



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND ORDER

Effective Date: 5 June 2026

Expiration Date: 4 June 2031

Program Type: Fill/Excavation

Project Type: Support Facilities Only

Project: Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System Project (Project)

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	NWP 7 and 14

Water Board Contact Person: If you have any questions, please call Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) Staff listed above or (916) 464-3291 and ask to speak with the Water Quality Certification Unit Supervisor.

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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 Levy Alameda, LLC (hereinafter Permittee) for the Project. This Order is for the purpose described in the application and supplemental information submitted by the Permittee. The application was received on 17 June 2025. The application was deemed complete on 9 July 2025.

II. Public Notice

The Regional Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 from 27 June 2025 to 18 July 2025. The Central Valley Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

III. Project Purpose

The purpose of the Project is to construct, operate, and eventually repower or decommission a 400-megawatt battery energy storage system. The Project would draw electricity from the power grid to charge and store electrical energy and discharge back to the power grid when the stored energy is needed. The Project would provide several benefits to the power grid, including reducing the need to operate natural gas power plants to balance intermittent renewable generation and serving as an additional capacity resource that would enhance grid reliability.

IV. Project Description

The 70-acre Project includes construction of the following components to support the battery energy storage system: enclosures, Power Conversion System, medium voltage collection system, substation, control building, telecommunications facilities, access roads, laydown yards, stormwater facilities and outfall, site security and fencing (including a fire detection system), and operations and maintenance building.

V. Project Location

Address: 17257 Patterson Pass Road, Tracy, CA 95377

County: Alameda

Assessor's Parcel Number(s): 99B-7890-2-4, 99B-7890-2-6, and 99B-7885-12

Nearest City: Tracy

Section 31, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, MDB&M.

Latitude: 37.712130° and Longitude: -121.573369°

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, February 2019 (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/). 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.

It is the policy of the State of California that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This Order promotes that policy by requiring discharges to meet maximum contaminant levels designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use.

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

Project impacts to aquatic resources include the improvements to an existing stormwater culvert and outfall that discharges to Patterson Run and construction of a permanent low water crossing. A stormwater drainage outfall utilizing a new 15-inch corrugated metal pipe would be constructed from a detention basin located in the southwest portion of the site to the inlet of an existing culvert on the north side of Patterson Pass Road. This existing culvert carries storm water from the north side of Patterson Road to the south side where it discharges to Patterson Run. The low water crossing will require excavation and grading of the bed and banks followed by placement of imported fill and riprap to accommodate the maintenance vehicle crossing.

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
Stream Channel	0.02		

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. Indirect impacts to waters of the state

may include changes to erosion and sedimentation patterns around the outfall and low water crossing locations due to increased surface roughness and altered channel dimensions, increased turbidity due to ground disturbance associated with the overall Project, and increased risk of pollutants reaching Patterson Run due to the low water crossing installation and vehicle/equipment use for Project construction and operation. Indirect impacts associated with erosion and pollutants would be minimized with the implementation of various best management practices.

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.

According to the Permittee, the following measures will be in place during construction activities to avoid, reduce, and minimize impacts to waters of the state:

- A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be prepared and implemented, requiring implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control stormwater run-on and runoff from construction work sites. BMPs may include, but may not be limited to, physical barriers to prevent erosion and sedimentation, construction of stormwater detention basins to control runoff and reduce potential sedimentation, limitations on work periods during storm events, and protection of stockpiled materials, which would substantially reduce or prevent erosion from occurring during construction.
- A drainage, erosion, and sediment control plan (DESCP) would be implemented to reduce the impact of run-off during construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning. Erosion control facilities to be shown on the final grading plan would control and contain erosion-induced silt deposits and provide for the safe discharge of silt free stormwater into existing and proposed storm drain facilities after rough grading has been completed. These erosion control facilities would be operable prior to 1 October of any year grading operations have resulted in areas unprotected from erosion. All erosion control measures would be maintained until disturbed areas are stabilized. Grading would be completed in conformance with the Alameda County Grading Ordinance unless otherwise approved and in compliance with the Project-specific geotechnical report. BMPs required by the Project-specific SWPPP and DESCP would be properly implemented and maintained to control water quality of stormwater runoff. Implementation of the Project-specific SWPPP and DESCP would minimize potential for sedimentation of downstream water bodies.
- Appropriate spill containment and cleanup kits would be maintained during operation of the Project. A spill prevention control and countermeasures plan would be developed for site construction, operations, and decommissioning. In addition, a hazardous materials business plan would be prepared, which would include all hazardous materials used or stored on site exceeding threshold volumes and appropriate procedures to be implemented in the event of an accidental spill.

- The Project would include stormwater detention and low impact development (LID) features, constructed in compliance with the Stormwater Technical Guidance Manual, to minimize off-site stormwater runoff velocities and minimize off-site water quality impacts. Preliminary LID calculations are conservatively based on 10% of the total impervious area. The Stormwater Technical Guidance Manual requires a 4% method, which is based on rainfall and soil infiltration rates. Post-construction runoff rate would be 5 cubic feet per second, resulting in no requirements for a separate stormwater runoff detention plan (per the Stormwater Technical Guidance Manual). The LID features would consist of bioretention basins consisting of permeable gravel with a perforated underdrain pipe, overlain by a permeable bioretention soil mix. A riser outlet structure would allow for overflow of excessive stormwater flows. Ten stormwater outlets would be constructed around the perimeter of the facility. These outlets would include riprap to further reduce (in addition to the bioretention basins) off-site stormwater flow velocities. Stormwater treatment and storage sizing would be designed to hold the anticipated runoff from a 24-hour, 25-year storm event and a 24-hour, 100-year storm event, in compliance with Stormwater Technical Guidance Manual regulations. In the event stormwater basins reach capacity, stormwater would be discharged from the detention basins via storm drainpipes and sheet flow at rates no greater than predevelopment conditions following natural drainage patterns. Minimal off-site stormwater flow velocities would prevent off-site erosive scour of sediments, which in turn would prevent siltation of downstream water bodies, off-site flooding, and off-site exceedance of stormwater drainage facilities.
- GEN - 01: Employees and contractors performing construction activities will receive environmental sensitivity training. Training will include review of environmental laws and Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) that must be followed by all personnel to reduce or avoid effects on covered species during construction activities.
- GEN - 02: Environmental tailboard trainings will take place on an as needed basis in the field. The environmental tailboard trainings will include a brief review of the biology of the covered species and guidelines that must be followed by all personnel to reduce or avoid negative effects to these species during construction activities. Directors, Managers, Superintendents, and the crew foremen and forewomen will be responsible for ensuring that crewmembers comply with the guidelines.
- GEN - 03: Contracts with contractors, construction management firms, and subcontractors will obligate all contractors to comply with these requirements, AMMs.

