that might enter the construction site, relevant life history information and habitats, SSHCP and statutory requirements and the consequences of non-compliance, the boundaries of the construction area and permitted disturbance zones, litter control training, and appropriate protocols if a Covered Species is encountered. Supporting materials containing training information will be prepared and distributed by the approved biologist. When necessary, training and supporting materials will also be provided in Spanish. Upon completion of training, construction personnel will sign a form stating that they attended the training and understand all the Avoidance and Minimization Measures. Written documentation of the training must be submitted to the Implementing Entity within 30 days of completion of the training, and the Implementing Entity will provide this information to the Wildlife Agencies

- **Soil Compaction**

After construction is complete, all temporarily disturbed areas will be restored similar to pre-project conditions, including impacts relating to soil compaction, water infiltration capacity, and soil hydrologic characteristics.

- **Revegetation**

Plan Permittees and Third-Party Project Proponents implementing ground-disturbing Covered Activities will revegetate any cut-and-fill slopes with native or existing non-invasive, non-native plants (e.g., non-native grasses) suitable for the altered soil conditions.

- **Speed Limit Project**

Project-related vehicles will observe the posted speed limits on paved roads and a 10-mile-per-hour speed limit on unpaved roads and during travel in project areas. Construction crews will be given weekly tailgate instruction to travel only on designated and marked existing, cross-country, and project-only roads.

- **Stream Setbacks**

A 100-foot setback measured from the top of the bank on both sides of the stream channel will be applied to Elder Creek. If a stream reach supports woody riparian vegetation, the setback will be equal to the riparian edge plus 25 feet or will be the setback defined above, whichever is greater. If trails are located within the Stream Setback, the nearest edge of the trail will be located at least 50 feet from the top of the bank.

Elder Creek is adjacent to the project area. Temporary impacts will occur within 100 feet, but the areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

- **Litter Removal Program**

A litter control program will be instituted for the entire project site. All workers will ensure that their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. All garbage will be removed from the project site at the end of each workday, and construction personnel will not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the area where construction activities are taking place.

- **No Pets in Construction Areas**

To avoid harm and harassment of native species, workers and visitors will not bring pets onto a project site.

- **Take Report**

If accidental injury or death of any Covered Species occurs, workers will immediately inform the approved biologist or on-site monitor and site supervisor. The approved biologist or on-site monitor will phone the appropriate contact person at the Implementing Entity. The Implementing Entity will immediately contact the Wildlife Agencies by telephone. A memorandum will be provided to the Implementing Entity and Wildlife Agencies within 1 working day of the incident. The report will provide the date and location of the incident, number of individuals taken, the circumstances resulting in the take, and any corrective measures taken to prevent additional take.

- **Post Construction Compliance Report**

A post-construction compliance report will be submitted to the SSHCP Implementing Entity within 30 calendar days of completion of construction activities or within 30 calendar days of any break in construction activity that lasts more than 30 days. The report will detail the construction start and completion dates, any information about meeting or failing to meet species take Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMM), effectiveness of each AMM that was applied at the project site, and any known project effects to Covered Species.

- **Western Spadefoot Work Window**

Ground-disturbing Covered Activities within western spadefoot modeled habitat will occur outside the breeding and dispersal season (after May 15 and before October 15), to the maximum extent practicable.

- **Western Spadefoot Exclusion Fencing**

If Covered Activities must be implemented in modeled habitat after October 15 and before May 15, exclusion fencing will be installed around the project footprint before October 15, and the project site must be monitored by an approved biologist following rain events. Temporary high-visibility construction fencing will be installed along the edge of work areas, and silt fencing will be

installed immediately behind the temporary high-visibility construction fencing to exclude western spadefoot from entering the construction area. Fencing will remain in place until all construction activities within the construction area are completed. No project activities will occur outside the delineated project footprint.

- **Western Spadefoot Monitoring**

If Covered Activities must be implemented in modeled habitat in the breeding and dispersal season (after October 15 and before May 15), an approved biologist experienced with western spadefoot identification and behavior will monitor the project site, including the integrity of any exclusion fencing. The approved biologist will be on site daily while construction-related activities are taking place and will inspect the project site daily for western spadefoot prior to construction activities. The approved biologist will also train construction personnel on the required avoidance procedures, exclusion fencing, and protocols in the event that a western spadefoot enters an active construction zone (i.e., outside the buffer zone).

- **Avoid Western Spadefoot Entrapment**

If a Covered Activity occurs in western spadefoot modeled habitat, all excavated steep-walled holes and trenches more than 6 inches deep will be covered with plywood (or similar material) or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks at the end of each workday or 30 minutes prior to sunset, whichever occurs first. All steep-walled holes and trenches will be inspected by the approved biologist each morning to ensure that no wildlife has become entrapped. All construction pipes, culverts, similar structures, construction equipment, and construction debris left overnight within western spadefoot modeled habitat will be inspected for western spadefoot by the approved biologist prior to being moved.

- **Erosion Control Measures in Western Spadefoot Habitat**

If erosion control is implemented within western spadefoot modeled habitat, non-entangling erosion control material will be used to reduce the potential for entrapment. Tightly woven fiber netting (mesh size less than 0.25 inch) or similar material will be used to ensure that western spadefoots are not trapped (no monofilament). Coconut coir matting and fiber rolls containing burlap are examples of acceptable erosion control materials.

- **Western Spadefoot Encounter Protocol**

If Covered Activities must be implemented in modeled habitat during the breeding and dispersal season (after October 15 and before May 15), and a western spadefoot is encountered during construction activities, the approved biologist will notify the Wildlife Agencies immediately. Construction activities will be suspended in a 100-foot radius of the animal until the animal leaves the project site on its own volition. If necessary, the approved biologist will notify the Wildlife Agencies to determine the appropriate procedures related to relocation. If the animal is handled, a report will be submitted, including

date(s), location(s), habitat description, and any corrective measures taken to protect the western spadefoot within 1 business day to the Wildlife Agencies. The biologist will report any take of listed species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately. Any worker who inadvertently injures or kills a western spadefoot or who finds dead, injured, or entrapped western spadefoot(s) must immediately report the incident to the approved biologist.

- **Western Pond Turtle Surveys**

An approved biologist will conduct a field investigation to delineate western pond turtle aquatic habitat within the project footprint and within 300 feet of the project footprint. Adjacent parcels under different land ownership will be surveyed only if access is granted or if the parcels are visible from authorized areas. The Third-Party Project Proponent will map all existing or potential sites and provide those maps to the Local Land Use Permittees and the Implementing Entity. Locations of delineated western pond turtle habitat must also be noted on plans that are submitted to a Local Land Use Permittee. The applicant will use this information to finalize project design. Covered Activities may occur throughout the year as long as western pond turtle habitat is identified and fully avoided.

- **Western Pond Turtle Monitoring**

If a Covered Activity is occurring in western pond turtle modeled habitat, an approved biologist experienced with western pond turtle identification and behavior will monitor the project site, including the integrity of any exclusion fencing. The approved biologist will be on site daily while Covered Activities are taking place in aquatic habitat or within 300 feet of aquatic habitat and will inspect the project site daily for western pond turtle prior to these activities. The approved biologist will also train construction or maintenance personnel on the required avoidance procedures, exclusion fencing, and protocols in the event that a western pond turtle enters an active construction or maintenance zone (i.e., outside the buffer zone).

- **Avoid Western Pond Turtle Entrapment**

If a Covered Activity occurs within western pond turtle modeled habitat, all excavated steep-walled holes and trenches more than 6 inches deep will be covered with plywood (or similar material) or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks at the end of each workday or 30 minutes prior to sunset, whichever occurs first. All steep-walled holes and trenches will be inspected by the approved biologist each morning to ensure that no wildlife has become entrapped. All construction pipes, culverts, similar structures, construction equipment, and construction debris left overnight within western pond turtle modeled habitat will be inspected for western pond turtle by the approved biologist prior to being moved.

- **Erosion Control Materials in Western Pond Turtle habitat**

If erosion control is implemented within western pond turtle modeled habitat,

non-entangling erosion control material will be used to reduce the potential for entrapment. Tightly woven fiber netting (mesh size less than 0.25 inch) or similar material will be used to ensure that turtles are not trapped (no monofilament). Coconut coir matting and fiber rolls containing burlap are examples of acceptable erosion control materials.

- **Western Pond Turtle Modeled Habitat Speed Limit**

Covered Activity construction and maintenance vehicles will observe a 20-mile-per-hour speed limit within western pond turtle modeled upland habitat.

- **Western Pond Turtle Encounter Protocol**

If a western pond turtle is encountered during Covered Activities, the approved biologist will notify the Wildlife Agencies immediately. Covered Activities will be suspended in a 100-foot radius of the animal until the animal leaves the project site on its own volition. If necessary, the approved biologist will notify the Wildlife Agencies to determine the appropriate procedures related to relocation. If the animal is handled, a report will be submitted, including date(s), location(s), habitat description, and any corrective measures taken to protect the turtle, within 1 business day to the Wildlife Agencies. The biologist will report any take of listed species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately. Any worker who inadvertently injures or kills a western pond turtle or who finds one dead, injured, or entrapped must immediately report the incident to the approved biologist.

- **Western Pond Turtle Post Construction Restoration**

After completion of Covered Activities, the applicant will remove any temporary fill and construction debris and will restore temporarily disturbed areas to pre-project conditions. Restoration work includes such activities as re-vegetating the banks and active channels with a seed mix similar to pre-project conditions. Appropriate methods and plant species used to re-vegetate such areas will be determined on a site-specific basis in consultation with the Implementing Entity. Restoration work may include replanting emergent aquatic vegetation and placing appropriate artificial or natural basking areas in waterways and wetlands. A photo documentation report showing pre- and post-project conditions will be submitted to the Implementing Entity 1 month after implementation of the restoration.

- **Tricolored Blackbird Nest Buffer**

If active nests are found within the project footprint or within 500 feet of any project-related Covered Activity, the Third-Party Project Proponent will establish a 500-foot temporary buffer around the active nest until the young have fledged.

- **Tricolored Blackbird Nest Buffer Monitoring**

If nesting tricolored blackbirds are present within the project footprint or within 500 feet of any project-related Covered Activity, then an approved biologist experienced with tricolored blackbird behavior will be retained by the Third-Party Project Proponent to monitor the nest throughout the nesting season

and to determine when the young have fledged. The approved biologist will be on site daily while construction-related activities are taking place near the disturbance buffer. Work within the nest disturbance buffer will not be permitted. If the approved biologist determines that tricolored blackbirds are exhibiting agitated behavior, construction will cease until the buffer size is increased to a distance necessary to result in no harm or harassment to the nesting tricolored blackbirds. If the biologist determines that the colonies are at risk, a meeting with the Third-Party Project Proponent, Implementing Entity, and Wildlife Agencies will be held to determine the best course of action to avoid nest abandonment or take of individuals. The approved biologist will also train construction personnel on the required avoidance procedures, buffer zones, and protocols in the event that a tricolored blackbird flies into an active construction zone (i.e., outside the buffer zone).

- **Swainson's Hawk Pre-Construction Surveys**

If existing or potential nest sites were found during surveys, and construction activities will occur during the breeding season (March 1 through September 15), pre-construction surveys will be required to determine if active nests are present within a project footprint or within 0.25 mile of a project footprint. An approved biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys within 30 days and again within 3 days of ground-disturbing activities to determine presence of nesting Swainson's hawk. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted during the breeding season (March 1 through September 15). The approved biologist will inform the Land Use Authority Permittee and Implementing Entity of species locations, and they in turn will notify the Wildlife Agencies.

- **Swainson's Hawk Nest Buffer**

If active nests are found within the project footprint or within 0.25 mile of any project-related Covered Activity, the Third-Party Project Proponent will establish a 0.25-mile disturbance buffer around the active nest until the young have fledged, with concurrence from the Wildlife Agencies.

- **Swainson's Hawk Nest Buffer Monitoring**

If nesting Swainson's hawks are present within the project footprint or within 0.25 mile of any project-related Covered Activity, then an approved biologist experienced with Swainson's hawk behavior will be retained by the Third-Party Project Proponent to monitor the nest throughout the nesting season and to determine when the young have fledged. The approved biologist will be on site daily while construction-related activities are taking place within the buffer. Work within the temporary nest disturbance buffer can occur with the written permission of the Implementing Entity and Wildlife Agencies. If nesting Swainson's hawks begin to exhibit agitated behavior, such as defensive flights at intruders, getting up from a brooding position, or flying off the nest, the approved biologist will have the authority to shut down construction activities. If agitated behavior is exhibited, the biologist, Third-Party Project Proponent, Implementing Entity, and Wildlife Agencies will meet to determine the best course of action to avoid nest abandonment or take of individuals.

The approved biologist will also train construction personnel on the required avoidance procedures, buffer zones, and protocols in the event that a Swainson's hawk flies into an active construction zone (i.e., outside the buffer zone).

- **Swainson's Hawk Nest Tree Avoidance**

Project proponents shall avoid removal of Swainson's hawk nest trees active within the last 5 years, to the maximum extent practicable. Removal of occupied nest trees shall be timed outside of the Swainson's hawk nesting season, which would limit removal to October 1 through February 1, and shall not remove any occupied nest trees until the last young have fledged, as verified by the approved biologist. The Implementing Entity shall provide the number of Swainson's hawk nest trees removed each year, along with nest locations, in each Annual Report submitted to CDFW.

- **Western Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Surveys**

Prior to any Covered Activity ground disturbance, an approved biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys in all areas that were identified as suitable habitat during the initial surveys. The purpose of the pre-construction surveys is to document the presence or absence of burrowing owls on the project site, particularly in areas within 250 feet of construction activities. To maximize the likelihood of detecting owls, the pre-construction survey will last a minimum of 3 hours. The survey will begin 1 hour before sunrise and continue until 2 hours after sunrise (3 hours total) or begin 2 hours before sunset and continue until 1 hour after sunset. Additional time may be required for large project sites. A minimum of two pre-construction surveys will be conducted (if owls are detected on the first survey, a second survey is not needed). All owls observed will be counted and their location will be mapped. Surveys will conclude no more than 2 calendar days prior to construction. Therefore, the Third-Party Project Proponent must begin surveys no more than 4 days prior to construction (2 days of surveying plus up to 2 days between surveys and construction). To avoid last-minute changes in schedule or contracting that may occur if burrowing owls are found, the Third-Party Project Proponent may also conduct a preliminary survey up to 15 days before construction. This preliminary survey may count as the first of the two required surveys as long as the second survey concludes no more than 2 calendar days in advance of construction.

