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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

29 November 2023

Andrew Sisolak  
Boy Scouts of America  
1325 Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, CAMP SILVER FIR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID 5B10CR00131), FRESNO COUNTY**

On 16 November 2023, the Boy Scouts of America (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 1 August 2023 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit 8 (General Certification Order) for the Camp Silver Fir Bridge Replacement Project (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Applicant, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has determined that the Project qualifies for enrollment under this General Certification Order. The proposed activity will take place in 0.0015 acres/49 linear feet of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 8, Emergency Repair and Protection Activities, subject to the conditions and the notification requirements described in the Nationwide Permit (“Special Conditions”). 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 the [General Certification Order](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2023/rgp-8-certification-mainbody.pdf) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2023/rgp-8-certification-mainbody.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2023/rgp-8-certification-mainbody.pdf)) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board’s General Orders webpage.

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this Notice of Applicability and General Certification Order. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the General Certification Order, dated 16 November 2023, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

In 2020, the area around Huntington Lake suffered a severe wildfire, known as the Creek Fire. The loss from the fire included a wooden bridge over Line Creek (Creek), which provided the only access to Camp Silver Fir Boy Scout facilities. A new bridge is needed to replace the wooden bridge and restore access to Camp Silver Fir. The replacement bridge would consist of a prefabricated steel girder bridge and timber deck with two precast concrete footings positioned above the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) and outside of the top of the bank of the Creek. The replacement bridge would measure 14 feet wide and 36 feet long. All equipment would be staged within designated staging areas in upland areas away from the Creek. Existing access roads would be used to reach the site, and no new access roads would be required. Dirt pull-offs are located along the existing access road and can provide parking for vehicles and construction equipment.

Project construction is anticipated as follows:

1. The Creek channel would be prepared with sedimentation and erosion controls. Any remaining logs or debris from the burnt bridge would be removed with an excavator or backhoe and placed within the staging area until it is taken offsite for disposal. No disturbance to the Creek is anticipated to result from the removal of old bridge debris.
2. A 45-foot long, 18-inch diameter corrugated HDPE pipeline would be temporarily placed within the channel centered on the bridge footprint. The pipeline would be wrapped with a chain to be lifted and lowered into the channel using an excavator, operating from upland areas outside of the Creek. The pipeline would be placed within the channel oriented to the natural flowline of the Creek and would handle bypass flows to prevent impacts to water quality during construction. The pipeline would be secured in place with two sand-bag isolation dams installed via hand labor upstream and downstream of the bridge to prevent any seepage of water into the work area.
3. The removal of the two existing concrete piers would occur by wrapping a chain around each pier and lifting the concrete pier out of the channel in one piece with an excavator, operating above the top of bank. The two concrete piers are small and intact and are expected to be removed with little effort and no breakup. However, prior to their removal, the work site would be isolated and dry. Any concrete debris from the piers can be removed from the Creek by hand with no impact below the OHWM. These concrete piers would be placed within the staging area and transported to an approved site for disposal (see for location of staging area).
4. Approximately 15 cubic yards of soil would be excavated within the bridge footprint on the east side of the Creek above the top of bank to prepare for installation of the new pre-cast concrete footing. This would cause a temporary impact of 10 linear feet at the maximum parallel to the Creek. The excavated material would be temporarily placed within the designated staging area.

## Camp Silver Fir Bridge Replacement Project

5. The existing loose rock outcropping would be removed from above the top of bank as required by hand. The outcropping below the top of bank and below the OHWM would be left in place. Individual rocks would be lifted out and relocated along the Creek bank as necessary to provide space for the final bridge placement. Rocks would only be moved as necessary to make space for the bridge and footing and only a small number of them are expected to be moved.
6. The new footing would be wrapped with a chain and installed using an excavator to lower the footing into place. The excavated soil would then backfill the gaps around the concrete footing and be compacted to secure it in place. Backfilled soil would be compacted to match surrounding grades and contours.
7. To install the pre-cast concrete footing on the west side of the Creek, steel shoring plates would be temporarily placed above the OHWM and across the top of bank of the Creek to allow an excavator to cross within the bridge footprint. Approximately 15 cubic yards of soil would be excavated within the bridge footprint on the west side of the Creek above the top of bank to prepare for installation of the new precast concrete footing. This would cause a temporary impact of 10 linear feet at the maximum parallel to the Creek on the west side. The new footing would be wrapped with a chain and installed using an excavator to lower the footing into place. The excavated soil would then backfill the gaps around the concrete footing and be compacted to secure it in place.
8. The bridge footings would temporarily disturb a maximum of 10 linear feet parallel to the Creek on either side. The excavator would be operated from upland areas outside of the Creek. The impacts above the top of bank would fall within the same footprint of the previous bridge, and therefore, no new permanent impacts from bridge replacement would result from Project activities.
9. The prefabricated steel girder bridge would be placed on top of the footings using an excavator and chain to lower it in place. Timber decking and rub-rails would then be installed to complete the bridge work.
10. The approach roads on either side of the bridge would be re-graded to the elevation of the new bridge. Note that this work occurs outside of the Creek footprint and above the OHWM. The sandbag isolation dams and bypass pipeline would be removed by hand and by chain via an excavator, respectively, and the only disturbance within the Creek would occur from laborers removing the sandbag dams by hand.

No permanent excavation or fill is anticipated below the OHWM or top of the Creek bank. The only work below the top of the bank would be the removal of the old concrete bridge abutments, as well as the temporary placement of sandbags and a bypass pipe to maintain water quality and flow. Trees and native vegetation would not be impacted or removed as part of Project activities.

Construction would occur when there is little or no water within the Creek. In the event of a heavy precipitation year and construction cannot be completed in dry conditions, an

extension would be requested from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The Project will permanently impact 0.000003 acres/4 linear feet and temporarily impact 0.0015 acres/45 linear feet of waters of the United States.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The Project is located at Huntington Lake near Lakeshore, California.

Section 11, Township 8 South, Range 25 East, MDB&M

Latitude: 37.2527 and Longitude: -119.1998

**PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

The approximate timeframe of Project construction is 29 November 2023 through 29 April 2024.

**APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:**

An application fee of \$2,985.00 was received on 16 November 2023. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as category F - Emergency Projects authorized by a Water Board General Order (fee code 85) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Ernesto P. Garcia at (559) 445-6281 or at [Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original Signed by Alexander Mushegan:*

For Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

cc: Via email only:

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Camp Silver Fir Bridge Replacement Project

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29 November 2023

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