



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

8 November 2024

Kenneth Borngrebe
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, DAM 6 EMERGENCY DREDGING PROJECT (WDID# 5B10CR00133), FRESNO COUNTY

On 1 August 2024, Southern California Edison (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 Dam 6 Emergency Dredging (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Applicant, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has determined that the Project qualifies for enrollment under this General Certification Order. The proposed activity will take place within 1.82 acres 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) 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 the General Certification Order. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the General Certification Order, dated 1 August 2024, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The 1.82-acre Project consists of in-water dredging activities to remove deposited sediments from in front Big Creek Dam 6 low-level outlet valves and BC3 intake structure. The Applicant performed suction dredging and removal of sediment from in front of Dam 6 from May 2023 to July 2023, however the removal of sediment could not be completed in one season. This Project will remove approximately 45,000 cubic yards of the remaining sediment to alleviate the emergency. The Applicant has identified several upland disposal sites for the disposal of dredged material. Sites shall be in the uplands and shall be disposed of in a way that will not result in the material migrating into waterbodies.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include in-water dredging activities to remove the deposited sediments using a combination of suction dredge with auger head, diver-assisted suction dredging, and clamshell/excavation near the BC3 intake structure and low-level outlets. Additionally, should a turbidity plume start to migrate north of the work areas near BC8 Powerhouse, Southern California Edison would deploy additional BMPs, or reduce/suspend dredging operations to give adequate recovery time for material to settle. Dredged material will be placed temporarily in the area that is currently the existing boat ramp, above the lake water surface, before being hauled off to a permanent upland site. The Applicant will deploy a turbidity curtain at the end of the boat ramp to capture any sediment that may discharge into the lake from the temporary stockpile.

Total Project dredge quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1. Temporarily impacted areas shall be restored to pre-Project condition.

Table 1: Total Project Temporary Dredging Quantity Impacts

| Aquatic Resources Type | Acres | Cubic Yards | Linear Feet |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lake | 1.82 | 45,375 | |
| Ocean/bay/estuary | | | |
| Riparian Zone | | | |
| Stream Channel | | | |
| Vernal Pool | | | |
| Wetland | | | |

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

1. Water Quality Monitoring

The Applicant shall perform the following surface water sampling and monitoring:

- i. Visual monitoring of the outflow from the dam in the San Joaquin River;
- ii. Sampling within the lake adjacent to the settling basin and within the lake outside of the Project influence. Sampling shall be in accordance with Table 2.

The sampling frequency and/or monitoring locations may be modified for certain projects with written approval from Central Valley Water Board staff.

Table 2: Sample Type and Frequency Requirements

| Parameter | Unit of Measurement | Type of Sample | Minimum Frequency |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| pH | Standard Units | Grab | Every 4 hours |
| Turbidity | NTU | Grab | Every 4 hours |
| Temperature | Degrees F (or as degrees C) | Grab | Every 4 hours |
| Visible construction related pollutants ¹ | Observations | Visual Inspections | Continuous throughout the construction period |

2. Water Quality Monitoring Report: In Water Work and Diversion

The report shall be submitted within two weeks of initiation of in-water construction, and every two weeks thereafter. In reporting the data, the Applicant 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.

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Applicant shall submit all reports in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment B of the General Certification Order, and in accordance with conditions specified in this Notice of Applicability and email it to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov with a cc to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is **5B10CR00133**.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located at Southern California Edison’s Dam 6 and Big Creek No. 3 Powerhouse on the San Joaquin River.

Latitude: 37.2095 Degrees and Longitude: -119.3295 Degrees

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The approximate timeframe of the Project is November 2024 through December 2024, depending on weather.

¹ Visible construction-related pollutants include oil, grease, foam, fuel, petroleum products, and construction-related, excavated, organic or earthen materials.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$2,985.00 was received on 1 August 2024.

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 Brandon Salazar at (559) 445-6287 or at Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.

Digitally signed by Alex. S. Mushegan
for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: Via email only:

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Jason Lambert
Southern California Edison