- GEN - 04: The following will not be allowed at or near work sites for covered activities: trash dumping, firearms, open fires (such as barbecues) not required by the activity, hunting, and pets (except for safety in remote locations).
- GEN - 05: Vehicles and equipment will be parked on pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas to the extent practicable.
- GEN - 06: Off-road vehicle travel will be minimized.
- GEN - 07: Vehicles will not exceed a speed limit of 15 mph on unpaved roads within natural land cover types, or during off-road travel.
- GEN - 08: Vehicles or equipment will not be refueled within 100 feet of a wetland, stream, or other waterway unless a bermed and lined refueling area is constructed.
- GEN - 09: Vehicles shall be washed only at approved areas. No washing of vehicles shall occur at job sites.
- GEN - 10: To discourage the introduction and establishment of invasive plant species, seed mixtures/straw used within natural vegetation will be either rice straw or weed free straw.
- GEN - 11: Pipes, culverts, and similar materials greater than four inches in diameter, will be stored so as to prevent covered wildlife species from using these as temporary refuges, and these materials will be inspected each morning for the presence of animals prior to being moved.
- GEN - 12: Erosion control measures will be implemented to reduce sedimentation in wetland habitat occupied by covered animal and plant species when activities are the source of potential erosion problems. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material containing netting shall not be used at the project. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.
- GEN - 13: Stockpiling of material will occur such that direct effects to covered species are avoided. Stockpiling of material in riparian areas will occur outside of the top of bank, and preferably outside of the outer riparian dripline and will not exceed 30 days.
- GEN - 14: Grading will be restricted to the minimum area necessary.
- GEN - 15: Prior to ground disturbing activities in sensitive habitats, project construction boundaries and access areas will be flagged and temporarily fenced during construction to reduce the potential for vehicles and equipment to stray into adjacent habitats.

- GEN - 16: Significant earth moving activities will not be conducted in riparian areas within 24 hours of predicted storms or after major storms (defined as 1 inch of rain or more).
- GEN - 17: Trenches will be backfilled as soon as possible. Open trenches will be searched each day prior to construction to ensure no covered species are trapped. Earthen escape ramps will be installed at intervals prescribed by a qualified biologist.
- AMPH-2 Habitat: Riparian habitat and grasslands within 2 miles of aquatic habitat
 - A qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys before groundbreaking. If individuals are found, work will not begin until they are moved out of the construction zone to a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)/California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) approved relocation site.
 - A Service-approved biologist should be present for initial ground disturbing activities.
 - If the work site is within the typical dispersal distance (contact USFWS/CDFW for latest research on this distance for species of interest) of potential breeding habitat, barrier fencing will be constructed around the worksite to prevent amphibians from entering the work area. Barrier fencing will be removed within 72 hours of completion of work.
 - No monofilament plastic will be used for erosion control.
 - Construction personnel will inspect open trenches in the morning and evening for trapped amphibians.
 - A qualified biologist possessing a valid Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit or Service approved under an active biological opinion will be contracted to trap and to move amphibians to nearby suitable habitat if amphibians are found inside fenced area.
 - Work will be avoided within suitable habitat from 15 October (or the first measurable fall rain of 1 inch or greater) to 1 May.

The Project added 11.7 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: Patterson Run.

X. Compensatory Mitigation

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

XI. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

On 26 May 2026, the California Energy Commission, as lead agency, certified an environmental impact report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2025090227) for the Project and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on 28 May 2026. Pursuant to CEQA, the Central Valley Water Board has made Findings of Facts (Findings) which support the issuance of this Order and are included in Attachment C.

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

A. An application fee of \$4,212.00 was received on 2 July 2025. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as Category E - Low Impact Discharges (fee code 87) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

B. Annual Fees: This Certification is subject to annual billing based on the fee schedule in effect at the time of billing. Annual billing will continue until the Project, including monitoring, is complete and the Water Board receives an acceptable request for a Notice of Project Complete Letter (see Attachment D). Invoices are usually sent out at the end of each calendar year.¹

To stop annual billing, the Permittee must request a Notice of Project Complete Letter from the Water Board. Water Board staff will verify if the conditions of the Certification are met and may conduct a site visit to confirm compliance.

For more information on fees, visit the State Water Board's Water Quality Fees website, under Water Quality Certification (WQC) Program Fees.

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

¹ Annual invoices are issued for projects active for any amount of time in the current fiscal year (1 July – 30 June).

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.

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:** Not Applicable
- b. Annual Reporting:** The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year on the 1st day of July beginning 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 Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2022-0057-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 Materials²

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

- 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](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Fire-Rescue/Documents/CalOES-) (<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Fire-Rescue/Documents/CalOES->

² "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.)

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. The purchaser must also submit a written request to the Central Valley Water Board to be named as the permittee in a revised order.

- 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

During planned in-water work, dewatering activities, or during the installation of removal of temporary water diversions, any discharge(s) to waters of the state shall conform to the following water quality standards:

- a. Waters shall not contain oils, greases, waxes, or other materials in concentrations that cause nuisance, result in a visible film or coating on the surface of the water or on objects in the water, or otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses.
- b. Activities shall not cause turbidity increases in surface water to exceed:
 - i. where natural turbidity is less than 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs), controllable factors shall not cause downstream turbidity to exceed 2 NTU;
 - ii. where natural turbidity is between 1 and 5 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 1 NTU;
 - iii. where natural turbidity is between 5 and 50 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 20 percent;
 - iv. where natural turbidity is between 50 and 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 NTUs;
 - v. where natural turbidity is greater than 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 percent.

In determining compliance with the above limits, appropriate averaging periods may be applied provided that beneficial uses will be fully protected. Averaging periods may only be used with prior permission of the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer.

Sampling during in-water work or during the entire duration of temporary water diversions shall be conducted in accordance with Table 2 sampling parameters.³ The sampling requirements in Table 2 shall be conducted upstream out of the influence of the Project, and approximately 300 feet downstream of the work area.

The sampling frequency and/or monitoring locations may be modified for

³ Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 136; where no methods are specified for a given pollutant, the method shall be approved by Central Valley Water Board staff. Grab samples shall be taken between the surface and mid-depth and not be collected at the same time each day to get a complete representation of variations in the receiving water. A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring shall be maintained onsite.

certain projects with written approval from Central Valley Water Board staff. An In-Water Work and Diversion Water Quality Monitoring Report, as described in Attachment D, shall be submitted within two weeks on initiation of in-water construction, and the remaining In-Water Work and Diversion Water Quality Monitoring shall be submitted with the Request for Notice of Completion of Discharges letter. In reporting the data, the Permittee shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the sampling locations, date, constituents, and concentrations are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to illustrate clearly whether the Project complies with Order requirements. The report shall include surface water sampling results, visual observations, and identification of the turbidity increase in the receiving water applicable to the natural turbidity conditions specified in the turbidity criteria in XIV.C.3.

If no sampling is required, the Permittee shall submit a written statement stating, “No sampling was required” within two weeks on initiation of in-water construction, and every two weeks thereafter.

Table 2: Sample Type and Frequency Requirements

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

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

⁴ Visible construction-related pollutants include oil, grease, foam, fuel, petroleum products, and construction-related, excavated, organic or earthen materials.

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 Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2022-0057-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 Endangered 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

- a. If water is present, the area must be dewatered prior to start of work.

