
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

27 November 2024

Matt Walker
Pacific Gas & Electric
8 East River Park Place
Fresno, CA 93720

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY, GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAWMILL FLAT CULVERT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, (WDID# 5C10CR00095), FRESNO COUNTY

On 22 October 2024, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (Permittee) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 12 October 2021 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permits (Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ) for the Sawmill Flat Culvert Improvement Project (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Permittee, 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 within less than 0.01 acres of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 3a, Maintenance, 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/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.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 22 October 2024, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

During large storm events, excess water and debris has overcome the existing culverts and drainage path resulting in unnecessary erosion along the road and Sawmill Flat spoil pile. The improvements to the upper culvert proposed in this Project will mitigate its potential for overtopping. During severe storm events, the potential exists for the upper squash culvert beneath the spur road to become blocked by debris and overtop by stormwater. The proposed culvert improvements will control peak flows from severe storm events thereby preventing concentrated flows from reaching the spoil pile and minimizing erosion of the roadside ditches along the spur road.

All construction activities in waters of state will be performed in the dry. Constructor will maintain and implement activities specific to erosion and sediment control plan and best management practices (BMPs) as outlined in the Permittee's stormwater field manual for small construction and maintenance projects. The new culvert design will help contain stream flows to the existing stream channel and help prevent the overtopping and erosion experienced in past years. Erosion has the potential to affect water quality in downstream waterways. Although there are permanent fills, the Project will not result in a permanent loss of waters or aquatic functions.

The Project includes portions A, B, and C which involve a total of 0.008 acres of temporary impacts and 0.007 acres of permanent impacts. Feature A (located upstream) includes installation of a concrete apron, a headwall, and some excavation work which includes 0.004 acres of temporary impacts and 0.004 acres of permanent impacts. Feature B (located both upstream and downstream) includes installation of riprap fill and excavation work with a temporary impact of 0.003 acres and 0.003 acres of permanent impact. Feature C (located upstream) includes the installation of a cofferdam option with a temporary fill amount of 0.001 acres. See attachment A for reference.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located 28.4 miles southeast of Shaver Lake in Fresno County.

Section 15, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, MDB&M

Lat and Long for Features A - C

Feature A: 36.967564, -119.009641

Feature B: Upstream: 36.967602, -119.009687; Downstream: 36.967543, -119.009534

Feature C: 36.967581, -119.009816

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The Project is expected to have a commencement date of 15 August 2025 and a completion date of 15 October 2025.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$2,985.00 was received on 16 October 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 E - Low Impact Discharges (fee code 87) 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.

Digitally signed by Alex S. Mushegan
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Executive Officer

cc: Via email only:

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Attachment A

