



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 December 2025

Michael Oguro
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY: STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
OF ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' 2021 NATIONWIDE PERMITS (ORDER NO. WQ
2021-0048-DWQ), CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
EA: 02-4H060 CHESTER CAUSEWAY REHABILITATION PROJECT (WDID NO.
5A32CR00255), LASSEN AND PLUMAS COUNTIES**

On 3 November 2025, Caltrans (Applicant) filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting coverage for the EA: 02-4H060 Chester Causeway Rehabilitation Project (Project) under State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of Army Corps of Engineers' 2021 Nationwide Permits (Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ). The applicable Nationwide Permit (NWP) is NWP 3, Maintenance Activities. After review of the NOI and supplemental materials 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 Order.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under Water Quality Order WQ 2021-0048-DWQ. This Notice of Applicability (NOA) is being issued at the request of Caltrans (hereinafter Enrollee) under the General Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of the General Order is enclosed. You can also access the General Order on [State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders Web Page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2021) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2021).

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the General Order. The Project is described in the NOI Form requesting coverage and supplementary information (Application Package). If the Project is modified from that described in the Application Package, then coverage under the General Order is no longer valid.

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I. Public Notice

The Central Valley Water Board provided public notice of the application from 7 November 2025 to 28 November 2025. The Central Valley Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

II. Project Description

Caltrans has rehabilitated pavement along a 15.30-mile section of State Route 36 from postmile (PM) 0.00 to 6.10 in Lassen County and from PM 9.20 to 18.40 in Plumas County. The shoulders of the roadway were widened at multiple sections of the roadway. To accommodate the road widening, the culvert at PM 15.63 was extended 12.3' at the inlet and 9.9' at the outlet. Permanent impacts to an unnamed stream channel resulted from the culvert extension; this NOA is an after-the-fact permit.

III. Project Location

Address: State Route 36 from PM 0.00 to 6.10 in Lassen County and from PM 9.20 to 18.40 in Plumas County.

Counties: Lassen and Plumas

Latitude: 40.314278° and Longitude: -121.113333°

Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A of this NOA.

IV. 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 NOA 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 are shown in Table 2 of Attachment B.

V. Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the United States

The Project impacted 0.002 acre of Waters of the United States. These impacts consist of permanent impacts of 0.002 acre of stream channel.

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Tables 1. Permanent impacts are categorized as those resulting in a physical loss of area and those degrading ecological conditions. Impacts to waters of the state did not exceed quantities shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area Impacts

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Stream Channel	0.002	13.16	25

VI. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The Central Valley Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15301, Existing Facilities.

VII. 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.

VIII. Fees Received

An application fee of \$4,212 was received on 24 November 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.

IX. Compensatory Mitigation – Not Applicable

No compensatory mitigation was required for permanent impacts because of the limited scope and nature of the impacts. To the extent feasible, the Permittee restored and stabilized the area following disturbance.

X. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Contact:

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Lynn Coster at (530) 224-2437 or Lynn.Coster@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Lynn Coster

For Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

12/10/2025

Date

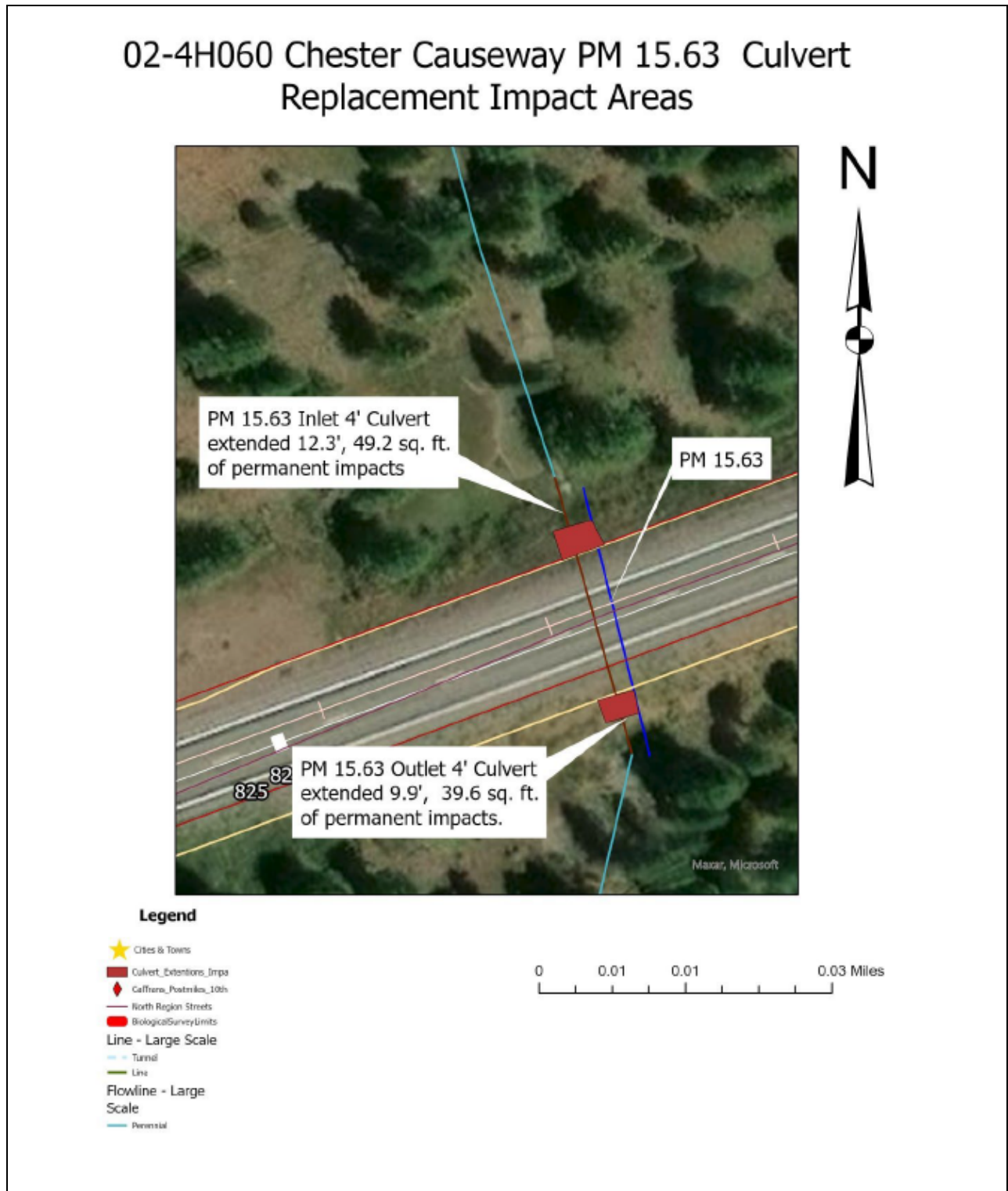
Enclosure: State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Act Section 401
General Water Quality Certification of Army Corps of Engineers' 2021
Nationwide Permits (Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ)

Attachments: Attachment A - Project Maps
Attachment B - Receiving Water, Impact, and Mitigation Information
Attachment C - CEQA

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Attachment A - Project Maps

Figure 1: Project Impact Map



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Receiving Waters, Impacts and Mitigation Information

The following table shows the receiving waters associated with each impact site.

Table 1: Receiving Waters Information

Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resource Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant
PM 15.63	Unnamed Stream Channel	Stream Channel	518.44	North Fork Feather River	MUN, POW, REC-1, REC-2, COLD, SPWN, WILD	N/A

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
PM 15.63	40.314278	-121.113333	No	0.002	13.16	25

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FINDINGS FOR CEQA EXEMPT PROJECT

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

Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, Existing Facilities, which consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

Additionally, the Central Valley Water Board concludes that no California Code of Regulations, title 14, section exceptions to the CEQA exemption apply to the activities approved by this Order.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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