- b. No dewatering will occur within the Project area.
- c. This Order does not allow permanent water diversion of flow from the receiving water. This Order is invalid if any water is permanently diverted as a part of the project.
- d. The Permittee shall work with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under an NPDES permit for dewatering activities that result in discharges into surface water.
- e. The Permittee shall work with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for dewatering activities that result in discharges to land.

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 into aquatic resources habitat.

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 – Not Applicable

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 been documented to occur near or within the Project area: California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, Western spadefoot, Golden eagle, Swainson's hawk, Northern harrier, White-tailed kite, Tricolored blackbird, Loggerhead shrike, Grasshopper sparrow, Short-eared owl, Burrowing owl, Vernal pool fairy shrimp, Crotch's bumble bee, Western bumble bee, San Joaquin kit fox, Western mastiff bat, American badger, Pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, San Joaquin coachwhip, Northwestern pond turtle, Caper-fruited tropidocarpum, Large flowered fiddleneck, Big tarplant, Diamond-petaled California poppy, Brewer's wester flax, Showy golden madia, Shining navarretia, and Long-styled san spurrey.

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. Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan

The Permittee shall provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to waters of the state in accordance with the Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System Project, Attachment A, Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application Supplemental Information (Compensatory Mitigation Plan) dated June 2025 and incorporated herein by reference. Any deviations from, or revisions to, the Compensatory Mitigation Plan must be pre-approved by Central Valley Water Board staff. The monitoring period shall continue until the Central Valley Water Board staff determines that performance standards have been met. This may require the monitoring period to be extended.

2. Irrevocable Letter of Credit

- a. The Permittee shall establish in favor of the Central Valley Water Board, an irrevocable letter of credit in an amount sufficient to pay for the cost of the Permittee’s required compensatory mitigation under this Order within ninety (90) days of issuance of this Order. The Permittee shall prepare a draft letter of credit and submit it to the Central Valley Water Board staff for written acceptance. The letter of credit shall allow the Central Valley Water Board to immediately draw on the letter of credit if the Central Valley Water Board staff determines in its sole discretion that the Permittee has failed to meet its mitigation obligations.
- b. If the Permittee is unable to establish a letter of credit, it shall arrange a

different security instrument with Central Valley Water Board staff within ninety (90) days of issuance of this Order.

- c. The Permittee shall finalize and execute the security instrument within sixty (60) days after the Central Valley Water Board staff approves the draft security instrument. The Permittee shall have a security instrument in place until the Permittee has completed the required compensatory mitigation and achieved all performance standards.
- d. If the Permittee has not completed the required compensatory mitigation and achieved all performance standards within sixty (60) days prior to the security instrument's expiration date, the Permittee shall obtain an extension or a new security instrument. The new security instrument shall be subject to Central Valley Water Board staff acceptance following the same procedure described in the conditions above.

3. Permittee-Responsible Compensatory Mitigation Responsibility

- a. Permittee responsible compensatory mitigation installation shall be completed within 90 days of authorized impacts.
- b. The Permittee is responsible for the required compensatory mitigation in perpetuity. However, the Permittee may transfer the compensatory mitigation requirements associated with long-term management when the following conditions have been met:
 - i. Performance standards are met.
 - ii. A Transfer Agreement to a third party has been approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.
 - iii. An endowment fund has been provided by the Permittee to a third party for management in perpetuity of the mitigation site.
 - iv. A conservation easement, deed restriction, or other appropriate restrictive covenant for the mitigation site has been recorded and approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.
- c. Transfer of Long-Term Permittee-Responsible Compensatory Mitigation and Management Responsibility
 - i. A transfer agreement shall be submitted from an authorized representative of the new party (transferee) for acceptance by Central Valley Water Board staff. This agreement shall demonstrate acceptance and understanding of the responsibility to comply with and fully satisfy the required compensatory mitigation and long-term management conditions. Failure to comply with the mitigation conditions and associated requirements may subject the transferee to enforcement by the Central Valley Water Board under Water Code section 13385, subdivision (a).
 - ii. Notification of transfer of responsibilities meeting the above condition

must be provided to the Central Valley Water Board staff. A draft transfer agreement is due to Central Valley Water Board staff no less than thirty (30) days prior to the transfer of the mitigation responsibility. A final transfer agreement is due to Central Valley Water Board staff within 30 days of the completion of the transfer.

4. Total Required Compensatory Mitigation

- a. Total required Project compensatory mitigation information for permanent physical loss of area is summarized in Table 3. [Establishment (Est.), Re-establishment (Re-est.), Rehabilitation (Reh.), Enhancement (Enh.), Preservation (Pres.), Unknown].

Table 3: Total Required Project Compensatory Mitigation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area

Aquatic Resource Type	Mitigation Type	Units	Est.	Re-est.	Reh.	Enh.	Pres.	Unknown
Stream Channel	Permittee-Responsible	Acres					0.12	

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 Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System Project, WDID # 5B01CR00050, 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).

This discharge is also regulated pursuant to State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ which authorizes this Order to serve as Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, section 13000 et seq.).