- **Burrowing Owl Avoidance**

If western burrowing owl or evidence of western burrowing owl is observed on the project site or within 250 feet of the project site during pre-construction surveys, then the following will occur:

*During Breeding Season:* If the approved biologist finds evidence of western burrowing owls within a project site during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), all project-related activities will avoid nest sites during the remainder of the breeding season or while the nest remains occupied by

adults or young (nest occupation includes individuals or family groups foraging on or near the site following fledging). Avoidance is establishment of a minimum 250-foot buffer zone around nests. Construction and other project-related activities may occur outside of the 250-foot buffer zone. Construction and other project-related activities may be allowed inside of the 250-foot non-disturbance buffer during the breeding season if the nest is not disturbed, and the Third-Party Project Proponent develops an avoidance, minimization, and monitoring plan that is approved by the Implementing Entity and Wildlife Agencies prior to project construction based on the following criteria:

- a) The Implementing Entity and Wildlife Agencies approve of the avoidance and minimization plan provided by the project applicant.
- b) An approved biologist monitors the owls for at least 3 days prior to construction to determine baseline nesting and foraging behavior (i.e., behavior without construction).
- c) The same approved biologist monitors the owls during construction and finds no change in owl nesting and foraging behavior in response to construction activities.

If there is any change in owl nesting and foraging behavior as a result of construction activities, the approved biologist will have authority to shut down activities within the 250-foot buffer. Construction cannot resume within the 250-foot buffer until any owls present are no longer affected by nearby construction activities, and with written concurrence from the Wildlife Agencies.

If monitoring by the approved biologist indicates that the nest is abandoned prior to the end of nesting season and the burrow is no longer in use, the non-disturbance buffer zone may be removed if approved by the Wildlife Agencies. The approved biologist will excavate the burrow in accordance with the latest California Department of Fish and Wildlife guidelines for burrowing owl to prevent reoccupation after receiving approval from the Wildlife Agencies.

The Implementing Entity and Wildlife Agencies will respond to a request from the Third-Party Project Proponent to review the proposed construction monitoring plan within 21 days.

**During Non-Breeding Season:** During the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), the approved biologist will establish a minimum 250-foot non-disturbance buffer around occupied burrows. Construction activities outside of this 250-foot buffer will be allowed. Construction activities within the non-disturbance buffer will be allowed if the following criteria are met to prevent owls from abandoning over-wintering sites:

- a) An approved biologist monitors the owls for at least 3 days prior to construction to determine baseline foraging behavior (i.e., behavior without construction).

- b) The same approved biologist monitors the owls during construction and finds no change in owl foraging behavior in response to construction activities.
- c) If there is any change in owl foraging behavior as a result of construction activities, the approved biologist will have authority to shut down activities within the 250-foot buffer.
- d) If the owls are gone for at least 1 week, the Third-Party Project Proponent may request approval from the Implementing Entity and Wildlife Agencies that an approved biologist excavate usable burrows and install one-way exclusionary devices to prevent owls from re-occupying the site. After all usable burrows are excavated, the buffer zone will be removed, and construction may continue.

Monitoring must continue as described above for the non-breeding season as long as the burrow remains active.

- **Burrowing Owl Construction Monitoring**

During construction of Covered Activities, 250-foot construction buffer zones will be established and maintained around any occupied burrow. An approved biologist will monitor the site to ensure that buffers are enforced and owls are not disturbed. The approved biologist will also train construction personnel on avoidance procedures, buffer zones, and protocols in the event that a burrowing owl flies into an active construction zone.

- **Burrowing Owl Passive Relocation**

Passive relocation is not allowed without the express written approval of the Wildlife Agencies. Passive owl relocation may be allowed on a case-by-case basis on project sites during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31) with the written approval of the Wildlife Agencies if the other measures described in this condition preclude work from continuing. Passive relocation must be done in accordance with the latest California Department of Fish and Wildlife guidelines for burrowing owl. Passive relocation will only be proposed if the burrow needing to be removed or with the potential to collapse from construction activities is the result of a Covered Activity. If passive relocation is approved by the Wildlife Agencies, an approved biologist can passively exclude birds from their burrows during the non-breeding season by installing one-way doors in burrow entrances. These doors will be in place for 48 hours to ensure that owls have left the burrow, and then the biologist will excavate the burrow to prevent reoccupation. Burrows will be excavated using hand tools only. During excavation, an escape route will be maintained at all times. This may include inserting an artificial structure into the burrow to avoid having materials collapse into the burrow and trap owls inside. Other methods of passive relocation, based on best available science, may be approved by the Wildlife Agencies over the 50-year Permit Term.

- **Rodent Control**

Rodent control will be allowed only in developed portions of a Covered Activity project site within western burrowing owl modeled habitat. Where rodent control is allowed, the method of rodent control will comply with the methods of rodent control discussed in the 4(d) Rule published in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (2004) final listing rule for tiger salamander.
- **Raptor Pre-Construction Surveys**

Pre-construction surveys will be required to determine if active nests are present with a project footprint or within 0.25 mile of a project footprint if existing or potential nest sites are found during initial surveys and construction activities will occur during the raptor breeding season. An approved biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys within 30 days and 3 days of ground-disturbing activities within the proposed project footprint and within 0.25 mile of the proposed project footprint to determine presence of nesting covered raptor species. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted during the raptor breeding season. The approved biologist will inform the Land Use Authority Permittee and Implementing Entity of species locations, and they in turn will notify the Wildlife Agencies.
- **Raptor Nest/Roost Buffer**

If active nests are found within the project footprint or within 0.25 mile of any project-related Covered Activity, the Third-Party Project Proponent will establish a 0.25 mile temporary nest disturbance buffer around the active nest until the young have fledged.
- **Raptor Nest/Roost Buffer Monitoring**

If project-related Covered Activities within the temporary nest disturbance buffer are determined to be necessary during the nesting season, then an approved biologist experienced with raptor behavior will be retained by the Third-Party Project Proponent to monitor the nest throughout the nesting season and to determine when the young have fledged. The approved biologist will be on site daily while construction-related activities are taking place within the disturbance buffer. Work within the temporary nest disturbance buffer can occur with the written permission of the Implementing Entity and Wildlife Agencies. If nesting raptors begin to exhibit agitated behavior, such as defensive flights at intruders, getting up from a brooding position, or flying off the nest, the approved biologist/monitor will have the authority to shut down construction activities. If agitated behavior is exhibited, the biologist, Third-Party Project Proponent, Implementing Entity, and Wildlife Agencies will meet to determine the best course of action to avoid nest abandonment or take of individuals. The approved biologist will also train construction personnel on the required avoidance procedures, buffer zones, and protocols in the event that a covered raptor species flies into an active construction zone (i.e., outside the buffer zone).

- **Wester Red Bat Maternity Roost Surveys**

If modeled habitat for western red bat is present within 300 feet of a Covered Activity's project footprint, and a Covered Activity is proposed between May 1 and August 31 (when pre-flight/nursing young may be present), then an approved biologist will conduct a field investigation of the project footprint and adjacent areas within 300 feet of the project footprint to determine if a potential maternity roost is present, and to identify and map potential maternity roost sites. Adjacent parcels under different land ownership will be surveyed only if access is granted or if the parcels are visible from authorized areas. If potential maternity roost sites are found, the Third-Party Project Proponent will note their locations on project designs and will design the project to avoid all areas within a 300-foot buffer around the potential maternity roost sites. Maternity roost habitat is fully avoided if project-related activities do not impinge on a 300-foot buffer established by the approved biologist around an existing or potential maternity roost site.

- **Western Red Bat Maternity Roost Pre-Construction Surveys**

If the Third-Party Project Proponent elects not to avoid potential maternity roost sites within the project footprint plus a 300-foot buffer during May through August, additional western red bat surveys are required. Prior to any ground disturbance related to Covered Activities or staging of equipment in the project footprint, an approved biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey within 3 days of ground-disturbing activities (within the project footprint and 300 feet of the project footprint) to determine the presence of maternity roost sites. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted during the roosting season when pre-flight/nursing young may be present (May 1 through August 31). The approved biologist will inform the Land Use Authority Permittee and SSHCP Implementing Entity (the South Sacramento Conservation Agency) of all roost sites and species locations, and they in turn will notify the Wildlife Agencies (USFWS and CDFW) and provide all survey information to the Wildlife Agencies.

- **Western Red Bat Maternity Roost Buffer**

If active maternity roost sites are found within the project footprint or within 300 feet of the project footprint between May 1 and August 31, the Third-Party Project Proponent will establish a 300-foot temporary disturbance buffer around the active maternity roost site until bats have vacated the roost and the Wildlife Agencies concur that the roost is vacant. Very few western red bats are expected to be present in the Action Area in the winter months (November 1 through March 31). However, if active winter hibernaculum sites are found within the project footprint or within 300 feet of the project footprint between November 1 and March 31, the Third-Party Project Proponent will establish the same 300-foot temporary disturbance buffer around the active winter hibernaculum site until bats have vacated the hibernaculum and the Wildlife Agencies concur that the hibernaculum is vacant.

- **Bat Eviction Methods for Non-Maternity and No Hibernaculum Roosts**  
An approved biologist will determine if non-maternity and non-hibernaculum day and night roosts are present on the project site. If direct impacts to non-maternity and non-hibernaculum day and night roosts cannot be avoided, the Third-Party Project Proponent will prepare a bat eviction plan and inform the Land Use Authority Permittee and the SSHCP Implementing Entity (the South Sacramento Conservation Agency). They in turn shall inform the Wildlife Agencies and provide the bat eviction plan for review. If necessary, the approved biologist may be allowed to remove the bats using safe-eviction methods acceptable to the Wildlife Agencies.

The Project will add approximately 41 acres of new impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces cause reduced base flows through decreased groundwater recharge; increased erosion and sedimentation via hydro-modification (i.e., any activity that increases the velocity and volume (flow rate) affecting residence time, and alters the natural timing of runoff); and accumulation of pollutants that are subsequently discharged in storm water after construction. With the implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) treatments, the effects of impervious surfaces were minimized to the following waters of the state: Elder Creek.

#### **X. Compensatory Mitigation**

The Permittee has agreed to provide compensatory mitigation for direct impacts, described in section XIV.K. for permanent impacts.

#### **XI. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

On 10 October 2010, Sacramento County, as lead agency, certified an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2005082045) for the Florin-Vineyard Gap Community Plan Project and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on 15 December 2010. Sacramento County, as lead agency, approved an Addendum to the Florin-Vineyard Gap Community Plan EIR for the Villages as Elder Creek Unit 1 Project on 14 June 2022.

#### **XII. Petitions for Reconsideration**

Any person aggrieved by this action may petition the State Water Board to reconsider this Order in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3867. A petition for reconsideration must be submitted in writing and received within 30 calendar days of the issuance of this Order.

#### **XIII. Fees Received**

An application fee of \$2,417.00 was received on 1 April 2022. 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 A - Fill & Excavation Discharges (fee code 84) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

An additional fee of \$173,597.00 based on total Project impacts was received on 19 July 2022.

#### **XIV. Conditions**

The Central Valley Water Board has independently reviewed the record of the Project to analyze impacts to water quality and designated beneficial uses within the watershed of the Project. In accordance with this Order, the Permittee may proceed with the Project under the following terms and conditions:

##### **A. Authorization**

Impacts to waters of the state shall not exceed quantities shown in Table 1.

##### **B. Reporting and Notification Requirements**

The following section details the reporting and notification types and timing of submittals. Requirements for the content of these reporting and notification types are detailed in Attachment D, including specifications for photo and map documentation during the Project. Written reports and notifications must be submitted using the Reporting and Notification Cover Sheet located in Attachment D, which must be signed by the Permittee or an authorized representative.

The Permittee must submit all notifications, submissions, materials, data, correspondence, and reports in a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF). Documents less than 50 MB must be emailed to: [centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov).

In the subject line of the email, include the Central Valley Water Board Contact, Project Name, and WDID No. Documents that are 50 MB or larger must be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Central Valley Water Board Contact.

##### **1. Project Reporting**

- a. Monthly Reporting:** The Permittee must submit a Monthly Report to the Central Valley Water Board on the **1st day of each month** beginning the month after the submittal of the Commencement of Construction Notification. Monthly reporting shall continue until the Central Valley Water Board issues a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee.
- b. Annual Reporting:** The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year on the 1st day of October, one year after the effective date of the Order. Annual reporting shall continue until the Central Valley Water Board issues a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee.

##### **2. Project Status Notifications**

- a. Commencement of Construction:** The Permittee shall submit a Commencement of Construction Report at least seven (7) days prior to

start of initial ground disturbance activities and corresponding Waste Discharge Identification Number (WDID No.) issued under the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ; NPDES No. CAS000002).

- b. Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter:** The Permittee shall submit a Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter following completion of active Project construction activities, including any required restoration and permittee-responsible mitigation. This request shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project construction activities. Upon acceptance of the request, Central Valley Water Board staff shall issue a Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter to the Permittee which will end the active discharge period.
- c. Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter:** The Permittee shall submit a Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter when construction and/or any post-construction monitoring is complete, and no further Project activities will occur. Completion of post-construction monitoring shall be determined by Central Valley Water Board staff and shall be contingent on successful attainment of restoration and mitigation performance criteria. This request shall be submitted to Central Valley Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project activities. Upon approval of the request, the Central Valley Water Board staff shall issue a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee which will end the post discharge monitoring period.

