

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 June 2026

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**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER WQ 2022-0048-DWQ,
ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS
STATEWIDE, KNIGHTSEN WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT
(WDID#5B07CR00285), CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

On 10 April 2026, Contra Costa County submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide (Order).

The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order. This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the General Certification Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of [Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Coverage under the Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified. Failure to comply with Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The 636-acre Project consists of the restoration of a mosaic of wetland and upland habitats in unincorporated Contra Costa County, partially in the community of Knightsen. The Project will create habitats to support the species covered in the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) and other special-status species.

The Project will reconnect an area of historic tidal wetlands and seasonal wetland habitats to Delta waters, restore and enhance seasonal wetlands, and restore historic upland interior dune, grassland, and oak savanna habitats.

The Project will restore a variety of habitats across the project site. On the North Parcel, the design will enhance and restore alkali/seasonal wetland and upland grassland habitats, while preserving existing interior dune, alkali wetlands, and alkali grasslands. The Central Parcel will be divided into two areas, hereafter referred to as Central North and Central South. In the Central North, a laguna complex will be created consisting of seasonal ponds fringed by seasonal/alkali wetlands. Grasslands will border the seasonal/alkali wetlands and will also include networks of grassland swales and seasonal wetland depressions. In the Central South, a seasonal wetland and swale network will be bordered by grasslands and oak savanna. In the southwest corner of the Central South, interior dune habitat will be restored. In the East Parcel the design focuses on restoration of freshwater tidal wetlands, including tidal channels, marsh ponds, vegetated marshplain, and habitat berms supporting wetland, transitional, and riparian habitats.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include land conversion from restoration activities and berm creation. The Project will permanently impact 2.74 acres of wetland and 2.20 acres of stream channel.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located in unincorporated Contra Costa County, within the community of Knightsen, adjacent to Delta Road and Byron Highway. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 37.961814°N and longitude -121.627228°W.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Construction is expected to start in May 2027 and end in December 2032.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

\$1,123.00 was received on 15 April 2026.

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 D - Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Projects (fee code 85).

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT:

The Central Valley Water Board, as Lead Agency, has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061.

Specifically, the Central Valley Water Board has determined that the issuance of this Order is exempt by the CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife concurred that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA by the CEQA SERP pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56 on 29 March 2023.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife filed a Notice of Exemption at the State Clearinghouse (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2023120580) on 2 May 2025.

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Permittee shall follow notification and reporting requirements described in this Notice of Applicability (NOA), and those found in Attachment D of the Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, unless specified as an optional requirement and excluded from this NOA.

1. Annual Reporting

The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year within one month of the anniversary of the effective date of this Notice of Applicability. Annual reporting shall continue until the active discharge period is complete and the project enters the post-construction monitoring phase where upon the Permittee shall annually submit a Post-Construction Monitoring Report (Report Type 2) The Post-Construction Monitoring Report shall be submitted on the anniversary of the date that the project restoration activities were completed.

The Annual Report and Post Construction Monitoring Report shall include the information specified in Attachment D, Part A of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment D of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ and email it to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov and cc Carter Cook at Carter.Cook@waterboards.ca.gov.

2. Notification for In-Water Work and Diversions

The project proponent shall notify the Water Board at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to initiating work in flowing or standing water or stream diversions. Notification may be via e-mail, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means. Within three (3) working days following completion of work in water or stream diversions, an In-Water Work and Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report must be submitted to the Water Board.

3. Environmental Monitoring

Per General Protection Measure 5 (GPM-5) of the Order, a resource specialist shall ensure that all applicable protective measures are implemented during project construction. The resource specialist shall have authority to stop any work if they determine that any permit requirement is not fully implemented. The

resource specialist shall prepare and maintain a monitoring log of construction site conditions and observations, which will be kept on file.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION:

The Applicant shall obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended for discharges to surface waters comprised of storm water associated with construction activity, including, but not limited to, demolition, clearing, grading, excavations, 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.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