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 Anne Walters

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: Project Location Map



Figure 2: Project Plans

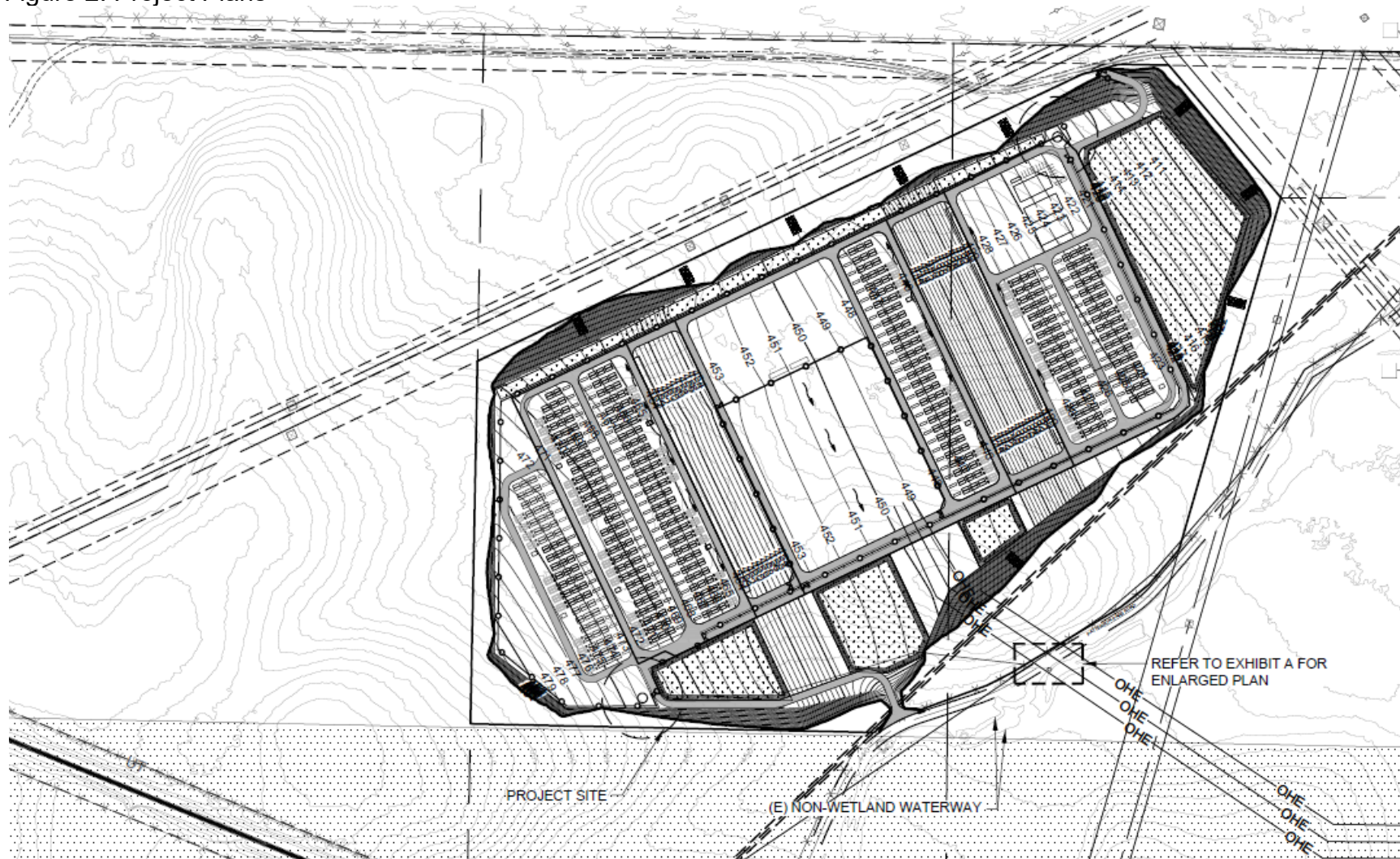
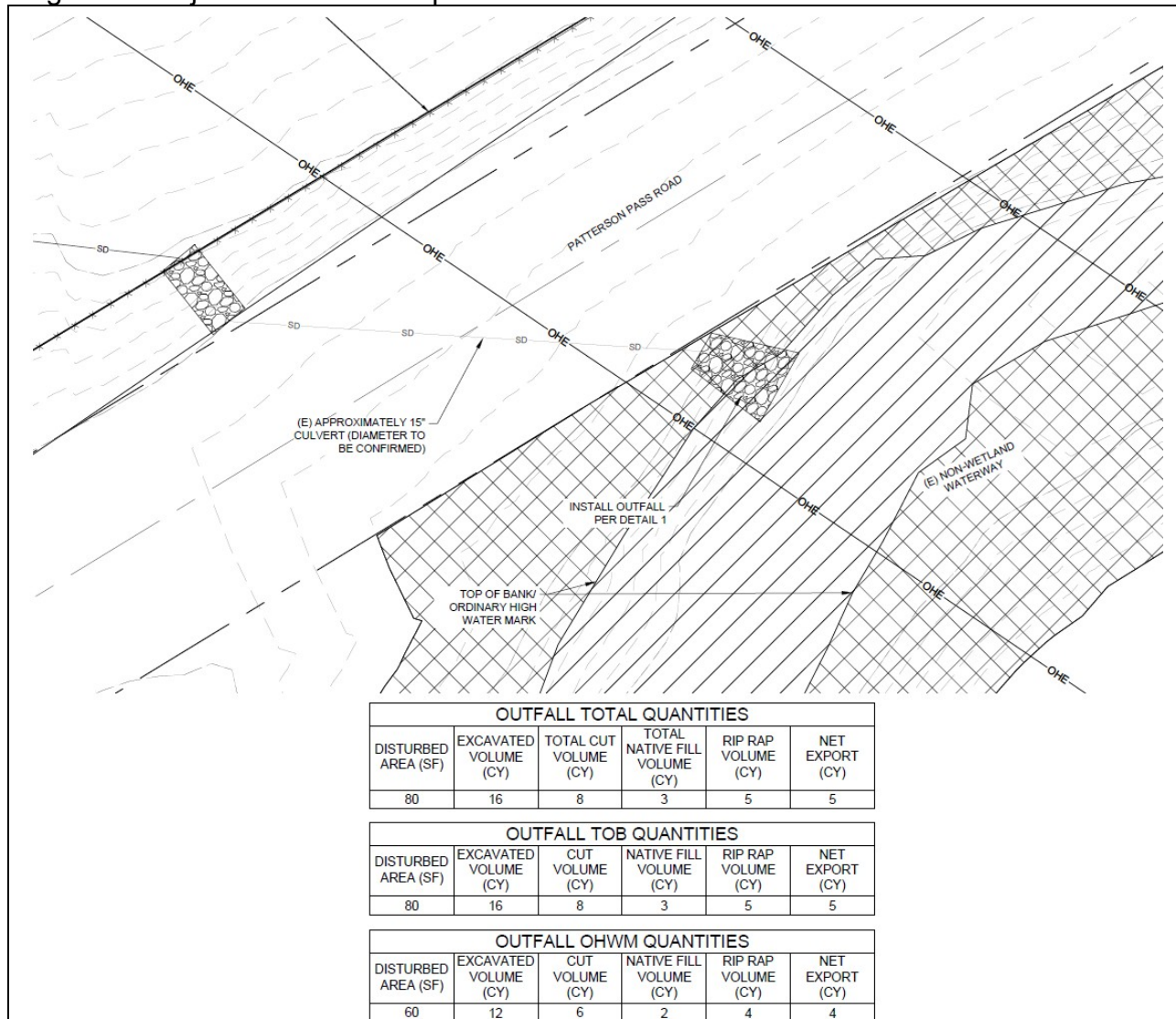


Figure 3: Project Details and Impacts



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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

Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resources Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant	California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) ID
Project Area	Patterson Run	Stream Channel	543.00	Delta-Mendota Canal	MUN, AGR, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

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
Project Area	37.712130	-121.573369	No	0.02		

Compensatory Mitigation Information

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

Permittee Responsible Compensatory Mitigation Site Information

Table 3: Off-site Permittee Responsible Compensatory Mitigation Site Information

Impact Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Aquatic Resource Type	Acres	Linear Feet
Mulqueeney Ranch	37.711889	-121.573444	Ephemeral Drainage, Pond, Swale, or Wetland	0.12	

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Attachment C – CEQA Findings of Fact

A. Environmental Review

On 26 May 2026, the California Energy Commission, as lead agency, certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2025090227) for the Project and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on 28 May 2026. 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 the California Energy Commission'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 the California Energy Commission 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 the California Energy Commission 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: [California Energy Commission : Docket Log](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?doctetnumber=24-OPT-04) (<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?doctetnumber=24-OPT-04>).