### 3. Conditional Notifications and Reports:

The following notifications and reports are required as appropriate.

#### a. Accidental Discharges of Hazardous Materials<sup>1</sup>:

Following an accidental discharge of a reportable quantity of a hazardous material, sewage, or an unknown material, the following applies (Water Code, Section 13271):

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<sup>1</sup> "Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. (Health & Safety Code, Section 25501.)

- i. As soon as (A) Permittee has knowledge of the discharge or noncompliance, (B) notification is possible, and (C) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures then:
  - first call – 911 (to notify local response agency)
  - then call – Office of Emergency Services (OES) State Warning Center at:(800) 852-7550 or (916) 845-8911
  - Lastly, follow the required OES, procedures as set forth in the [Office of Emergency Services' Accidental Discharge Notification Web page](http://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Documents/CalOES-Spill_Booklet_Feb2014_FINAL_BW_Acc.pdf) ([http://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Documents/CalOES-Spill\\_Booklet\\_Feb2014\\_FINAL\\_BW\\_Acc.pdf](http://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Documents/CalOES-Spill_Booklet_Feb2014_FINAL_BW_Acc.pdf)).
- ii. Following notification to OES, the Permittee shall notify Central Valley Water Board, as soon as practicable (ideally within 24 hours). Notification may be delivered via written notice, email, or other verifiable means.
- iii. Within five (5) working days of notification to the Central Valley Water Board, the Permittee must submit an Accidental Discharge of Hazardous Material Report.

**b. Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards:**

The Permittee shall notify the Central Valley Water Board of any event causing a violation of compliance with water quality standards. Notification may be delivered via written notice, email, or other verifiable means.

- i. This notification must be followed within three (3) working days by submission of a Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards Report.

**c. In-Water Work and Diversions:**

- i. The Permittee shall notify the Central Valley Water Board at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to initiating work in water or stream diversions. Notification may be delivered via written notice, email, or other verifiable means.
- ii. Within three (3) working days following completion of work in water or stream diversions, an In-Water Work/Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report must be submitted to Central Valley Water Board staff.

**d. Modifications to Project:**

Project modifications may require an amendment of this Order. The Permittee shall give advance notice to Central Valley Water Board staff if Project implementation as described in the application materials is altered

in any way or by the imposition of subsequent permit conditions by any local, state or federal regulatory authority by submitting a Modifications to Project Report. The Permittee shall inform Central Valley Water Board staff of any Project modifications that will interfere with the Permittee's compliance with this Order. Notification may be made in accordance with conditions in the certification deviation section of this Order.

**e. Transfer of Property Ownership:**

This Order is not transferable in its entirety or in part to any person or organization except after notice to the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with the following terms:

- i. The Permittee must notify the Central Valley Water Board of any change in ownership or interest in ownership of the Project area by submitting a Transfer of Property Ownership Report. The Permittee and purchaser must sign and date the notification and provide such notification to the Central Valley Water Board at least 10 days prior to the transfer of ownership.
- ii. Until such time as this Order has been modified to name the purchaser as the permittee, the Permittee shall continue to be responsible for all requirements set forth in this Order.

**f. Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance:**

If maintenance responsibility for post-construction BMPs is legally transferred, the Permittee must submit to the Central Valley Water Board a copy of such documentation and must provide the transferee with a copy of a long-term BMP maintenance plan that complies with manufacturer or designer specifications. The Permittee must provide such notification to the Central Valley Water Board with a Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance Report at least 10 days prior to the transfer of BMP maintenance responsibility.

**C. Water Quality Monitoring**

**1. General:**

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 Permittee shall perform surface water sampling:

- a. when performing any in-water work;
- b. during the entire duration of temporary surface water diversions;

- c. in the event that the Project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or
- d. when any activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.

**2. Accidental Discharges/Noncompliance:**

Upon occurrence of an accidental discharge of hazardous materials or a violation of compliance with a water quality standard, Central Valley Water Board staff may require water quality monitoring based on the discharge constituents and/or related water quality objectives and beneficial uses.

**3. In-Water Work or Diversions – Not Applicable**

**4. Post-Construction:**

Visually inspect the Project site during the rainy season for one year following completion of active Project construction activities to ensure excessive erosion, stream instability, or other water quality pollution is not occurring in or downstream of the Project site. If water quality pollution is occurring, contact the Central Valley Water Board staff member overseeing the Project within three (3) working days. The Central Valley Water Board may require the submission of a Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards Report. Additional permits may be required to carry out any necessary site remediation.

**D. Standard**

1. This Order is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330, and California Code of Regulations, title 23, Chapter 28, article 6 commencing with sections 3867-3869, inclusive. Additionally, the Central Valley Water Board reserves the right to suspend, cancel, or modify and reissue this Order, after providing notice to the Permittee, if the Central Valley Water Board determines that: the Project fails to comply with any of the conditions of this Order; or, when necessary to implement any new or revised water quality standards and implementation plans adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, section 13000 et seq.) or federal Clean Water Act section 303 (33 U.S.C. section 1313). For purposes of Clean Water Act section 401(d), the condition constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with water quality standards and appropriate requirements of state law.
2. This Order is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license, unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to subsection 3855(b) of

chapter 28, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

3. This Order is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23 of the California Code of Regulations and owed by the Permittee.
4. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Order, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions as provided for under state and federal law. For purposes of Clean Water Act, section 401(d), the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, processes, or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Order.

#### **E. General Compliance**

1. Failure to comply with any condition of this Order shall constitute a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the Clean Water Act. The Permittee and/or discharger may then be subject to administrative and/or civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 13385.
2. Permitted actions must not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standards, including impairment of designated beneficial uses for receiving waters as adopted in the Basin Plans by any applicable Regional Water Board or any applicable State Water Board (collectively Water Boards) water quality control plan or policy. The source of any such discharge must be eliminated as soon as practicable.
3. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Order, the Central Valley Water Board may require the holder of this Order to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Water Boards deem appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. The additional monitoring requirements ensure that permitted discharges and activities comport with any applicable effluent limitations, water quality standards, and/or other appropriate requirement of state law.
4. The Permittee must, at all times, fully comply with engineering plans, specifications, and technical reports submitted to support this Order; and all subsequent submittals required as part of this Order. The conditions within this Order and Attachments supersede conflicting provisions within Permittee submittals.

5. This Order and all of its conditions contained herein continue to have full force and effect regardless of the expiration or revocation of any federal license or permit issued for the Project. For purposes of Clean Water Act, section 401(d), this condition constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements of state law.
6. The Permittee shall adhere to all requirements in the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) (include title and date of MMRP) which is incorporated herein by reference and any additional measures as outlined in Attachment C, CEQA Findings of Fact.
7. **Construction General Permit Requirement:** The Permittee shall obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ; NPDES No. CAS000002), as amended, for discharges to surface waters comprised of storm water associated with construction activity, including, but not limited to, demolition, clearing, grading, excavation, and other land disturbance activities of one or more acres, or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres.

#### F. Administrative

1. Signatory requirements for all document submittals required by this Order are presented in Attachment E of this Order.
2. This Order does not authorize any act which results in the taking of a threatened, endangered or candidate species or any act, which is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & Wildlife Code, sections 2050-2097) or the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. sections 1531-1544). If a "take" will result from any act authorized under this Order held by the Permittee, the Permittee must comply with the California Endangered Species Act and federal Endangers Species Act prior to any construction or operation of the portion of the Project that may result in a take. The Permittee is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable endangered species act for the Project authorized under this Order.
3. The Permittee shall grant Central Valley Water Board staff, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a Water Board representative), upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, permission to:
  - a. Enter upon the Project or compensatory mitigation site(s) premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept.

- b. Have access to and copy any records that are kept and are relevant to the Project or the requirements of this Order.
  - c. Inspect any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Order.
  - d. Sample or monitor for the purposes of assuring Order compliance.
4. A copy of this Order shall be provided to any consultants, contractors, and subcontractors working on the Project. Copies of this Order shall remain at the Project site for the duration of this Order. The Permittee shall be responsible for work conducted by its consultants, contractors, and any subcontractors.
5. A copy of this Order must be available at the Project site(s) during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel performing work on the Project shall be familiar with the content of this Order and its posted location at the Project site.
6. **Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement:** The Permittee shall submit a signed copy of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement to the Central Valley Water Board immediately upon execution and prior to any discharge to waters of the state.

#### **G. Construction**

1. **Dewatering** - Not Applicable
2. **Directional Drilling** – Not Applicable
3. **Dredging** - Not Applicable
4. **Fugitive Dust:**

Dust abatement activities can cause discharges of sediment to streams and uplands through application of water or other fluids. Dust abatement chemicals added to water can be hazardous to wildlife and, if allowed to enter streams, detrimental to water quality. Therefore, dust abatement activities shall be conducted so that sediment or dust abatement chemicals are not discharged into waters of the state. Dust abatement products or additives that are known to be detrimental to water quality or wildlife shall not be used, unless specific management needs are documented, and product-specific application plans are approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.

#### **5. Good Site Management “Housekeeping”**

- a. The Permittee shall develop and maintain onsite a project-specific Spill Prevention, Containment and Cleanup Plan outlining the practices to prevent, minimize, and/or clean up potential spills during construction of

the Project. The Plan must detail the Project elements, construction equipment types and location, access and staging and construction sequence. The Plan must be made available to the Central Valley Water Board staff upon request.

- b. Refueling of equipment within the floodplain or within 300 feet of the waterway is prohibited. If critical equipment must be refueled within 300 feet of the waterway, spill prevention and countermeasures must be implemented to avoid spills. Refueling areas shall be provided with secondary containment including drip pans and/or placement of absorbent material. No hazardous materials, pesticides, fuels, lubricants, oils, hydraulic fluids, or other construction-related potentially hazardous substances should be stored within a floodplain or within 300 feet of a waterway. The Permittee must perform frequent inspections of construction equipment prior to utilizing it near surface waters to ensure leaks from the equipment are not occurring and are not a threat to water quality.
- c. All materials resulting from the Project shall be removed from the site and disposed of properly.

## **6. Hazardous Materials**

- a. The discharge of petroleum products, any construction materials, hazardous materials, pesticides, fuels, lubricants, oils, hydraulic fluids, raw cement, concrete or the washing thereof, asphalt, paint, coating material, drilling fluids, or other substances potentially hazardous to fish and wildlife resulting from or disturbed by project-related activities is prohibited and shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering waters of the state. In the event of a prohibited discharge, the Permittee shall comply with notification requirements in sections XIV.B.3.a and XIV.B.3.b.
- b. No wet concrete will be placed within waters of the state.

## **7. Invasive Species and Soil Borne Pathogens**

Prior to arrival at the project site and prior to leaving the project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds shall be cleaned to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.

## **8. Post-Construction Storm Water Management**

- a. The Permittee must minimize the short and long-term impacts on receiving water quality from the Project by implementing the following post-construction storm water management practices and as required by local agency permitting the Project, as appropriate:
  - i. Minimize the amount of impervious surface;
  - ii. Reduce peak runoff flows;

- iii. Provide treatment BMPs to reduce pollutants in runoff;
  - iv. Ensure existing waters of the state (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, or creeks) are not used as pollutant source controls and/or treatment controls;
  - v. Preserve and where possible, create or restore areas that provide important water quality benefits, such as riparian corridors, wetlands, and buffer zones;
  - vi. Limit disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development (including development of roads, highways, and bridges);
  - vii. Use existing drainage master plans or studies to ensure incorporation of structural and non-structural BMPs to mitigate the projected pollutant load increases in surface water runoff;
  - viii. Identify and avoid development in areas that are particularly susceptible to erosion and sediment loss, or establish development guidance that protects areas from erosion/ sediment loss; and
  - ix. Control post-development peak storm water run-off discharge rates and velocities to prevent or reduce downstream erosion, and to protect stream habitat.
- b.** The Permittee shall ensure that all development within the Project provides verification of maintenance provisions for post-construction structural and treatment control BMPs as required by the local agency permitting the Project. Verification shall include one or more of the following, as applicable:
- i. The developer's signed statement accepting responsibility for maintenance until the maintenance responsibility is legally transferred to another party; or
  - ii. Written conditions in the sales or lease agreement that require the recipient to assume responsibility for maintenance; or
  - iii. Written text in Project conditions, covenants and restrictions for residential properties assigning maintenance responsibilities to a homeowner's association, or other appropriate group, for maintenance of structural and treatment control BMPs; or
  - iv. Any other legally enforceable agreement that assigns responsibility for storm water BMPs maintenance.

## **9. Roads**

- a.** The number of access routes, number and size of staging areas, and the total area of the activity must be limited to the minimum necessary to

- achieve the project goal. Routes and work area boundaries must be clearly demarcated.
- b. Bridges, culverts, dip crossings, or other structures must be installed so that water and in-stream sediment flow is not impeded. Appropriate design criteria, practices and materials must be used in areas where access roads intersect waters of the state.
  - c. Temporary materials placed in any water of the state must be removed as soon as construction is completed at that location, and all temporary roads must be removed or re-contoured and restored according to approved re-vegetation and restoration plans.
  - d. Any structure, including but not limited to, culverts, pipes, piers, and coffer dams, placed within a stream where fish (as defined in California Fish and Game Code section 45) exist or may exist, must be designed, constructed, and maintained such that it does not constitute a barrier to upstream or downstream movement of aquatic life, or cause an avoidance reaction by fish due to impedance of their upstream or downstream movement. This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining the supply of water and maintaining flows at an appropriate depth, temperature, and velocity to facilitate upstream and downstream fish migration. If any structure results in a long-term reduction in fish movement, the discharger shall be responsible for restoration of conditions as necessary (as determined by the Water Board) to secure passage of fish across the structure.
  - e. A method of containment must be used below any temporary bridge, trestle, boardwalk, and/or other stream crossing structure to prevent any debris or spills from falling into the waters of the state. Containment must be maintained and kept clean for the life of the temporary stream crossing structure.