Upon completion of the Project, you shall submit a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after Project completion. The NOC shall demonstrate the Project was carried out in accordance with the Project description, include a map of the Project location with final boundaries of the restoration area, and include post-project photographs. More information on the NOC is listed in section B.6 of the Order.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Carter Cook by phone at (916) 464-4699 or by email at Carter.Cook@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters
For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments: Figure 1: Location Map
Figure 2: Project Site Map
Figure 3: Habitat Restoration Plan

cc: Distribution List, page 5

DISTRIBUTION LIST
[Via email only]

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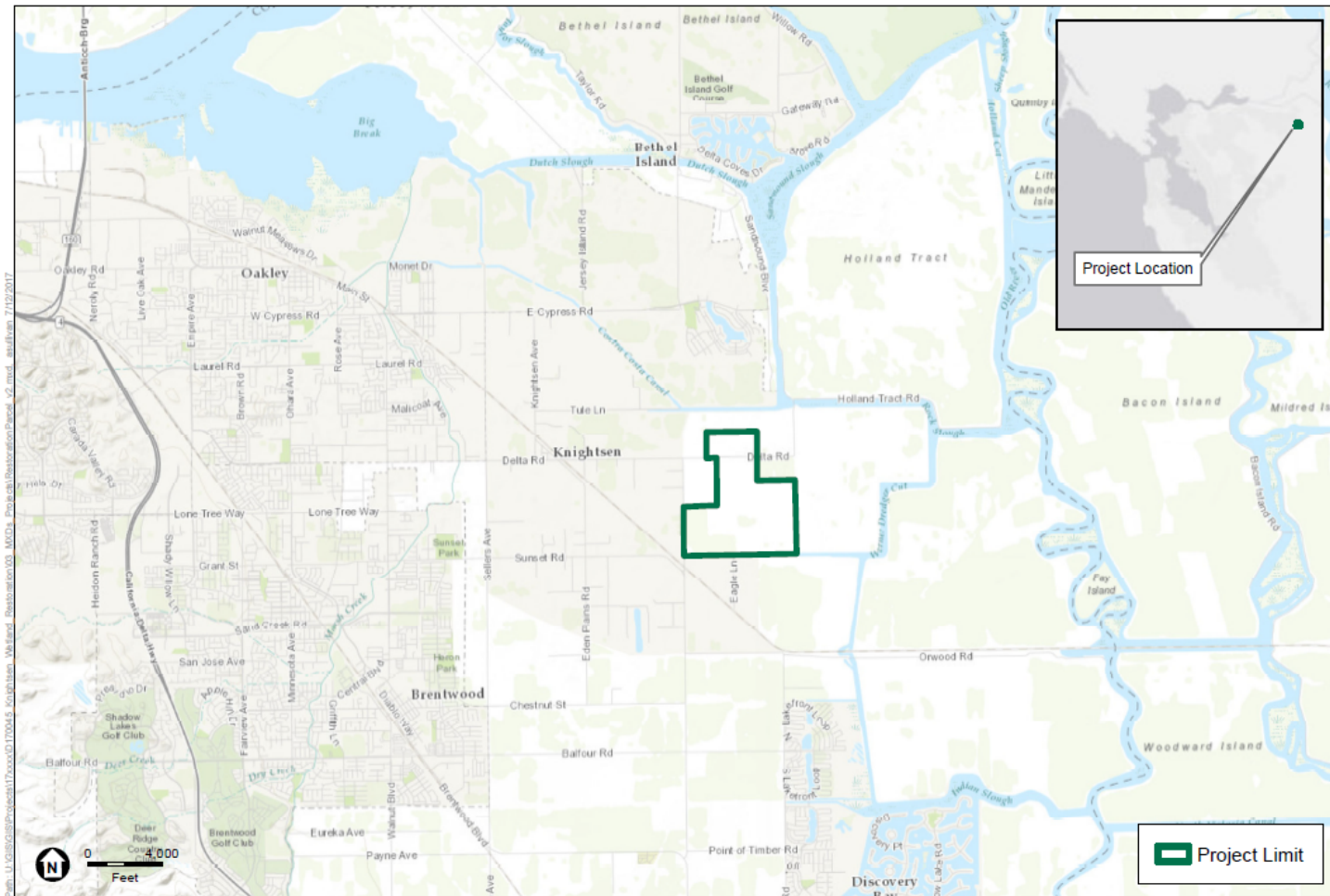
United States Environmental Protection Agency
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Figure 1: Location Map