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 avoided or 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:

- Biological Resources
- Water Resources

a.ii. Facts in Support of Finding:

- **MM BIO-1 Annual Training (FP-01):** Hold annual training on habitat conservation plan requirements for employees and contractors performing covered activities in the Plan Area that are applicable to their job duties and work.
- **MM BIO-2 Standard Construction Practices:** The following standard construction practices would be implemented, to reduce the potential for environmental impacts:
 1. **Parking (FP-02):** Park vehicles and equipment on pavement, existing roads, or other disturbed or designated areas (barren, gravel, compacted dirt).
 2. **Use Existing Roads (FP-03):** Use existing access and ROW roads. Minimize the development of new access and ROW roads, including clearing and blading for temporary vehicle access in areas of natural vegetation.
 3. **Off Road Access (FP-04):** Locate off-road access routes and work sites to minimize impacts on plants, shrubs, and trees, small mammal burrows, and unique natural features (e.g., rock outcrops).
 4. **Equipment Inspection (FP-06):** Minimize potential for covered species to seek refuge or shelter in pipes and culverts. Inspect pipes and culverts, of diameter wide enough to be entered by a covered species that could inhabit the area where pipes are stored, for wildlife species prior to moving pipes and culverts. Immediately contact a biologist if a covered species is suspected or discovered.
 5. **Vehicle Speed (FP-07):** Vehicle speeds on unpaved roads will not exceed 15 miles per hour.
 6. **Trash, Firearms, Fire, Hunting, and Pets (FP-08):** Prohibit trash dumping, firearms, open fires (such as barbecues), hunting, and pets (except for safety in remote locations) at work sites.

7. Fire Safety (FP-09): During fire season in designated State Responsibility Areas, equip all motorized equipment with federally approved or state-approved spark arrestors. Use a backpack pump filled with water and a shovel and fire-resistant mats and/or windscreens when welding. During fire “red flag” conditions as determined by Cal Fire, curtail welding. Each fuel truck will carry a large fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 40 B:C. Clear parking and storage areas of all flammable materials.
8. Minimize Footprint and Time (FP-10): Minimize the activity footprint and minimize the amount of time spent at a work location to reduce the potential for take of species.
9. Erosion and Sediment Control (FP-11): Utilize standard erosion and sediment control BMPs (pursuant to the most current version of PG&E’s Stormwater Field Manual for Construction Best Management Practices) to prevent construction site runoff into waterways.
10. Trench/Hole Inspection and Escape Ramps (FP-13): Fit open trenches or steep-walled holes with escape ramps of plywood boards or sloped earthen ramps at each end if left open overnight. Field crews will search open trenches or steep-walled holes every morning prior to initiating daily activities to ensure wildlife are not trapped. If any common wildlife are found, a biologist will be notified and would relocate the species to adjacent habitat or the species will be allowed to naturally disperse, as determined by a biologist. If any special-status species are found, the biologist will coordinate with CDFW and/or USFWS to determine if take coverage is necessary.
11. Revegetation (FP-14): If the covered activity disturbs 0.1 acre or more of habitat for a covered species in grasslands, the field crew will revegetate the area with a commercial “weed free” seed mix.
12. Refueling (FP-15): Prohibit vehicular and equipment refueling 250 feet from the edge of vernal pools, and 100 feet from the edge of other wetlands, streams, or waterways. If refueling must be conducted closer to jurisdictional waters, construct a secondary containment area subject to review by an environmental field specialist (EFS) and/or biologist. Maintain spill prevention and cleanup equipment in refueling areas.

13. Jurisdictional Waters Buffers (FP-16): Maintain a buffer of 50 feet from the edge of jurisdictional waters. If maintaining the buffer is not possible because the areas are either in or adjacent to facilities, the field crew would implement other measures as prescribed by the land planner, biologist, or HCP administrator to minimize impacts by flagging access, requiring foot access, restricting work until dry season, or requiring a biological monitor during the activity.
 14. Tree Felling and Removal (FP-17): Directionally fell trees away from an exclusion zone, if an exclusion zone has been defined. If this is not possible, remove the tree in sections. Avoid damage to adjacent trees to the extent possible. Avoid removal of snags and conifers with basal hollows, crown deformities, and/or limbs over 6 inches in diameter.
 15. Active Nests (FP-18): Nests with eggs and/or chicks would be avoided: contact a biologist, land planner or the Avian Protection Program manager for further guidance.
- **MM BIO-3 California Tiger Salamander (Hot Zone-6):** Limit activities to foot access only when working off of established roadways unless a biological monitor flags off-road access routes for equipment that minimize impacts on habitat and species.
 - **MM BIO-4 Patterson Run (Wetland-2):** Identify wetlands, ponds, and riparian areas and establish buffers. Maintain a buffer of 50 feet around wetlands, ponds, and riparian areas. If maintaining the buffer is not possible because the areas are either in or adjacent to facilities, the field crew would implement other measures as prescribed by the biologist or HCP administrator to minimize impacts. These measures include flagging access, requiring foot access, restricting work until the dry season, requiring a biological monitor during the activity, or excavating burrows in ROWs where trenching will occur. Activities must maintain the downstream hydrology to the wetland, pond, or riparian area. Additional minimization measures may be implemented with prior concurrence from USFWS.
 - **MM BIO-5 Best Management Practices:** Even though the project is not a covered activity under the Bay Area Incidental Take Permit (BAITP), project owner shall follow applicable measures, including the following:
 1. Education Program (ITP 5.4): Project owner shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working in the project area before performing any work. The program shall consist of a presentation from the DB or General Biological Monitor that includes a discussion of the biology and general behavior of special-status species with the potential

to occur, information about the distribution and habitat needs of special-status species, sensitivity of special-status species to human activities, its status pursuant to CESA including legal protection, recovery efforts, and penalties for violations. Project owner shall provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers, and the same instruction shall be provided to any new workers before they are authorized to perform work in the project area. Upon completion of the education program, employees or contractors shall sign a form or equivalent acknowledging that they attended the program and understand all protection measures. This training shall be repeated at least once annually for long-term and/or permanent employees or contractors that would be conducting work in the project area.

2. Trash Abatement (ITP 5.6): Project owner shall initiate a trash abatement program before starting project activities and shall continue the program for the duration of the project. Project owner shall ensure that trash and food items are contained in animal-proof containers and removed, ideally at daily intervals but at least once a week, to avoid attracting opportunistic predators such as ravens, coyotes, and feral dogs.
3. Prohibition of Firearms (ITP 5.8): Firearms and domestic dogs shall be prohibited in each Work Area as well as from site access routes during construction and development of the project, except those firearms and domestic dogs that are in the possession of authorized security personnel or local, state, or federal law enforcement officials.
4. Erosion Control (ITP 5.9): Project owner shall implement and install all erosion and sediment control measures and devices prior to conducting project activities that include grading, excavation, or placement of fill. Project owner shall utilize erosion control measures where sediment runoff from exposed slopes or surfaces could enter a drainage, stream, wetland or pond. Project owner shall repair and/or replace ineffective measures or contrivances whose integrity has been compromised immediately.
5. Work Area Access (ITP 5.13): To the extent practicable, project related personnel shall access a Work Area using existing routes, and shall not cross special-status species' habitat outside of or enroute to a Work Area. Project owner shall restrict project-related vehicle traffic to established roads, staging, and parking areas to the maximum extent practicable. Project owner shall ensure that vehicle speeds do not exceed 15 miles per hour to avoid special-status species on or traversing the roads.