## **10. Sediment Control**

- a. Except for activities permitted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, soil, silt, or other organic materials shall not be placed where such materials could pass into surface water or surface water drainage courses.
- b. Silt fencing, straw wattles, or other effective management practices must be used along the construction zone to minimize soil or sediment along the embankments from migrating into the waters of the state through the entire duration of the Project.
- c. The use of netting material (e.g., monofilament-based erosion blankets) that could trap aquatic dependent wildlife is prohibited within the Project area.

**11. Special Status Species**

The following Special Status Species have habitats that are likely to be present at the project site: hairy water flea, Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle, Western spadefoot toad, Western pond turtle, Tricolored blackbird, Golden eagle, Burrowing owl, Ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, Northern harrier, White-tailed kite, Greater sandhill crane, Loggerhead shrike, Pallid bat, Silver-haired bat, Western red bat, Hoary bat, and American badger

**12. Stabilization/Erosion Control**

- a. All areas disturbed by Project activities shall be protected from washout and erosion.
- b. Hydroseeding shall be performed with California native seed mix.

**13. Storm Water**

- a. During the construction phase, the Permittee must employ strategies to minimize erosion and the introduction of pollutants into storm water runoff. These strategies must include the following:
  - i. An effective combination of erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be implemented and adequately working prior to the rainy season and during all phases of construction.

**H. Site Specific** – Not Applicable

**I. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** – Not Applicable

**J. Mitigation for Temporary Impacts** – Not Applicable

**K. Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts:**

Compensatory Mitigation is for permanent physical loss and permanent ecological degradation of a water of the state.

**1. Purchase of Mitigation Credits by Permittee for Compensatory Mitigation**

- a. A copy of the fully executed agreement for the purchase of mitigation credits shall be provided to the Central Valley Water Board within 90 days of authorized impacts.
- b. The Permittee shall retain responsibility for providing the compensatory mitigation and long-term management until Central Valley Water Board staff has received documentation of the credit purchase and the transfer agreement between the Permittee and the seller of credits.

**2. Total Required Compensatory Mitigation**

- b. The Permittee is required to provide compensatory mitigation for the authorized impact to Waters of the State to by purchasing 8.171 acres of mitigation credits from the SSHCP in lieu fee program.
- c. Total required Project compensatory mitigation information for permanent physical loss of area is summarized in Table 2. [Establishment (Est.), Re-establishment (Re-est.), Rehabilitation (Reh.), Enhancement (Enh.), Preservation (Pres.), Unknown].

**Table 2: Total Required Project Compensatory Mitigation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area**

<b>Aquatic Resource Type</b>	<b>Mitigation Type</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Wetland	In-Lieu Fee Credits	Acres	4.934
Vernal Pool	In-Lieu Fee Credits	Acres	3.204
Pond	In-Lieu Fee Credits	Acres	0.033

**L. Certification Deviation**

- 1. Minor modifications of Project locations or predicted impacts may be necessary as a result of unforeseen field conditions, necessary engineering re-design, construction concerns, or similar reasons. Some of these prospective Project modifications may have impacts on water quality. Some modifications of Project locations or predicted impacts may qualify as Certification Deviations as set forth in Attachment F. For purposes of this Certification, a “Certification Deviation” is a Project locational or impact modification that does not require an immediate amendment of the Order, because the Central Valley Water Board has determined that any potential water quality impacts that may result from the change are sufficiently addressed by the Order conditions and the CEQA Findings. After the termination of construction, this Order will be formally amended to reflect all authorized Certification Deviations and any resulting adjustments to the amount of water resource impacts and required compensatory mitigation amounts.
- 2. A Project modification shall not be granted a Certification Deviation if it warrants or necessitates changes that are not addressed by the Order conditions or the CEQA environmental document such that the Project

impacts are not addressed in the Project's environmental document or the conditions of this Order. In this case a supplemental environmental review and different Order will be required.

#### **XV. Water Quality Certification**

I hereby issue the Order for the Villages at Elder Creek Estates Unit , WDID#5A34CR00851, certifying that as long as all of the conditions listed in this Order are met, any discharge from the referenced Project will comply with the applicable provisions of Clean Water Act sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards). Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all Order actions are contingent on: (a) the discharge being limited and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with the conditions of this Order and the attachments to this Order; and, (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of Statewide Water Quality Control Plans and Policies, the Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans and Policies.

*Original Signed by Adam Laputz (for)*

Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer

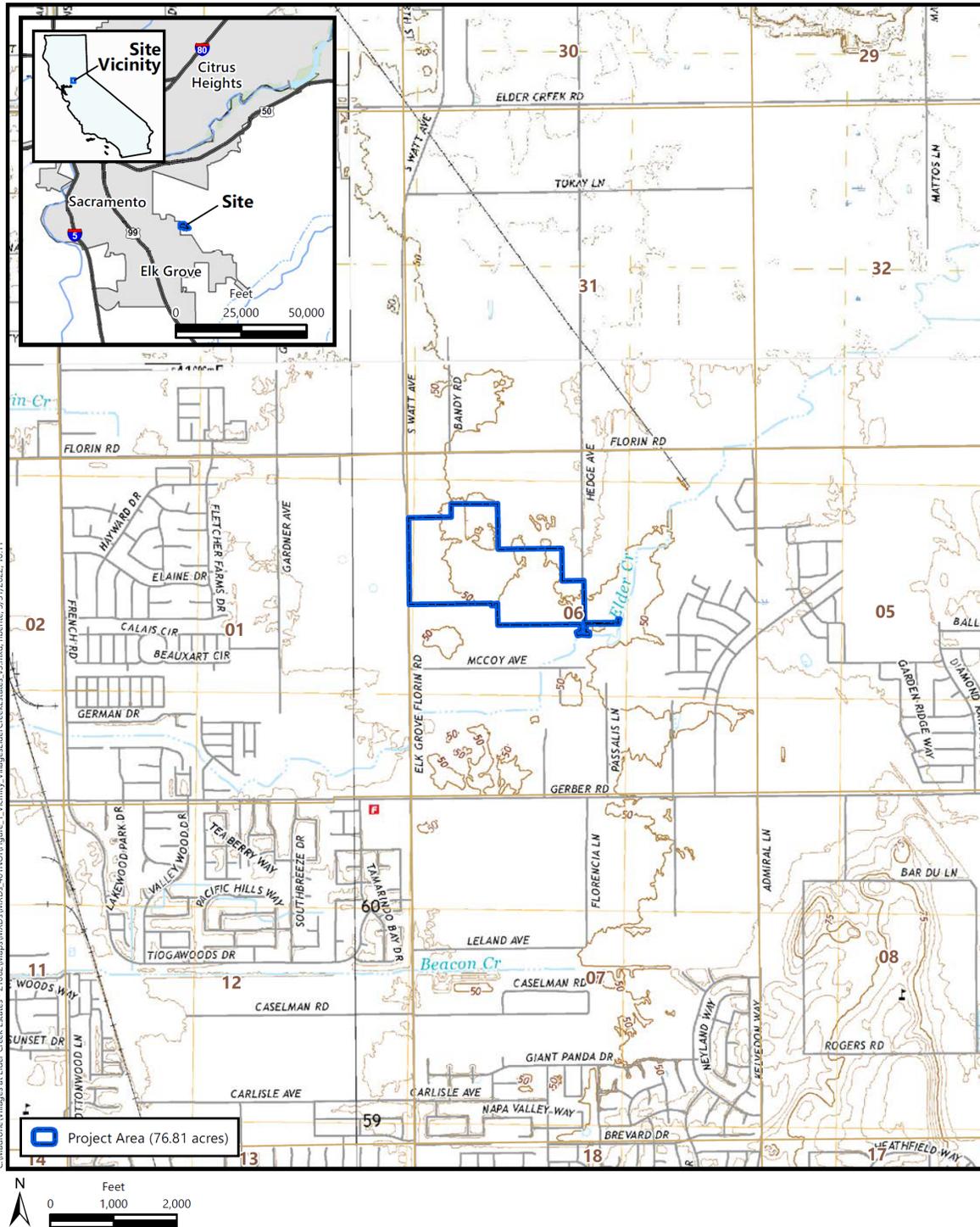
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Attachment A:** Project Maps
- Attachment B:** Receiving Waters, Impacts, and Mitigation Information
- Attachment C:** CEQA Findings of Facts
- Attachment D:** Report and Notification Requirements
- Attachment E:** Signatory Requirements
- Attachment F:** Certification Deviation Procedures
- Attachment G:** Compliance with Code of Federal Regulations

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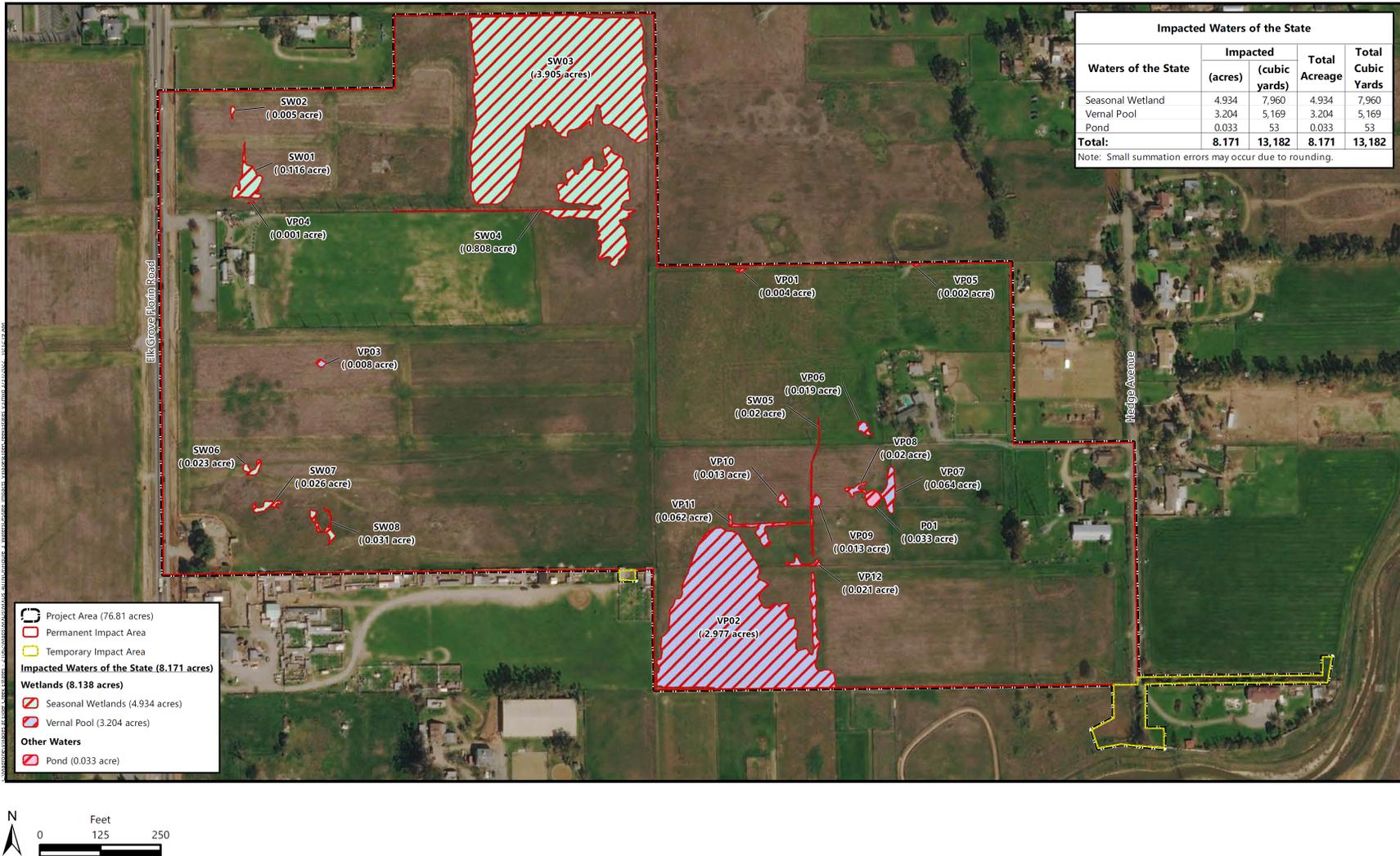
### Attachment A – Project Maps

Figure 1: Site Location



Source: United States Geologic Survey, 2018  
"Elk Grove, California" 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle  
Section 6, Township 7 North, Range 6 East, MDB&M  
Longitude -121.36766, Latitude 38.491201

Figure 2: Site Impacts



\*Small summation errors may occur due to rounding.  
Aerial Source: Maxar, 4 March 2021.

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**Attachment B – Receiving Waters, Impacts and Mitigation Information**

The following table shows the receiving waters associated with each impact site.

**Table 1: Receiving Water(s) Information**

Non-Federal Waters	Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resources Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant
No	SW01	N/A	Seasonal Wetland	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	SW02	N/A	Seasonal Wetland	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	SW03	N/A	Seasonal Wetland	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	SW04	N/A	Seasonal Wetland	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.

Non-Federal Waters	Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resources Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant
No	SW05	N/A	Seasonal Wetland	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp., Furan Comp.
No	SW06	N/A	Seasonal Wetland	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	SW07	N/A	Seasonal Wetland	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	SW08	N/A	Seasonal Wetland	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP01	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.

Non-Federal Waters	Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resources Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant
No	VP02	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP03	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP04	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP05	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP06	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.

Non-Federal Waters	Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resources Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant
No	VP07	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP08	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP09	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP10	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	VP11	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.

Non-Federal Waters	Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resources Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant
No	VP12	N/A	Vernal Pool	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.
No	P01	N/A	Pond	519.11 Franklin HSA	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	MUN, AGR, PROC, IND, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD NAV	PCBs, DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Mercury, Selenium, Dioxin Comp., Furan Comp.

**Individual Direct Impact Locations**

The following tables show individual impacts.