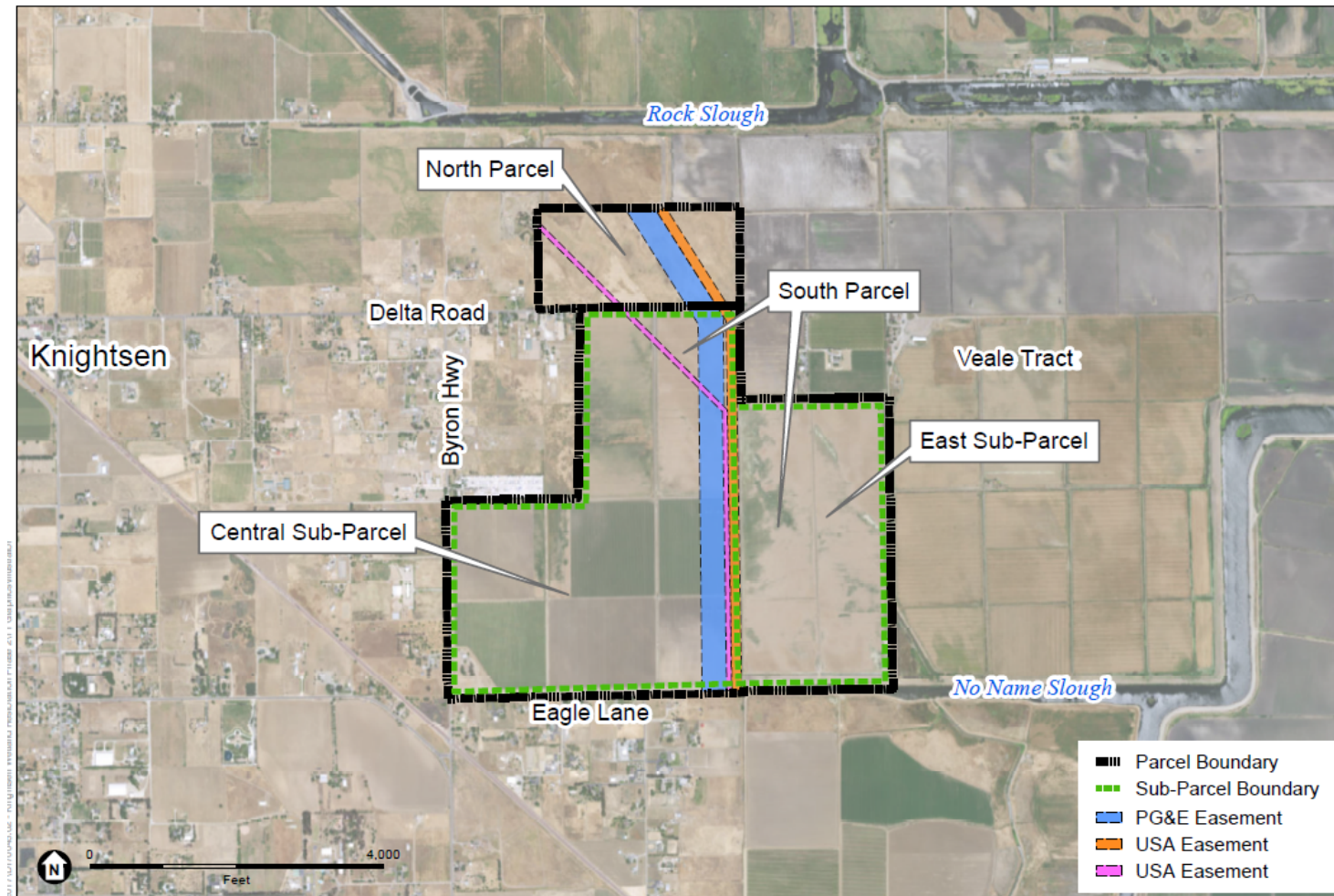
SOURCE: ESRI World Topographic Map

Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Floodplain Protection Project. D170045.00

Figure 1
Location Map



Figure 2: Project Site Map



Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project

Figure 2
Project Site Map

Figure 3: Habitat Restoration Plan