6. Staging Areas (ITP 5.14): Project owner shall confine all project-related parking, storage areas, laydown sites, equipment storage, and any other surface-disturbing activities to a Work Area using, to the extent possible, previously disturbed areas. No staging areas shall be located in chaparral or scrub habitats, over rock outcroppings or within 300 feet of a stock pond or vernal pool.
7. Equipment Fueling (ITP 7.1): No vehicles or heavy equipment will be refueled within 100 feet of a wetland, stream, or other waterway, unless secondary containment is used. The fueling operator must always stay with the fueling operation. Tanks may not be topped off. If refueling must be conducted closer to the waterway, construct a secondary containment area subject to review by an environmental field specialist and/or biologist. Project owner shall maintain spill prevention and cleanup equipment in refueling areas. Sufficient spill containment and cleanup equipment shall be present at all mobile, temporary, and permanent equipment fueling locations.
8. Lighting (ITP 7.2): Project owner shall ensure that all artificial outdoor lighting shall be limited to lighting for safety and security, and designed using Illuminating Engineering Society's design guidelines, International Dark-Sky Association-approved fixtures, or other industry standards that address lighting impacts. Lighting above ground level shall be directed downward or inward, where consistent with safety concerns, and shielding shall be utilized, where needed, to minimize light scatter off-site. Light fixtures shall have non-glare finishes that will not cause reflective daytime glare.
9. Covered Activities Hours (ITP 7.3): Construction activities shall cease 30 minutes before sunset and shall not begin prior to 30 minutes after sunrise, to the extent practicable. Emergency night work shall be limited in extent, duration, and brightness, to the extent feasible. For project activities E9a (Reconductoring), G9 (Pipeline Lowering), G11 (Pipeline Replacement), and minor new construction, work may not occur at night during rain events in CTS habitat within 0.5 miles of known or potential breeding habitat between 1 November and 30 April unless otherwise authorized by CDFW.
10. Stored Materials Inspection (ITP 7.4): Workers shall thoroughly inspect for CTS in all construction pipe, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of two inches or greater that are stored for one or more overnight periods before the structure is subsequently moved, buried, or capped. If during inspection one of these animals is discovered inside the structure, workers

shall notify the Biological Monitors) and allow the special-status species to safely escape that section of the structure before moving and utilizing the structure or moved out of harm's way by a DB.

11. Cover or Ramp Open Excavations (ITP 7.5): Trenches or pits shall be covered or equipped with an escape ramp if left overnight in special status species modeled habitat. Crews shall inspect any trench, pit, or hole every morning prior to conducting project activities to ensure no individuals are trapped; if any animals are found staff shall contact the DB(s) to identify whether it is a special status species and if so, it shall be moved out of harm's way by the DB(s). If the animal is not a special status species, then a General Monitoring Biologist or other individual with wildlife handling experience in possession of any applicable handling permits may move it out of harm's way.
12. Soil Stockpiles (ITP 7.6): Project owner shall ensure that soil stockpiles are placed where soil would not pass into wetlands or any other "waters of the state," in accordance with Fish and Game Code section 5650. Project owner shall cover and protect stockpiles to prevent soil erosion, including wind and rain. Spoils and shall be placed away from chaparral habitat, rock outcroppings, and concentrated ground squirrel, pocket gopher, or other small mammal burrows or habitat features suitable for use by the special status species as refugia habitat.
13. Screen or Cap Hollow Pipes or Posts (ITP 7.7): All hollow pipes or posts that are installed as part of project activities, or encountered in a Work Area that the project owner owns or is responsible for, that are above ground shall be capped, screened, or filled with material by the project owner prior to the end of the day in which installation occurs.
14. Equipment Inspection (ITP 7.8): Workers shall inspect for special status species under vehicles and equipment before the vehicles and equipment are moved. If a special status species is present, the worker shall notify the Biological Monitors and wait for the special status species to move unimpeded to a safe location.
15. No Barriers to Covered Species Movement (ITP 7.9): Project owner shall construct access routes such that there are no steep curbs, v-ditches, berms, straw wattles, or dikes that could prevent special status species from traversing through ROWs or from exiting roadways. If curbs/berms/straw wattles are necessary for safety and/or surface runoff, project owner shall design and construct them to allow special status species to

move over them. Project owner shall modify or remove exclusion fencing at the request of Biological Monitors or CDFW staff that may impede special status species movements.

- **MM BIO-6 California Tiger Salamander Specific Conditions:**

1. California Tiger Salamander Pre-Activity Clearance Surveys (ITP 7.11): When project activities will result in ground disturbance in potential CTS aquatic habitat (seasonal or perennial), the DB(s) shall perform a pre-activity clearance survey no more than 14 days prior to the start of project activities. If project activities will be conducted within 500 meters of a known or suspected CTS breeding pond that will result in displacement of soil to a depth of 3-inches or greater and over an area of 0.1 acres or greater, the DB(s) shall perform a pre-activity clearance survey no more than 14 days prior to the start of project activities. For project activities E9a (Reconductoring), G9 (Pipeline Lowering), G11 (Pipeline Replacement), and E14 (Minor Substation Expansion) in modeled habitat, the DB(s) shall also conduct a pre-activity clearance survey. If a California tiger salamander in any life stage (adult, metamorph, larval, eggs, etc.) is encountered in a Work Area or at the recommendation of the DB, the project owner shall stop work and coordinate with CDFW to determine if take coverage is necessary. Pre-activity clearance surveys shall provide 100 percent visual coverage of a Work Area and a 50-foot buffer zone. All small mammal burrows within the Work Area and a 50-foot buffer zone shall be flagged to alert General Biological Monitors and work crews to their presence. Where feasible, an avoidance buffer of 50 feet or greater around active small mammal burrows shall be maintained. The DB(s) shall submit a report documenting the results of the pre-construction surveys to CDFW within five days after performing the surveys. If any California tiger salamander are found within the Work Area or 50-foot buffer zone, the project owner shall stop work and coordinate with CDFW to determine if take coverage is necessary.
2. California Tiger Salamander Protection during Upland Movements or Exclusion Fencing (ITP 7.14): Project owner shall implement the following additional protective measures for Covered Activities E9a (Reconductoring), G9 (Pipeline Lowering), G11 (Pipeline Replacement), and E14 (Minor Substation Expansion), as well as E15 (Underground Line Construction) when the activity occurs outside of existing roadways or urban areas, in CTS habitat within 0.5 mile of known or potential breeding habitat between November 1

and April 30:

- a. 7.14.1. Project owner shall not conduct project activities at night during rain events unless otherwise authorized by CDFW. The following day, crews will check for CTS around tires, equipment, and materials before resuming work. If a CTS is found, the project owner shall stop work and coordinate with CDFW to determine if take coverage is necessary.
 - b. 7.14.2. Prior to a rain event of 0.25 inches or greater within a 24-hour period, project owner shall install exclusion fencing around the perimeter of Work Areas to prevent CTS movement into the Work Areas. Installation of the exclusion fence shall be overseen and directed by the DB(s). The exclusion fence shall be buried a minimum of 4 inches below ground surface and equipped with one-way exits (if the Work Area still has burrows and has not been cleared of CTS) to avoid entrapment of CTS and other amphibians or reptiles within the fenced area. For every 100 feet of exclusion fencing, project owner shall provide coverboards to provide shelter for CTS.
 - c. 7.14.3. The exclusion fence shall be supported sufficiently to maintain its integrity under all conditions, such as wind and heavy rain, for the duration of the project activities in the Work Area being fenced. The DB(s) shall inspect the completed fencing prior to construction. General Biological Monitors shall check the exclusion fence at least once daily and maintain/repair the fence when necessary. Project owner shall install temporary exclusion fencing in a sequential manner that corresponds to the progression of project activities as specified above within a Work Area. When exclusion fencing is not required to be installed simultaneously throughout a Work Area then it shall be installed for only the portion of a Work Area that is under active construction and removed immediately after the construction has ceased to prevent substantial impediments to CTS movement.
3. Discovery of California Tiger Salamander in Work Area(s) (ITP 7.15): If a CTS, including body parts, is found by any person in a Work Area before or during project activities, project owner shall stop all work when safe to do so that could potentially injure CTS immediately and coordinate with CDFW to determine if take coverage is necessary.

- **MM BIO-7 General Impact Avoidance and Minimization Measures:**
 1. Invasives: seed mixtures/straw used within natural vegetation will be either rice straw or weed-free straw. Clean all vehicles, equipment, clothing, etc. of material potentially containing noxious weeds/seeds prior to entering and exiting work locations. Cleaning can be accomplished by brushing, washing, or blowing with compressed air.
 2. Herbicides: herbicides will be applied in a manner to avoid drift, will be stored and transported in a manner to prevent spilling, and will be applied to target species only. Applications must not be made immediately prior to or immediately following rain.
 3. Wildlife Handling: no wildlife or plant species will be handled or removed from activity areas without PG&E approval, in coordination with CDFW and/or USFWS, if applicable.
 4. Dead or Injured Listed Species: personnel will be required to report any accidental death or injury of a listed species or the finding of any dead or injured listed species to a qualified biologist. Notification of CDFW and/or USFWS of any accidental death or injury of a listed species shall be done in accordance with standard reporting procedures.
 5. Consistent with APLIC Guidelines: generation tie-line and all associated components shall be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee's (APLIC's) Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines (APLIC 2006) and Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines (APLIC 2012), or most recent APLIC guidance, to reduce the likelihood of large bird electrocutions and collisions.
- **MM BIO-8 Special-Status Plants:** Prior to the start of ground disturbance activities, a qualified biologist knowledgeable on the identification of rare plant species, including big tarplant, shall conduct a pre-construction plant survey of areas proposed disturbance and within a 100-foot buffer (where legally accessible) timed during the appropriate blooming period of the survey season immediately prior to construction to determine if any special-status plant species are present. If special-status plants are identified on-site, environmentally sensitive area fencing and appropriate signage should be installed at a minimum 50 feet from the edge of the population. The locations shall be mapped and PG&E shall confer with CDFW or USFWS as required by applicable law to avoid take of state or federally listed species. If a smaller buffer is necessary due to other site-specific constraints, the project owner, in coordination with the DB or qualified botanist shall develop and implement site-specific protection measures, such as

monitoring, to avoid the impacts to the species, if possible. The measure shall be subject to approval from PG&E, in consultation with CDFW.

- **MM BIO-9 San Joaquin Kit Fox, American Badger, Burrowing Owl:**

Within 15 days prior to any habitat modification, a qualified biologist knowledgeable in the identification of all special-status wildlife species shall conduct a pre-construction survey of areas proposed for disturbance within work areas and 500-foot buffer (where legally accessible) to determine if any special-status species are present. If, as a result of this pre-construction survey it is determined that San Joaquin kit fox, American badger or burrowing owl are present, the following measures shall be implemented:

1. If signs of burrowing owl are identified on-site, CDFW shall be notified to determine if take coverage is necessary, and appropriate buffers shall be established to limit all construction activities. Buffers for burrows shall be as follows:

Location	Time of Year	Low Level of Disturbance	Med Level of Disturbance	High Level of Disturbance
Nesting Sites	1 Apr-15 Aug	656 ft	1640 ft	1640 ft
Nesting Sites	16 Aug-15 Oct	656 ft	656 ft	1640 ft
Nesting Sites	16 Oct-31 Mar	164	328	1640

2. If a potential San Joaquin kit fox or American badger den is discovered, or a fox or badger is found in an “atypical” den such as a pipe or culvert, the qualified biologist shall establish a 50-foot buffer. If a known kit fox or badger den (one that shows evidence of current use or is known to have been used in the past) is discovered, a buffer of at least 100 feet shall be established using fencing. If a natal den is discovered, it shall be fenced and avoided in a buffer with a diameter of at least 200 feet. The qualified biologist shall notify CDFW and/or USFWS. Buffer zones shall be considered environmentally sensitive areas, and entry shall be restricted. If required buffers are not possible to protect the species, then CDFW and/or USFWS would be consulted to determine the need for take authorization through the acquisition of an incidental take permit, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (d) and appropriate USFWS permit.

- **MM BIO-10 Swainson's Hawk:** If project activities, including site mobilization and construction, are scheduled during the nesting season for Swainson's hawks (1 March to 15 September), prior to beginning work on the project, a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys according to the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley* (SHTA 2000) and prepare a report documenting the survey results. Surveys shall be conducted: 1) within a minimum 0.5-mile radius of the project site or a larger area if needed to identify potentially impacted active nests, unless otherwise approved by the PG&E in writing, and 2) for at least the two survey periods immediately prior to initiating project-related construction activities. Surveys shall occur annually for the duration of the project. If active Swainson's hawk nests are detected, the qualified biologist shall immediately notify CDFW and implement a 0.5-mile construction avoidance buffer around the nest until the nest is no longer active as determined by the qualified biologist, unless otherwise approved by PG&E in writing. Any detected nesting Swainson's hawk shall be monitored by the qualified biologist to ensure it is not disturbed during construction activities, unless otherwise approved in writing by PG&E. If work within the 0.5-mile buffer cannot be avoided the project owner shall consult with PG&E to avoid any potential for unauthorized take for Swainson's hawk without incidental take authorization.
- **MM BIO-11 Golden Eagle:** If work occurs during the golden eagle nesting season (15 December to 31 August), a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys within a 1-mile radius no more than 30 days before starting activities. The qualified biologist shall submit protocol-level survey methodologies to PG&E for review and approval at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of surveys. It is recommended that the qualified biologist coordinates with the USFWS to discuss implementation of golden eagle monitoring protocol so as to minimize duplicate efforts by others in the area. If eagles or active nests are found within 1 mile, work may only proceed after a USFWS approved mitigation plan is established.
- **MM BIO-12 Nesting Bird Surveys Prior to Construction and Bird Buffers:** Where scheduling allows, the clearing or removal of any vegetation, or other project-related activities that may adversely affect breeding birds shall occur outside the nesting season. If work occurs during nesting bird season (generally 1 February through 31 August) pre-construction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted at least two weeks prior to work commencing, including staging, clearing and grubbing, the qualified biologist shall survey a sufficient area around the work site to identify any nests that are present and determine their status. The qualified biologist shall establish an adequate buffer