**Table 2: Individual Permanent Fill/Excavation Impact Information**

Impact Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Indirect Impact Requiring Mitigation?	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
SW01	38.4927657	-121.3711322	No	0.12	187	N/A
SW02	38.49330553	-121.3712744	No	0.01	8	N/A
SW03	38.49347482	-121.3682263	No	3.91	6300	N/A
SW04	38.49260115	-121.3677652	No	0.81	1304	N/A
SW05	38.49031858	-121.3657286	No	0.02	33	N/A

Impact Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Indirect Impact Requiring Mitigation?	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
SW06	38.49060866	-121.3711058	No	0.02	36	N/A
SW07	38.49032357	-121.3709874	No	0.03	42	N/A
SW08	38.49017873	-121.3704343	No	0.03	50	N/A
VP01	38.4920805	-121.3664054	No	0.004	7	N/A
VP02	38.48938328	-121.366493	No	2.98	4803	N/A
VP03	38.49139886	-121.370443	No	0.01	13	N/A
VP04	38.4926148	-121.3711014	No	0.001	2	N/A
VP05	38.4921095	-121.3647165	No	0.002	3	N/A
VP06	38.49088065	-121.3652297	No	0.02	30	N/A
VP07	38.49040602	121.3649853	No	0.06	103	N/A
VP08	38.4904194	-121.3653124	No	0.02	33	N/A
VP09	38.4903341	-121.3656878	No	0.01	21	N/A
VP10	38.49034612	-121.3660115	No	0.01	21	N/A
VP11	38.4901208	-121.3662226	No	0.06	99	N/A
VP12	38.48986931	-121.365826	No	0.02	34	N/A
P01	38.49035021	-121.3651493	No	0.03	53	N/A

**Compensatory Mitigation Information**

The following table(s) show individual compensatory mitigation information and locations.

**Mitigation Bank Compensatory Mitigation Site Information**

**In-Lieu Fee Compensatory Mitigation Information**

**Table 3: In-Lieu Fee Program**

In-Lieu Fee Program Name:	South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP)
Website:	<a href="https://www.southsachcp.com/">https://www.southsachcp.com/</a>
In-Lieu Fee Program Contact Name:	Kim Hudson
Phone:	(916) 874-5849
Email:	<a href="mailto:HUDSONK@sacccounty.net">HUDSONK@sacccounty.net</a>
In-Lieu Fee Program Location - County:	Sacramento
Latitude:	N/A
Longitude:	N/A

**Table 4: Mitigation Type Information**

Aquatic Resource Credit Type	Acres	Linear Feet	Number of Credits Purchased
Vernal Pool	3.204	N/A	N/A
Seasonal Wetland	4.934	N/A	N/A
Pond	0.033	N/A	N/A

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## **Attachment C – CEQA Findings of Fact**

### **A. Environmental Review**

On 10 October 2010, Sacramento County, as lead agency, certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2005082045) for the Florin-Vineyard Gap Community Plan Project and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on 15 December 2010. Sacramento County, as lead agency, approved an Addendum to the Florin-Vineyard Gap Community Plan EIR for the Villages at Elder Creek Unit 1 Project on 14 June 2022. The Central Valley Water Board is a responsible agency under CEQA (Public Resources Code, section 21069) and in making its determinations and findings, must presume that Sacramento County's certified environmental document comports with the requirements of CEQA and is valid. (Public Resources Code, section 21167.3). The Central Valley Water Board has reviewed and considered the environmental document and finds that the environmental document prepared by Sacramento County addresses the Project's water resource impacts. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096, subd. (f).) The environmental document includes the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) developed by Sacramento County for all mitigation measures that have been adopted for the Project to reduce potential significant impacts. (Public Resources Code, section 21081.6, subd. (a)(1); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15091, subd. (d).)

### **B. Incorporation by Reference**

Pursuant to CEQA, these Findings of Facts (Findings) support the issuance of this Order based on the Project FEIR, the application for this Order, and other supplemental documentation.

All CEQA project impacts, including those discussed in subsection C below, are analyzed in detail in the Project FEIR which is incorporated herein by reference. The Project FEIR is available at the Sacramento County Office of Planning and Environmental Review, 827 7th Street, Room 225 Sacramento, CA 95814.

Requirements under the purview of the Central Valley Water Board in the MMRP are incorporated herein by reference.

The Permittee's application for this Order, including all supplemental information provided, is incorporated herein by reference.

### **C. Findings**

The FEIR describes the potential significant environmental effects to water resources. Having considered the whole of the record, including comments received during the public review process, the Central Valley Water Board makes the following findings:

- (1) Findings regarding impacts that will be mitigated to a less than significant level. (Public Resources Code, section 21081, subd. (a)(1); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15091, subd. (a)(1).)

*Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the Project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the FEIR.*

a.i. Potential Significant Impact:

*Drainage and Hydrology*

Individual applicants within the Florin Vineyard Gap area have expressed an interest in working with the Department of Water Resources to develop an alternative site-specific drainage plan as “interim improvements”. The intent is that the applicant would still owe fees to support the overall drainage master plan improvements, and that the interim improvements would be replaced by ultimate master plan improvements once sufficient funds have been collected. Nonetheless, should this be allowed, it could have an adverse effect on the ability of the County to achieve full implementation of the area-wide drainage master plan. Also, the direct effects of these potential interim improvements are themselves unknown. Therefore, if interim improvements that are inconsistent with the drainage master plan are permitted, Villages at Elder Creek Estates impacts are potentially significant.

*Biological Resources:*

As a result of the proposed project, 8.19 acres of wetland and vernal pool habitat on the project site will be filled and will require compensation. Mitigation stipulates that the applicant ensure that there is no net-loss of wetland acreage, and that all applicable permits are obtained. With mitigation, Villages at Elder Creek Estates impacts are less-than-significant.

As discussed, the project will eliminate all of the Swainson’s hawk foraging habitat on the project site. Based on the new assessment methodology, the project impact is assessed as 20.18 acres. Mitigation for the loss of foraging habitat is required and has been included. Mitigation for loss of Swainson’s hawk foraging habitat will also compensate for any impacts to the white-tailed kite and the Cooper’s hawk, which forage on habitats similar to those of the Swainson’s hawk. Pre-construction nesting surveys will also be required through mitigation, to ensure that construction activities do not result in the disturbance of any active raptor nests. With mitigation, Villages at Elder Creek Estates impacts are less-than-significant.

The site also contains potential nesting habitat for the burrowing owl, which is a ground-nesting raptor. Mitigation that requires pre-construction nest surveys for the species be conducted no more than 30 days prior to onset of construction. The Measure further states that if active nests are discovered on the property, that no construction take place within 250 feet of the nesting site until the young have fledged and are able to exit the burrow. Passive

relocation can be performed on fledged birds that remain outside the nesting season (between February and August), and 6.5 acres of foraging habitat should be preserved for each active burrow that will be impacted by project activities. With mitigation, Villages at Elder Creek Estates impacts are less-than-significant.

The project site contains habitat suitable for dwarf downingia, Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop, Ahart's dwarf rush, legenera, slender orcutt grass, and Sacramento Orcutt grass. Though no individuals were observed, protocol surveys were not conducted. Such surveys are required prior to any construction within the wetlands on the site. With mitigation, Villages at Elder Creek Estates impacts are less-than-significant.

a.ii. Facts in Support of Finding:

*Drainage and Hydrology:*

**ECE-1:** Prior to the approval of improvement plans for individual development projects within the FVCP area, the project proponent shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of DWR that all FVCP DMP improvements necessary to provide adequate flood protection to the project, and necessary to provide adequate mitigation for the project's downstream drainage/flooding and water quality impacts, have been implemented.

*Biological resources:*

**ECE-7:** Prior to any grading, grubbing, or excavation within 50 feet of on-site wetlands, the applicant or owner shall obtain any/all applicable permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for the proposed modifications to on-site wetlands. In addition, the project applicant or property owner shall comply with General Plan Conservation Element Policy No. CO-96 as it pertains to no net loss of wetlands. If mitigation occurring through the state and federal permitting processes results in less than 1:1 compensation for the loss of wetland habitat, the applicant or owner shall be required to pay to the County of Sacramento an amount based on a rate of \$35,000 per acre for the unmitigated/uncompensated wetlands. The payment shall be submitted to the Department of Planning and Community Development and shall be deposited in the Wetlands Restoration Trust Fund. A copy of any required permits, or written notification from the applicant that the permit authority has

**ECE-8:** Prior to the approval of improvement plans, building permits, or recordation of the final map, whichever occurs first, or, if only a rezone is requested, prior to final adoption of the zoning agreement, implement one of the following options to mitigate for the loss of 20.18 acres of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat on the project site:

- a) The project proponent shall utilize one or more of the mitigation options (land dedication and/or fee payment) established in

Sacramento County's Swainson's Hawk Impact Mitigation Program (Chapter 16.130 of the Sacramento County Code).

- b) The project proponent shall, to the satisfaction of the California Department of Fish and Game, prepare and implement a Swainson's hawk mitigation plan that will include preservation of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat.
- c) Should the County Board of Supervisors adopt a Swainson's hawk mitigation policy/program (which may include a mitigation fee payable prior to issuance of building permits) prior to the implementation of one of the measures above, the project proponent may be subject to that program instead.

**ECE-9:** Prior to construction activity (including site improvements, and building construction) a focused surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist for burrowing owls where suitable habitat is present in the project area. Suitable habitat includes agricultural field margins, drainage ditches, and fallow fields. Surveys shall be conducted no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to commencement of construction activities. Surveys shall be conducted in accordance with CDFG protocol (CDFG 1995).

- a) If no occupied burrows are found in the survey area, a letter report documenting survey methods and findings shall be submitted to the County and no further mitigation is necessary.
- b) If an occupied burrow is found the applicant shall contact the Department of Environmental Review and Assessment and consult with the California Department of Fish (CDFG), prior to construction, to determine if avoidance is possible or if burrow relocation will be required.
- c) If owls are to remain on-site, a minimum of 6.5 acres of foraging habitat for each occupied burrow needs to be permanently preserved according to CDFG guidelines.
- d) In order to avoid direct impacts to owls, no activity shall take within 160 feet of an active burrow from September 1 to January 31 (wintering season) or 250 feet from February 1 through August 31 (breeding season). Protective fencing shall be place, at the distances above, around the active burrows and no activity shall occur within the protected buffer areas.
- e) Any impact to active owl burrows, relocation of owls or mitigation for habitat loss shall be done in accordance with CDFG guidelines. Written evidence from CDFG staff shall be provided to DERA attesting to the permission to remove burrows, relocate owls, mitigate for lost habitat, and provided a method for preservation habitat in perpetuity.

**ECE-11:** Rare plant surveys will be required in vernal pool habitats prior to any grading, grubbing, or excavation within 250 feet of a vernal pool or other suitable habitat. The rare plant surveyor shall have experience as a botanical field investigator and familiarity with the local flora and potential rare plants in the habitats to be surveyed.

The surveys shall be conducted when the rare plants at the site will be easiest to identify (i.e. flowering stage), and when the plants reach that stage of maturity. A minimum of three site visit shall be required, during the plants flowering period in order to determine absence. Each site visit must be no less than 7 days apart.

Submit a written report to the Department of Environmental Review and Assessment. The survey report should include a brief description of the vegetation, survey results, photographs, time spent surveying, date of surveys, a map showing the location of the survey route and any rare plant populations and copies of any rare plant occurrence forms. Notify DFG and USFWS if species are found and apply for “take” authorization (state law section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code and federal Endangered Species Act) prior construction.

**Mitigation Measure A: SSCHP Compliance (Replaces Previous Mitigation Measures BR-1, BR-2, BR-4, BR-5, & BR-6 of FEIR):** The applicant shall obtain authorization through the SSHCP prior to all ground disturbing activities, on-site and off-site. Authorization under the SSHCP shall include implementation and conformance with all applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Appendix F) and payment of fees necessary to mitigate for impacts to species and habitat. SSHCP Authorization shall compensate for impacts associated with:

1. Impacts to SSHCP landcovers, including:
  - Valley grassland – 46.8 acres
  - Agriculture – 7.33 acres
  - Vernal pool direct/indirect – 8.16 acres
2. Potential species-specific impacts including:
  - Burrowing owl
  - Swainson’s Hawk
  - Special status raptors
  - Western pond turtle
  - Western spadefoot
  - Western red bat

#### **D. Statement of Overriding Considerations**

The Sacramento County FEIR identifies certain significant impacts to the environment that cannot be avoided or substantially lessened with the application of feasible mitigation measures or feasible alternatives. Because there are significant and unavoidable impacts the Central Valley Water Board provides this Statement of Overriding Considerations in compliance with CEQA. (Public Resources Code, section 21081, subd (b); California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15093.)

The significant and unavoidable impacts and the benefits related to implementing the Villages at Elder Creek Estates Unit 1 project are disclosed in the Sacramento County FEIR, CEQA Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations. The unavoidable impacts to water resources are discussed in subsection C above.

The Central Valley Water Board has considered the economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the Project against its significant unavoidable impacts to water resources and finds that the specific economic, legal, social, and technological benefits of implementing the Project outweigh the significant and unavoidable impacts to water resources.

#### **E. Determination**

The Central Valley Water Board has reviewed and considered the environmental document and supplemental information provided by Sacramento County and has reached its own conclusion to approve this Project. The Central Valley Water Board will file a NOD with the SCH within five (5) working days from the issuance of this Order. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096.)

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## Attachment D – Reports and Notification Requirements

### I. Copies of this form

In order to identify your project, it is necessary to include a copy of the Project specific Cover Sheet below with your report; please retain for your records. If you need to obtain a copy of the Cover Sheet, you may download a copy of this Order as follows:

- A. [Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Adopted Orders Web page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/401_wqcerts/)  
([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/401\\_wqcerts/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/401_wqcerts/))
- B. Find your Order based on the County, Permittee, WDID No., and/or Project Name.

### II. Report Submittal Instructions

- A. Check the box on the Report and Notification Cover Sheet next to the report or notification you are submitting. **(See your Order for specific reports required for your Project)**
  - **Part A (Monthly and Annual Reports):** These reports will be submitted monthly and annually until a Notice of Project Complete Letter is issued.
  - **Part B (Project Status Notifications):** Used to notify the Central Valley Water Board of the status of the Project schedule that may affect Project billing.
  - **Part C (Conditional Notifications and Reports):** Required on a case by case basis for accidental discharges of hazardous materials, violation of compliance with water quality standards, notification of in-water work, or other reports.
- B. Sign the Report and Notification Cover Sheet and attach all information requested for the Report Type.
- C. Electronic Report Submittal Instructions:
  - Submit signed Report and Notification Cover Sheet and required information via email to: [centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov) and cc: [Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov).
  - Include in the subject line of the email:  
ATTN: Nicholas Savino; Project Name; and WDID No. 5A34CR00851

### III. Definition of Reporting Terms

#### A. Active Discharge Period:

The active discharge period begins with the effective date of this Order and ends on the date that the Permittee receives a Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter or, if no post-construction monitoring is required, a Notice of Project Complete Letter. The Active Discharge Period includes all elements of the Project including site construction and restoration, and any Permittee responsible compensatory mitigation construction.

#### B. Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter:

This request by the Permittee to the Central Valley Water Board staff pertains to projects that have post construction monitoring requirements, e.g. if site restoration was required to be monitored for 5 years following construction. Central Valley Water Board staff will review the request and send a Completion of Discharges Letter to the Permittee upon approval. This letter will initiate the post-discharge monitoring period.

#### C. Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter:

This request by the Permittee to the Central Valley Water Board staff pertains to projects that either have completed post-construction monitoring and achieved performance standards or have no post-construction monitoring requirements, and no further Project activities are planned. Central Valley Water Board staff will review the request and send a Project Complete Letter to the Permittee upon approval. Termination of annual invoicing of fees will correspond with the date of this letter.

#### D. Post-Discharge Monitoring Period:

The post-discharge monitoring period begins on the date of the Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter and ends on the date of the Notice of Project Complete Letter issued by the Central Valley Water Board staff. The Post-Discharge Monitoring Period includes continued water quality monitoring or compensatory mitigation monitoring.

#### E. Effective Date:

22 August 2022

### IV. Map/Photo Documentation Information

When submitting maps or photos, please use the following formats.

#### A. Map Format Information:

Preferred map formats of at least 1:24000 (1" = 2000') detail (listed in order of preference):

- **GIS shapefiles:** The shapefiles must depict the boundaries of all project areas and extent of aquatic resources impacted. Each shape should be attributed with the extent/type of aquatic resources impacted. Features and boundaries should be accurate to within 33 feet (10 meters). Identify datum/projection used and if possible, provide map with a North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) in the California Teale Albers projection in feet.
- **Google KML files** saved from Google Maps: My Maps or Google Earth Pro. Maps must show the boundaries of all project areas and extent/type of aquatic resources impacted. Include URL(s) of maps. If this format is used include a spreadsheet with the object ID and attributed with the extent/type of aquatic resources impacted.
- **Other electronic format** (CAD or illustration format) that provides a context for location (inclusion of landmarks, known structures, geographic coordinates, or USGS DRG or DOQQ). Maps must show the boundaries of all project areas and extent/type of aquatic resources impacted. If this format is used include a spreadsheet with the object ID and attributed with the extent/type of aquatic resources impacted.
- Aquatic resource maps marked on paper **USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps** or **Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quads (DOQQ)** printouts. Maps must show the boundaries of all project areas and extent/type of aquatic resources impacted. If this format is used include a spreadsheet with the object ID and attributed with the extent/type of aquatic resources impacted.

**B. Photo-Documentation:**

Include a unique identifier, date stamp, written description of photo details, and latitude/longitude (in decimal degrees) or map indicating location of photo. Successive photos should be taken from the same vantage point to compare pre/post construction conditions.

**V. Report and Notification Cover Sheet**

**Project:** Villages at Elder Creek Estates Unit 1 Project  
**Permittee:** Lennar Homes of California, Inc  
**WDID:** 5A34CR00851  
**Reg. Meas. ID:** 447379  
**Place ID:** 880568  
**Order Effective Date:** 22 August 2022  
**Order Expiration Date:** 21 August 2027

**VI. Report Type Submitted**

**A. Part A – Project Reporting**

Report Type 1  Monthly Report  
Report Type 2  Annual Report

**B. Part B – Project Status Notifications**

Report Type 3  Commencement of Construction  
Report Type 4  Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter  
Report Type 5  Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter

**C. Part C – Conditional Notifications and Reports**

Report Type 6  Accidental Discharge of Hazardous Material Report  
Report Type 7  Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards Report  
Report Type 8  In-Water Work/Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report  
Report Type 9  Modifications to Project Report  
Report Type 10  Transfer of Property Ownership Report  
Report Type 11  Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance Report

“I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.”

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**Print Name<sup>1</sup>** **Affiliation and Job Title**

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**Signature** **Date**

**<sup>1</sup>STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION (include if authorization has changed since application was submitted)**

I hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to act in my behalf as my representative in the submittal of this report, and to furnish upon request, supplemental information in support of this submittal.

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**Permittee's Signature** **Date**

<p><b>*This Report and Notification Cover Sheet must be signed by the Permittee or a duly authorized representative and included with all written submittals.</b></p>
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**A. Part A – Project Reporting**

**1. Report Type 1 - Monthly Report**

- a. Report Purpose** - Notifies Central Valley Water Board staff of the Project status and environmental compliance activities on a monthly basis.
- b. When to Submit** - On the 1st day of each month after the effective date of this Order until a Notice of Project Complete Letter is issued to the Permittee.

**c. Report Contents -**

i. Construction Summary

Describe Project progress and schedule including initial ground disturbance, site clearing and grubbing, road construction, site construction, and the implementation status of construction storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs). Best Management Practices (BMPs) is a term used to describe a type of water pollution or environmental control. If construction has not started, provide estimated start date.

ii. Event Summary

Describe distinct Project activities and occurrences, including environmental monitoring, surveys, and inspections.

iii. Photo Summary

Provide photos of Project activities. For each photo, include a unique site identifier, date stamp, written description of photo details, and latitude/longitude (in decimal degrees) or map indicating location of photo. Successive photos should be taken from the same vantage point to compare pre/post construction conditions.

iv. Compliance Summary

- List name and organization of environmental surveyors, monitors, and inspectors involved with monitoring environmental compliance for the reporting period.
- List associated monitoring reports for the reporting period.
- Summarize observed incidences of non-compliance, compliance issues, minor problems, or occurrences.
- Describe each observed incidence in detail. List monitor name and organization, date, location, type of incident, corrective action taken (if any), status, and resolution.

## 2. Report Type 2 - Annual Report

- a. **Report Purpose** - Notify the Central Valley Water Board staff of Project status during both the active discharge and post-discharge monitoring periods.
- b. **When to Submit** - Annual reports shall be submitted each year on the 1st day of October. Annual reports shall continue until a Notice of Project Complete Letter is issued to the Permittee.
- c. **Report Contents** - The contents of the annual report shall include the topics indicated below for each project period. Report contents are outlined in Annual Report Topics below.

### During the Active Discharge Period

- **Topic 1: Construction Summary**
- **Topic 2: Mitigation for Temporary Impacts Status**
- **Topic 3: Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts Status**

### During the Post-Discharge Monitoring Period

- **Topic 2: Mitigation for Temporary Impacts Status**
- **Topic 3: Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts Status**

- i. Annual Report Topic 1 - Construction Summary

**When to Submit** - With the annual report during the Active Discharge Period.

**Report Contents** - Project progress and schedule including initial ground disturbance, site clearing and grubbing, road construction, site construction, and the implementation status of construction storm water best management practices (BMPs). If construction has not started, provide estimated start date and reasons for delay.

- 1) Map showing general Project progress.
- 2) If applicable:
  - a) Summary of Conditional Notification and Report Types 6 and 7 (Part C below).
  - b) Summary of Certification Deviations. See Certification Deviation Attachment for further information.

- ii. Annual Report Topic 2 - Mitigation for Temporary Impacts Status

**When to Submit** - With the annual report during both the Active Discharge Period and Post-Discharge Monitoring Period.

**Report Contents -**

- 1) Planned date of initiation and map showing locations of mitigation for temporary impacts to waters of the state and all upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.
- 2) If mitigation for temporary impacts has already commenced, provide a map and information concerning attainment of performance standards contained in the restoration plan.
- iii. Annual Report Topic 3 - Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts Status

**When to Submit** - With the annual report during both the Active Discharge Period and Post-Discharge Monitoring Period.

**Report Contents - \*If not applicable report N/A.**

**1) Part A. Permittee Responsible**

- a) Planned date of initiation of compensatory mitigation site installation.
- b) If installation is in progress, a map of what has been completed to date.
- c) If the compensatory mitigation site has been installed, provide a final map and information concerning attainment of performance standards contained in the compensatory mitigation plan.

**2) Part B. Mitigation Bank or In-Lieu Fee**

- a) Status or proof of purchase of credit types and quantities.
- b) Include the name of bank/ILF Program and contact information.
- c) If ILF, location of project and type if known.

**B. Part B – Project Status Notifications**

**1. Report Type 3 - Commencement of Construction**

- a. **Report Purpose** - Notify Central Valley Water Board staff prior to the start of construction.
- b. **When to Submit** - Must be received at least seven (7) days prior to start of initial ground disturbance activities.
- c. **Report Contents** -
  - i. Date of commencement of construction.
  - ii. Anticipated date when discharges to waters of the state will occur.
  - iii. Project schedule milestones including a schedule for onsite compensatory mitigation, if applicable.

- iv. Construction Storm Water General Permit WDID No.
- v. Proof of purchase of compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts from the mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program.

**2. Report Type 4 - Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter**

- a. Report Purpose** - Notify Central Valley Water Board staff that post-construction monitoring is required and that active Project construction, including any mitigation and permittee responsible compensatory mitigation, is complete.
- b. When to Submit** - Must be received by Central Valley Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project construction activities.
- c. Report Contents** -
  - i. Status of storm water Notice of Termination(s), if applicable.
  - ii. Status of post-construction storm water BMP installation.
  - iii. Pre- and post-photo documentation of all Project activity sites where the discharge of dredge and/or fill/excavation was authorized.
  - iv. Summary of Certification Deviation discharge quantities compared to initial authorized impacts to waters of the state, if applicable.
  - v. An updated monitoring schedule for mitigation for temporary impacts to waters of the state and permittee responsible compensatory mitigation during the post-discharge monitoring period, if applicable.

**3. Report Type 5 - Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter**

- a. Report Purpose** - Notify Central Valley Water Board staff that construction and/or any post-construction monitoring is complete, or is not required, and no further Project activity is planned.
- b. When to Submit** - Must be received by Central Valley Water Board staff within thirty (30) days following completion of all Project activities.
- c. Report Contents** -
  - i. Part A: Mitigation for Temporary Impacts
    - 1) A report establishing that the performance standards outlined in the restoration plan have been met for Project site upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.
    - 2) A report establishing that the performance standards outlined in the restoration plan have been met for restored areas of temporary impacts to waters of the state. Pre- and post-photo documentation of all restoration sites.

- ii. Part B: Permittee Responsible Compensatory Mitigation
  - 1) A report establishing that the performance standards outlined in the compensatory mitigation plan have been met.
  - 2) Status on the implementation of the long-term maintenance and management plan and funding of endowment.
  - 3) Pre- and post-photo documentation of all compensatory mitigation sites.
  - 4) Final maps of all compensatory mitigation areas (including buffers).
- iii. Part C: Post-Construction Storm Water BMPs
  - 1) Date of storm water Notice of Termination(s), if applicable.
  - 2) Report status and functionality of all post-construction BMPs.
  - 3) Dates and report of visual post-construction inspection during the rainy season as indicated in XIV.C.4.

**C. Part C – Conditional Notifications and Reports**

**1. Report Type 6 - Accidental Discharge of Hazardous Material Report**

- a. **Report Purpose** - Notifies Central Valley Water Board staff that an accidental discharge of hazardous material has occurred.
- b. **When to Submit** - Within five (5) working days of notification to the Central Valley Water Board of an accidental discharge. Continue reporting as required by Central Valley Water Board staff.
- c. **Report Contents** -
  - i. The report shall include the OES Incident/Assessment Form, a full description and map of the accidental discharge incident (i.e. location, time and date, source, discharge constituent and quantity, aerial extent, and photo documentation). If applicable, the OES Written Follow-Up Report may be substituted.
  - ii. If applicable, any required sampling data, a full description of the sampling methods including frequency/dates and times of sampling, equipment, locations of sampling sites.
  - iii. Locations and construction specifications of any barriers, including silt curtains or diverting structures, and any associated trenching or anchoring.

**2. Report Type 7 - Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards Report**

- a. **Report Purpose** - Notifies Central Valley Water Board staff that a violation of compliance with water quality standards has occurred.

- b. **When to Submit** - The Permittee shall report any event that causes a violation of water quality standards within three (3) working days of the noncompliance event notification to Central Valley Water Board staff.
- c. **Report Contents** - The report shall include: the cause; the location shown on a map; and the period of the noncompliance including exact dates and times. If the noncompliance has not been corrected, include: the anticipated time it is expected to continue; the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance; and any monitoring results if required by Central Valley Water Board staff.

**3. Report Type 8 - In-Water Work and Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report**

- a. **Report Purpose** - Notifies Central Valley Water Board staff of the start and completion of in-water work. Reports the sampling results during in-water work and during the entire duration of temporary surface water diversions.
- b. **When to Submit** – At least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of in-water work. Within three (3) working days following the completion of in-water work. Surface water monitoring reports to be submitted two (2) weeks on initiation of in-water construction and during entire duration of temporary surface water diversions. Continue reporting in accordance with the approved water quality monitoring plan or as indicated in XIV.C.3.
- c. **Report Contents** - As required by the approved water quality monitoring plan or as indicated in XIV.C.3.