around all active nests prior to the start of construction. Once construction work begins, the survey effort shall continue to ensure any nest starts established after the work commences are identified and adequate buffers applied. 'Sufficient' in the context of this condition means any nest within an area that could potentially be affected by the project. In addition to direct impacts, such as nest destruction, nesting birds might be affected by noise, vibration, odors and movement of workers or equipment. Identified active nests shall be continuously monitored during daylight hours for 24 hours immediately prior to any construction-related activities to establish a behavioral baseline of the adults and any nestlings. Once work commences, all active nests shall be monitored by the qualified biologist to detect any signs of disturbance and behavioral changes as a result of the project and the buffers adjusted as appropriate or construction activities shall cease until the young have fledged.

Bird Buffers: The DB(s) and/or the Biological Monitor shall establish the following minimum no-disturbance buffers around active nests: 150 feet for species such as passerines, 500 feet for raptors such as buteos and accipiters and 0.25 miles for eagles. These buffers shall remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until the DB and/or Designated Monitor has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or on-site parental care for survival.

- **MM BIO-13 Biological Monitor During Construction:** A biological monitor will be onsite during ground disturbing activities, or other activities with the potential to impact sensitive biological resources, in order to minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. Before the start of work each morning, the biological monitor would check under all equipment and stored supplies left in the work area overnight near suitable habitat for listed species with a potential to occur in the area. The monitor would have the authority to stop work or determine alternative work practices in consultation with agencies and construction personnel, as appropriate, if construction activities are likely to impact sensitive biological resources. The biological monitor would document monitoring activities in a daily log summarizing construction activities and environmental compliance.
- **MM BIO-14 California Red-Legged Frog:** A qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys prior to ground disturbing activities. If individuals are found, work would not begin until USFWS and CDFW are consulted. The DB and/or Biological Monitor would be present for all ground disturbing activities. Barrier fencing would be constructed around the worksite to prevent amphibians from entering the work area and will be removed within 72 hours of completion of work. No monofilament plastic will be used for erosion control. All open trenches

would be inspected each morning and evening for trapped amphibians. Work would be avoided within suitable habitat from 15 October (or the first measurable rainfall of 1 inch or greater) to May 1.

- **MM BIO-15 Crotch's Bumble Bee:** A PG&E and CDFW approved biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys and daily monitoring for Crotch's bumble bee in all project areas, following CDFW non-invasive protocols. Prior to ground disturbance, the project owner must submit a Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to PG&E and CDFW for approval. This plan will detail survey methodology, habitat mapping, and specific protocols for nest relocation and minimizing impacts to foraging or overwintering bees. If bees or nests are detected, the qualified biologist shall coordinate with agencies to implement avoidance measures to avoid take.
- **MM BIO-16 Western Spadefoot:** A qualified biologist shall complete pre-construction surveys within 48 hours prior to initiating construction and during the appropriate season (approximately 1 February through 30 March). The qualified biologist shall submit the results to PG&E prior to starting construction. In the unanticipated event that western spadefoot are discovered on site, a qualified biologist shall develop a relocation plan and submit it to PG&E for review and approval. Western spadefoots shall be relocated to the nearest available suitable habitat at least 250 feet away from the project site to minimize the potential for spreading disease. Relocation may only be conducted by a qualified biologist with all appropriate permits.
- **MM BIO-17 Coast Horned Lizard and San Joaquin Coachwhip:** A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys within 48 hours prior to initiating project activities, the qualified biologist shall survey the construction site for coast horned lizard and San Joaquin coachwhip, including any and all rock outcrops and mammal burrows and any other potential habitat features. If coast horned lizards and/or San Joaquin coachwhips are found, they shall be allowed to leave the site before construction begins. Coast horned lizards and/or San Joaquin coachwhips may be moved "out of harm's way" to the nearest safe and suitable habitat at least 250 feet away from the project site by the qualified biologist with all appropriate permits.
- **MM BIO-18 Monarch Butterfly:** No more than 2 days prior to the initiation of site mobilization and/or construction-related vegetation trimming or removal, the applicant shall ensure that a qualified biologist and/or Biological Monitor surveys all areas of potentially suitable habitat for monarch butterfly larval host plants. If host plants are found, the DB shall survey all host plants for monarch eggs, larvae, and pupae. If no eggs, larvae, or pupae are found, plants may be removed within 2 days with approval from the PG&E. If eggs, larvae, or pupae

are present, host plants shall be protected in place until the qualified biologist has determined that the breeding season has concluded, or coordination with the PG&E and USFWS occurs. It is recommended, to the extent feasible, that that milkweed removal should be avoided until after the plant has gone to seed.

- **MM-WATER-1:** The project owner shall manage stormwater discharges from project construction activities by fulfilling the requirements contained in State Water Resources Control Board's NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit, or CGP) (Order No. 2022-0057-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002) and all subsequent revisions and amendments. Among the requirements of the General Permit, the project owner shall file permit registration documents electronically using the Stormwater Multiple Applications and Report Tracking Systems (SMARTS), submit a Notice of Intent (NOI), and develop and implement a construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for project construction (Construction SWPPP). The SWPPP shall include all best management practices (BMPs) applicable for the project construction activities conducted in the local environment. The SWPPP must be prepared by a State-Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD).

D. Determination

The Central Valley Water Board has determined that the Project, when implemented in accordance with the MMRP and the conditions in this Order, will not result in any significant adverse water quality or supply impacts. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096, subd. (h).) 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, subd. (i).)

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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/)

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 (Annual Reports):** This report will be submitted 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 and cc: Jenna.Yang@waterboards.ca.gov.
- Include in the subject line of the email:
ATTN: Jenna Yang; Project Name; and WDID No. 5B01CR00050.

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:

5 June 2026

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: Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System Project
Permittee: Levy Alameda, LLC
WDID: 5B01CR00050
Reg. Meas. ID: 461518
Place ID: 901875
Order Effective Date: 5 June 2026
Order Expiration Date: 4 June 2031

VI. Report Type Submitted

A. Part A – Project Reporting

Report Type 1 Monthly Report – Not Applicable
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.”

Print Name¹	Affiliation and Job Title
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Signature	Date
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¹STATEMENT 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.

Permittee's Signature	Date
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*This Report and Notification Cover Sheet must be signed by the Permittee or a duly authorized representative and included with all written submittals.
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A. Part A – Project Reporting

1. Report Type 1 - Monthly Report – Not Applicable

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 July beginning one year after the effective date of the Order. 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 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 Water Quality Certification 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 Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, February 2019 (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 Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2022-0057-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 – Not Applicable

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

The conditions under Section K 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).