**4. Report Type 9 - Modifications to Project Report**

- a. **Report Purpose** - Notifies Central Valley Water Board staff if the Project, as described in the application materials, is altered in any way or by the imposition of subsequent permit conditions by any local, state or federal regulatory authority.
- b. **When to Submit** - If Project implementation as described in the application materials is altered in any way or by the imposition of subsequent permit conditions by any local, state or federal regulatory authority.
- c. **Report Contents** - A description and location of any alterations to Project implementation. Identification of any Project modifications that will interfere with the Permittee's compliance with the Order.

**5. Report Type 10 - Transfer of Property Ownership Report**

- a. **Report Purpose** - Notifies Central Valley Water Board staff of change in ownership of the Project or Permittee-responsible mitigation area.

**b. When to Submit** - At least 10 working days prior to the transfer of ownership.

**c. Report Contents** -

- i. A statement that the Permittee has provided the purchaser with a copy of this Order and that the purchaser understands and accepts:
  - 1) the Order's requirements and the obligation to implement them or be subject to administrative and/or civil liability for failure to do so; and
  - 2) responsibility for compliance with any long-term BMP maintenance plan requirements in this Order. Best Management Practices (BMPs) is a term used to describe a type of water pollution or environmental control.
- ii. A statement that the Permittee has informed the purchaser to submit a written request to the Central Valley Water Board to be named as the permittee in a revised order.

**6. Report Type 11 - Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance Report**

**a. Report Purpose** - Notifies Central Valley Water Board staff of transfer of long-term BMP maintenance responsibility.

**b. When to Submit** - At least 10 working days prior to the transfer of BMP maintenance responsibility.

**c. Report Contents** - A copy of the legal document transferring maintenance responsibility of post-construction BMPs.

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### **Attachment E – Signatory Requirements**

All documents submitted in compliance with this Order shall meet the following signatory requirements:

- A.** All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) must be signed and certified as follows:
  - 1.** For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer of at least the level of vice-president.
  - 2.** For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or proprietor, respectively.
  - 3.** For a municipality, or a state, federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
  
- B.** A duly authorized representative of a person designated in items 1.a through 1.c above may sign documents if:
  - 1.** The authorization is made in writing by a person described in items 1.a through 1.c above.
  - 2.** The authorization specifies either an individual or position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated activity.
  - 3.** The written authorization is submitted to the Central Valley Water Board Staff Contact prior to submitting any documents listed in item 1 above.
  
- C.** Any person signing a document under this section shall make the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.”

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## **Attachment F – Certification Deviation Procedures**

### **I. Introduction**

These procedures are put into place to preclude the need for Order amendments for minor changes in the Project routing or location. Minor changes or modifications in project activities are often required by the Permittee following start of construction. These deviations may potentially increase or decrease impacts to waters of the state. In such cases, a Certification Deviation, as defined in Section XIV.L of the Order, may be requested by the Permittee as set forth below:

### **II. Process Steps**

#### **A. Who may apply:**

The Permittee or the Permittee's duly authorized representative or agent (hereinafter, "Permittee") for this Order.

#### **B. How to apply:**

By letter or email to the 401 staff designated as the contact for this Order.

#### **C. Certification Deviation Request:**

The Permittee will request verification from the Central Valley Water Board staff that the project change qualifies as a Certification Deviation, as opposed to requiring an amendment to the Order. The request should:

1. Describe the Project change or modification:
  - a. Proposed activity description and purpose;
  - b. Why the proposed activity is considered minor in terms of impacts to waters of the state;
  - c. How the Project activity is currently addressed in the Order; and,
  - d. Why a Certification Deviation is necessary for the Project.
2. Describe location (latitude/longitude coordinates), the date(s) it will occur, as well as associated impact information (i.e., temporary or permanent, federal or non-federal jurisdiction, water body name/type, estimated impact area, etc.) and minimization measures to be implemented.
3. Provide all updated environmental survey information for the new impact area.
4. Provide a map that includes the activity boundaries with photos of the site.
5. Provide verification of any mitigation needed according to the Order conditions.
6. Provide verification from the CEQA Lead Agency that the proposed changes or modifications do not trigger the need for a subsequent environmental

document, an addendum to the environmental document, or a supplemental EIR. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15162-15164.)

**D. Post-Discharge Certification Deviation Reporting:**

1. Within 30 calendar days of completing the approved Certification Deviation activity, the Permittee will provide a post-discharge activity report that includes the following information:
  - a. Activity description and purpose;
  - b. Activity location, start date, and completion date;
  - c. Erosion control and pollution prevention measures applied;
  - d. The net change in impact area by water body type(s) in acres, linear feet and cubic yards;
  - e. Mitigation plan, if applicable; and,
  - f. Map of activity location and boundaries; post-construction photos.

**E. Annual Summary Deviation Report:**

1. Until a Notice of Completion of Discharges Letter or Notice of Project Complete Letter is issued, include in the Annual Project Report (see Construction Notification and Reporting attachment) a compilation of all Certification Deviation activities through the reporting period with the following information:
  - a. Site name(s);
  - b. Date(s) of Certification Deviation approval;
  - c. Location(s) of authorized activities;
  - d. Impact area(s) by water body type prior to activity in acres, linear feet and cubic yards, as originally authorized in the Order;
  - e. Actual impact area(s) by water body type in, acres, linear feet and cubic yards, due to Certification Deviation activity(ies);
  - f. The net change in impact area by water body type(s) in acres, linear feet and cubic yards; and
  - g. Mitigation to be provided (approved mitigation ratio and amount).

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**Attachment G - Compliance with Code of Federal Regulations,  
Title 40, Section 121.7, Subdivision (d)**

The purpose of this Attachment is to comply with Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 121.7, subdivision (d), which requires all certification conditions to provide an explanation of why the condition is necessary to assure that any discharge authorized under the certification will comply with water quality requirements and a citation to federal, state, or tribal law that authorizes the condition. This Attachment uses the same organizational structure as Section XIV of the Order, and the statements below correspond with the conditions set forth in Section XIV. The other Order Sections are not “conditions” as used in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 121.7

**I. General Justification for Section XIV Conditions**

Pursuant to Clean Water Act section 401 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3859, subdivision (a), the Central Valley Water Board, when issuing water quality certifications, may set forth conditions to ensure compliance with applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law. Under California Water Code section 13160, the State Water Resources Control Board is authorized to issue water quality certifications under the Clean Water Act and has delegated this authority to the executive officers of the regional water quality controls boards for projects within the executive officer’s region of jurisdiction. (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3838.)

The conditions within the Order are generally required pursuant to the Central Valley Water Board’s Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, May 2018 (Basin Plan), which was adopted and is periodically revised pursuant to Water Code section 13240. The Basin Plan includes water quality standards, which consist of existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the state, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and the state and federal antidegradation policies. For instance, the Basin Plan includes water quality objectives for chemical constituents, oil and grease, pH, sediment, suspended material, toxicity and turbidity, which ensure protection of beneficial uses.

The State Water Board’s Antidegradation Policy, “Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California,” Resolution No. 68-16, requires that the quality of existing high-quality water be maintained unless any change will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state, will not unreasonably affect present or anticipated future beneficial uses of such water, and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in water quality control plans or policies. The Antidegradation Policy further requires best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that pollution or nuisance will not occur and the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained. The Basin Plan incorporates this Policy. The state Antidegradation Policy incorporates the federal Antidegradation Policy (40 C.F.R. section 131.12

(a)(1)), which requires "[e]xisting instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected."

The State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (Dredge or Fill Procedures), adopted pursuant to Water Code sections 13140 and 13170, authorize approval of dredge or fill projects only if the demonstrations set forth in Section IV.B.1 of the Dredge or Fill Procedures have been satisfied.

California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3830 et seq. set forth state regulations pertaining to water quality certifications. In particular, section 3856 sets forth information that must be included in water quality certification requests, and section 3860 sets forth standard conditions that shall be included in all water quality certification actions.

Finally, Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 authorize the regional and state boards to establish monitoring and reporting requirements for persons discharging or proposing to discharge waste.

## **II. Specific Justification for Section XIV Conditions**

### **A. Authorization**

Authorization under the Order is granted based on the application submitted. The Permittee is required to detail the scope of project impacts in a complete application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856, subdivision (h). Pursuant to Water Code section 13260, subdivision (c), each person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste shall file a report of waste discharge relative to any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), the Permittee is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes, or making material changes to the character, volume, and timing of waste discharges authorized herein without filing a report required by Water Code section 13260 or its equivalent for certification actions under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856.

### **B. Reporting and Notification Requirements**

#### **1. Project Reporting**

#### **2. Project Status Notifications**

The reporting and notification conditions under Sections B.1 and B.2 are required to provide the Central Valley Water Board necessary project information and oversight to ensure project discharges are complying with applicable Basin Plan requirements. These monitoring and reporting requirements are consistent with the Central Valley Water Board's authority to investigate the quality of any waters of the state and require necessary monitoring and reporting pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383.

Water Code section 13267 authorizes the regional boards to require any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste to provide technical or monitoring program reports required by the regional board. Water Code section 13383 authorizes the regional boards to establish monitoring, inspection, entry, reporting, and other recordkeeping requirements, as authorized by Water Code section 13160, for any person who discharges, or proposes to discharge, to navigable waters.

### **3. Conditional Notifications and Reports**

#### **a. Accidental Discharges of Hazardous Materials**

Conditions under Section B.3.a related to notification and reporting requirements in the event of an accidental discharge of hazardous materials are required pursuant to section 13271 of the Water Code, which requires immediate notification of the Office of Emergency Services of the discharge in accordance with the spill reporting provision of the state toxic disaster contingency plan adopted pursuant to Article 3.7 (commencing with Section 8574.16) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code. "Hazardous materials" is defined under Health and Safety Code section 25501. These reports related to accidental discharges ensure that corrective actions, if any, that are necessary to minimize the impact or clean up such discharges can be taken as soon as possible.

#### **b. Violation of Compliance with Water Quality Standards**

#### **c. In-Water work and Diversions**

Conditions under Section B.3.b and B.3.c related to monitoring and reporting on water quality standard compliance and in-water work and diversions are required to provide the Central Valley Water Board necessary project information and oversight to ensure project discharges are complying with applicable water quality objectives under the Basin Plan. These monitoring and reporting requirements are consistent with the Central Valley Water Board's authority to investigate the quality of any waters of the state and require necessary monitoring and reporting pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383. Water Code section 13267 authorizes the regional boards to require any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste to provide technical or monitoring program reports required by the regional board. Water Code section 13383 authorizes the regional boards to establish monitoring, inspection, entry, reporting, and other recordkeeping requirements, as authorized by Water Code section 13160, for any person who discharges, or proposes to discharge, to navigable waters.

**d. Modifications to Project**

Authorization under this Order is granted based on the application and supporting information submitted. Conditions under Section B.3.d are necessary to ensure that if there are modifications to the project, that the Order requirements remain applicable. The Permittee is required to detail the scope of project impacts in a complete application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856, subdivision (h). Pursuant to Water Code section 13260, subdivision (c), each person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste shall file a report of waste discharge relative to any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), the Permittee is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes, or making material changes to the character, volume, and timing of waste discharges authorized herein without filing a report required by Water Code section 13260 or its equivalent for certification actions under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856.

**e. Transfer of Property Ownership**

**f. Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance**

Authorization under this Order is granted based on the application information submitted, including identification of the legally responsible party. Conditions under Sections B.3.e and B.3.f are necessary to confirm whether the new owner wishes to assume legal responsibility for compliance with this Order. If not, the original discharger remains responsible for compliance with this Order. Pursuant to Water Code section 13260, subdivision (c), each person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste shall file a report of waste discharge relative to any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), the Permittee is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes, or making material changes to the character, volume, and timing of waste discharges authorized herein without filing a report required by Water Code section 13260 or its equivalent for certification actions under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856.

**C. Water Quality Monitoring**

Conditions under Section C related to water quality monitoring are required to confirm that best management practices required under this Order are sufficient to protect beneficial uses and to comply with water quality objectives to protect those uses under the Basin Plan. Applicable water quality objectives and beneficial uses are identified in the Order. These monitoring requirements are consistent with the Central Valley Water Board's authority to investigate the

quality of any waters of the state and require necessary monitoring and reporting pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383. Water Code section 13267 authorizes the regional boards to require any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste to provide technical or monitoring program reports required by the regional board. Water Code section 13383 authorizes the regional boards to establish monitoring, inspection, entry, reporting, and other recordkeeping requirements, as authorized by Water Code section 13160, for any person who discharges, or proposes to discharge, to navigable waters.

**D. Standard**

**1. This Order is subject to modification or revocation . . . .**

This is a standard condition that “shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions” pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3860(a). This condition places the permittee on notice that the certification action may be modified or revoked following administrative or judicial review.

**2. This Order is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility . . . .**

This is a standard condition that “shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions” pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3860(b). This condition clarifies the scope of the certification’s application.

**3. This Order is conditioned upon total payment of any fee . . . .**

This is a standard condition that “shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions” pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3860(c). This fee requirement condition is also required pursuant to California Code of Regulations, section 3833(b).

**E. General Compliance**

**1. Failure to comply with any condition of this Order . . . .**

The condition under Section E.1 places the Permittee on notice of any violations of Order requirements. Pursuant to Water Code section 13385, subdivision (a)(2), a person who violates any water quality certification issued pursuant to Water Code section 13160 shall be liable civilly.

**2. Permitted actions must not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standards . . . .**

Conditions under Section E.2 related to compliance with water quality objectives and designated beneficial uses are required pursuant to the Central Valley Water Board’s Basin Plan. The Basin Plan’s water quality

standards consist of existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the state, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and the state and federal antidegradation policies. The Antidegradation Policy requires that the quality of existing high-quality water be maintained unless any change will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state, will not unreasonably affect present or anticipated future beneficial uses of such water, and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in water quality control plans or policies. The Antidegradation Policy further requires best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that pollution or nuisance will not occur and the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained. Applicable beneficial uses and water quality objectives to protect those uses include the Chemical Constituents (Basin Plan, Section 3.1.3), Oil and Grease (Basin Plan, Section 3.1.10), pH (Basin Plan, Section 3.1.11), Sediment (Basin Plan, 3.1.15), Suspended Material (3.1.17), Toxicity (Basin Plan, 3.1.20), and Turbidity (Basin Plan, Section 3.1.21) water quality objectives.

**3. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Order, the Central Valley Water Board may require . . . .**

Conditions under Section E.3 related to monitoring and reporting are required to provide the Central Valley Water Board necessary project information and oversight to ensure project discharges are complying with applicable Basin Plan requirements. These monitoring and reporting requirements are consistent with the Central Valley Water Board's authority to investigate the quality of any waters of the state and require necessary monitoring and reporting pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383. Water Code section 13267 authorizes the regional boards to require any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste to provide technical or monitoring program reports required by the regional board. Technical supports submitted pursuant to Water Code section 13267 are required to be submitted under penalty of perjury. Water Code section 13383 authorizes the regional boards to establish monitoring, inspection, entry, reporting, and other recordkeeping requirements, as authorized by Water Code section 13160, for any person who discharges, or proposes to discharge, to navigable waters.

**4. The Permittee must, at all times, fully comply with engineering plans, specifications, and technical reports . . . .**

Authorization under the Order is granted based on the application and supporting information submitted. The Permittee is required to detail the project description in a complete application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856, subdivision (h). Pursuant to Water Code section 13260, subdivision (c), each person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste shall file a report of waste discharge relative to any

material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), the Permittee is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes, or making material changes to the character, volume, and timing of waste discharges authorized herein without filing a report required by Water Code section 13260 or its equivalent for certification actions under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856. Finally, compliance with conditions of the Order ensures that the Project will comply with all water quality standards and other appropriate requirements as detailed herein. (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3859, subdivision (a).)

**5. This Order and all of its conditions herein continue to have full force and effect . . . .**

This condition ensures continued compliance with applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law. Notwithstanding any determinations by the U.S. Army Corps or other federal agency pursuant to 40 C.F.R. section 121.9, the Permittee must comply with the entirety of this certification because, pursuant to State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, this Order also serves as Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

**6. The Permittee shall adhere to all requirements in the mitigation monitoring and reporting program . . . .**

This condition ensures mitigation measures required to lessen the significance of impacts to water quality identified pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act review are implemented and enforceable. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15097, subdivision (a), a public agency shall adopt a program for monitoring and reporting on mitigation measures imposed to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects to ensure implementation.

**7. Construction General Permit Requirement**

Permittees are required to obtain coverage under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ; NPDES No. CAS000002), as amended, for discharges to surface waters comprised of storm water associated with construction activity, including, but not limited to, demolition, clearing, grading, excavation, and other land disturbance activities of one or more acres, or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres. This is required pursuant to Clean Water Act sections 301 and 402 which prohibit certain discharges of storm water containing pollutants except in compliance with an NPDES permit. (33 U.S.C. section 1311, and 1342(p); 40 C.F.R. parts 122, 123, and 124.)

**F. Administrative**

**1. Signatory requirements for all document submittals . . . .**

The condition for signatory requirements is required pursuant to Water Code section 13267, which requires any person discharging waste that could affect the quality of waters to provide to the Central Valley Water Board, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring program reports as required by the Central Valley Water Board. The signatory requirements are consistent with 40 C.F.R. section 122.22.

**2. This Order does not authorize any act which results in the taking of a threatened, endangered, or candidate species . . . .**

Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & Wildlife Code, sections 2050 et seq.) and federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. sections 1531 et seq.), the Order does not authorize any act which results in the taking of a threatened, endangered, or candidate species. In the event a Permittee requires authorization from the state or federal authorities, California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856(e), requires that copies be provided to the Central Valley Water Board of “any final and signed federal, state, and local licenses, permits, and agreements (or copies of the draft documents, if not finalized) that will be required for any construction, operation, maintenance, or other actions associated with the activity. If no final or draft document is available, a list of all remaining agency regulatory approvals being sought shall be included.”

**3. The Permittee shall grant Central Valley Water Board staff . . . .**

The condition related to site access requirements is authorized pursuant to the Central Valley Water Board’s authority to investigate the quality of any waters of the state within its region under Water Code section 13267 and 13383. Water Code section 13267, subdivision (c) provides that “the regional board may inspect the facilities of any person to ascertain whether the purposes of this division are being met and waste discharge requirements are being complied with.” Water Code section 13383 authorizes the regional boards to establish monitoring, inspection, entry, reporting, and other recordkeeping requirements, as authorized by Water Code section 13160, for any person who discharges, or proposes to discharge, to navigable waters.

**4. A copy of this Order shall be provided to any consultants, contractors, and subcontractors . . . .**

This Condition ensures any agent of the Permittee is aware of Order requirements. Such conditions within the Order are necessary to ensure that all activities will comply with applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements (33 U.S.C. section 1341; California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3859, subdivision (a)) and cannot be adhered to if the Permittees’ agents are unaware of applicable requirements. These

conditions are necessary to ensure compliance with applicable water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses found in the Basin Plan, adopted pursuant to Water Code section 13240, and detailed in the Order.

**5. A copy of this Order must be available at the Project site(s) during construction . . .**

This Condition ensures any agent of the Permittee is aware of Order requirements. Such conditions within the Order are necessary to ensure that all activities will comply with applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements (33 U.S.C. section 1341; California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3859, subdivision (a)) and cannot be adhered to if the Permittees' agents are unaware of applicable requirements. These conditions are necessary to ensure compliance with applicable water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses found in the Basin Plan, adopted pursuant to Water Code section 13240, and detailed in the Order.

**6. Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement**

This condition is required pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856, subdivision (e), which requires that copies be provided to the Central Valley Water Board of "any final and signed federal, state, and local licenses, permits, and agreements (or copies of the draft documents, if not finalized) that will be required for any construction, operation, maintenance, or other actions associated with the activity. If no final or draft document is available, a list of all remaining agency regulatory approvals being sought shall be included."

**G. Construction**

1. **Dewatering** – Not Applicable
2. **Directional Drilling** – Not Applicable
3. **Dredging** – Not Applicable
4. **Fugitive Dust**

This condition is required to assure that the discharge from the Project will comply with water quality objectives established for surface waters, including for chemical constituents and toxicity. (Basin Plan, Sections 3.1.3 & 3.1.20.) Chemicals used in dust abatement activities can result in a discharge of chemical additives and treated waters to surface waters of the state. Therefore, dust abatement activities shall be conducted so that sediment or dust abatement chemicals are not discharged into waters of the state and do not adversely affect beneficial uses. (Basin Plan, Section 2.1; Dredge or Fill Procedures, Section IV.B.1.)

## **5. Good Site Management “Housekeeping”**

Conditions related to site management require best practices to prevent, minimize, and/or clean up potential construction spills, including from construction equipment. For instance, fuels and lubricants associated with the use of mechanized equipment have the potential to result in toxic discharges to waters of the state in violation of water quality standards, including the toxicity and floating material water quality objectives. (Basin Plan, Sections 3.1.7 & 3.1.20.) This condition is also required pursuant to Water Code section 13264, which prohibits any discharge that is not specifically authorized in this Order. Among other requirements, Section IV.B.1 of the Dredge or Fill Procedures requires that Project impacts will not cause or contribute to a degradation of waters; or violate water quality standards.

## **6. Hazardous Materials**

Conditions related to toxic and hazardous materials are necessary to assure that discharges comply with applicable water quality objectives under the Basin Plan, adopted under section 13240 of the Water Code, including the narrative toxicity and chemical constituents water quality objectives. (Basin Plan, Sections 3.1.3, 3.1.20.) Further, conditions related to concrete/cement are required pursuant to the Basin Plan’s pH water quality objective. (Basin Plan, Section 3.1.11.)

## **7. Invasive Species and Soil Borne Pathogens**

Conditions related to invasive species and soil borne pathogens are required to ensure that discharges will not violate any water quality objectives under the Basin Plan, adopted under Water Code section 13240 of the Water Code. Invasive species and soil borne pathogens adversely affect beneficial uses designated in the Basin Plan, such as rare, threatened, or endangered species; wildlife habitat; and preservation of biological habitats of special significance. (See Basin Plan, Section 2.1.) Among other requirements, Section IV.B.1 of the Dredge or Fill Procedures requires that Project impacts will not contribute to a net loss of the overall abundance, diversity, and condition of aquatic resources; cause or contribute to a degradation of waters; or violate water quality standards.

## **8. Post-Construction Storm Water Management**

Conditions related to post-construction stormwater management are required to comply with the Basin Plan and to assure that the discharge complies with applicable water quality objectives. Post-rain erosion and sedimentation problems can contribute to significant degradation of the waters of the state; therefore, it is necessary to take corrective action to eliminate such discharges in order to avoid or minimize such degradation. Implementation of control measures and best management practices described in the conditions will assure compliance with water quality objectives including for floating

material, sediment, turbidity, temperature, suspended material, and settleable material. (Basin Plan, Sections 3.1.7, 3.1.15, 3.1.16, 3.1.17, 3.1.19, 3.1.21.) Among other requirements, Section IV.B.1 of the Dredge or Fill Procedures requires that Project impacts will not contribute to a net loss of the overall abundance, diversity, and condition of aquatic resources; cause or contribute to a degradation of waters; or violate water quality standards.

## **9. Roads**

These conditions are required to assure that discharges will comply with water quality standards within the Basin Plan. Specifically, activities associated with road maintenance have the potential to exceed water quality objectives for oil and grease, pH, sediment, settleable materials, temperature, and turbidity. (Basin Plan, Sections 3.1.10, 3.1.11, 3.1.15, 3.1.16, 3.1.19, 3.1.21.) Further, these conditions are required to assure that they do not result in adverse impacts related to hydromodification or create barriers to fish passage and spawning activities. Among other requirements, Section IV.B.1 of the Dredge or Fill Procedures requires that Project impacts will not contribute to a net loss of the overall abundance, diversity, and condition of aquatic resources; cause or contribute to a degradation of waters; or violate water quality standards.

## **10. Sediment Control**

Conditions related to erosion and sediment control design requirements are required to sustain fluvial geomorphic equilibrium. Improperly designed and installed BMPs result in excess sediment, which impairs surface waters, adversely affect beneficial uses, and results in exceedance of water quality objectives in the Basin Plan, including for sediment and turbidity. (Basin Plan, Sections 3.1.15 & 3.1.21.) Among other requirements, Section IV.B.1 of the Dredge or Fill Procedures requires that Project impacts will not contribute to a net loss of the overall abundance, diversity, and condition of aquatic resources; cause or contribute to a degradation of waters; or violate water quality standards.

## **11. Special Status Species**

See F.2 above.

## **12. Stabilization/Erosion Control**

Conditions related to erosion and sediment control design requirements are required to sustain fluvial geomorphic equilibrium. Improperly designed and installed BMPs result in excess sediment, which impairs surface waters, adversely affect beneficial uses, and results in exceedance of water quality objectives in the Basin Plan, including for sediment. (Basin Plan, Section 3.1.15.) Among other requirements, Section IV.B.1 of the Dredge or Fill Procedures requires that Project impacts will not contribute to a net loss of

the overall abundance, diversity, and condition of aquatic resources; cause or contribute to a degradation of waters; or violate water quality standards.

### **13. Storm Water**

Post-rain erosion and sedimentation problems can contribute to significant degradation of the waters of the state; therefore, it is necessary to take corrective action to eliminate such discharges in order to avoid or minimize such degradation. Implementation of control measures and best management practices described in the condition will assure compliance with water quality objectives including chemical constituents, floating material, sediment, turbidity, temperature, suspended material, and settleable material within the Basin Plan. (Basin Plan, Sections 3.1.1, 3.1.7, 3.1.15, 3.1.16, 3.1.17, 3.1.19, 3.1.21.) Among other requirements, Section IV.B.1 of the Dredge or Fill Procedures requires that Project impacts will not cause or contribute to a degradation of waters or violate water quality standards.

**H. Site Specific** – Not Applicable

**I. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** -Not Applicable

**J. Mitigation for Temporary Impacts** – Not Applicable

**K. Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts**

#### **Mitigation Bank Development/In-Lieu Fee Project Development**

The conditions under Sections K, L, and M regarding compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts ensure permanent physical loss and permanent ecological degradation of waters of the state are adequately mitigated. These conditions are necessary to ensure compliance with state and federal anti-degradation policies and are consistent with Section IV.B.1.a of the Dredge or Fill Procedures, which requires that the Water Boards will approve a project only after it has been determined that a sequence of actions has been taken to first avoid, then to minimize, and lastly compensate for adverse impacts that cannot be practicably avoided or minimized. (See also California Code of Regulations, section 3856, subdivision (h) [requiring submittal of proposed mitigation and description of steps taken to avoid, minimize, or compensate].) These compensatory mitigation conditions are also consistent with Executive Order W-59-93 commonly referred to as California's "No Net Loss" Policy for wetlands. The objective of the No Net Loss Policy is to ensure no overall net loss of and a long term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetland acreage and values in California. Further, compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with subpart J of the Supplemental State Guidelines. Conditions related to financial assurances are also required to ensure that compensatory mitigation will be provided. (Dredge or Fill Procedures, section IV.B.5.f.)

**L. Certification Deviation**

- 1. Minor modifications of Project locations or predicted impacts . . . .**
- 2. A Project modification shall not be granted a Certification Deviation if it warrants or necessitates . . . .**

Authorization under the Order is granted based on the application and supporting information submitted. Among other requirements, the Permittee is required to detail the project description in a complete application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856, subdivision (h). Pursuant to Water Code section 13260, subdivision (c), each person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste shall file a report of waste discharge relative to any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), the Permittee is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes, or making material changes to the character, volume, and timing of waste discharges authorized herein without filing a report required by Water Code section 13260 or its equivalent for certification actions under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856. Project deviations may require additional or different Order conditions as authorized by law to ensure compliance with applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements (33 U.S.C. section 1341; California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3859, subdivision (a)) and may result in impacts to water quality that require additional environmental review (California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15062-15063).