



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

23 October 2024

John Hannon
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
801 I Street, Suite 140
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY: STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AMENDED ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR SMALL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS FILE NO. SB12006GN FOR U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, REDDING RIFFLE SPAWNING HABITAT PROJECT, SHASTA COUNTY, WDID NO. 5A45CR00665

On 16 September 2024, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Applicant) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting coverage under the 27 March 2013 State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File No. SB12006GN (General Order) for the Redding Riffle Spawning Habitat Project (Project). After review of the NOI and the 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 the General Order.

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) is being issued to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (hereinafter Enrollee) by the Central Valley Water Board under the General Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

NOA Effective Date: 23 October 2024

NOA Expiration Date: 23 October 2029

A copy of the General Order is enclosed. The General Order may also be accessed on the [State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders Web Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2013) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2013).

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the General Order. The Project is described in the NOI requesting coverage and supplemental information (Application Package) submitted by the Enrollee and is limited to the impacts identified in the Application Package and described in this NOA. If the

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

Project is modified from that described in the Application Package, then coverage under the General Order is no longer valid.

I. Public Notice

The Central Valley Water Board provided public notice of the application from 20 September 2024 to 11 October 2024. The Central Valley Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

II. Project Description

A. Project Purpose

The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance adult spawning and juvenile rearing habitat and eliminate redd dewatering and associated mortality for state and / or federally listed salmonids. Due to the dam impeding the natural flow of sediment and leading to a scarcity of appropriately-sized spawning gravel in downstream river reaches, Redding Riffle experiences gravel scarcity. High stream flows from dam releases mobilize sediment from the site, but in its current form, the site does not retain sediment added from upstream gravel injections.

B. Project Activities

The proposed project has three main components:

- 1) The importation of up to 7,000 cubic yards (CY) of salmon spawning gravel with an Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP) size class mixture to be spread in specific activity areas. A total of 1700 CY of spawning gravel will be used to construct the in-river access road, which will be spread in place following construction. A total of 5300 CY of spawning gravel will be used to construct the gravel augmentation zone.
- 2) Excavation of an approximately 0.5-acre area where there is active spawning at higher river flows, but the fish redds become dewatered as river flows decrease. The excavation depth will be sufficient to make sure that redds will not become dewatered.
- 3) Excavation of up to four zones of existing armored cobble streambed to create "berms" adjacent to the excavations to help retain the smaller AFRP gravel mixture as river flows fluctuate. A total of 800 CY of existing riverbed gravel will be excavated and moved to the gravel augmentation zone. A subset of this (up to 330 CY) may be used to construct a water quality control berm and then moved to the gravel augmentation zone and / or spread in place in the final stages of the project. Additionally, up to 4,400 square feet of geotextile fabric may be used to cover the water quality control berm. A total of 110 CY of existing riverbed cobble will be excavated and moved to the gravel augmentation zone to construct the berms designed to retain the spawning gravel.

C. Additional Information

The project also includes post-installation monitoring of salmonids. Monitoring methods that have been used in the past will be used by the fisheries agencies to monitor fish response. Monitoring of gravel movement and deposition will also occur to determine the effectiveness of the berms to hold gravel and determine if / when maintenance activities need to occur. Only a very minor amount of vegetation will be impacted by the project. The access ramp location was selected due to the minimal amount of woody vegetation. No excavation will occur at the access ramp, which will be constructed of spawning gravel. Any woody vegetation impacted will be buried or cut off at ground level to allow it to naturally revegetate following construction after the spawning gravel ramp is removed. For these reasons, a revegetation plan is not proposed. The access ramp is the only project feature along the stream bank, temporarily impacting up to 60 feet of stream bank. Erosion control measures will be implemented during and following construction as specified by the California Department of Water Resources engineering design team.

Project area outside of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) consists of an access road and staging area for a total of 0.73 acre. The project areas above and below the OHWM combine for a total project size of 3.73 acres.

III. Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Temporary Impacts¹

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Stream Channel	3.00	7,910	950

IV. Project Schedule

Project construction is anticipated to take a total of six weeks. Project construction would potentially mobilize in October 2024 as river flows are reduced but could occur later in the winter of 2024 or early spring of 2025. The project schedule is dependent on acquiring all environmental permits, favorable river flows and the results of preconstruction fisheries spawning surveys. It is anticipated that construction will occur in 2024/25. If all environmental permits and funding are not

¹ Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include area of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state. Temporary impacts, by definition, are restored to pre-project conditions and therefore do not include a physical loss of area or degradation of ecological condition.

acquired, or if flows are not suitable, the project may occur in the fall of 2025 or later.

V. Project Location

County: Shasta

Section 36, Township 32 North, Range 05 West, MDB&M.

Latitude: 40.591403° and Longitude: -122.381190°

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

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 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, which consists of projects not to exceed five acres to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

VII. Fees Received

Federal dischargers involved in Dredge and Fill Operations only are not subject to permit fees as required by Section 3833(b)(3)(A) and Section 2200(a)(3) of the California Code of Regulations.

VIII. Findings of Applicability

This letter serves as formal notice that Order No. SB12006GN is applicable to this small habitat restoration project. Your waste discharge identification (WDID) number is 5A45CR00665.

IX. Reporting

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted by the Enrollee no later than 30 days after the work has been completed. The NOC shall demonstrate that the work has been carried out in accordance with the description provided in the Enrollee's NOI.

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the General Order may expose U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to enforcement action pursuant to the Clean Water Act and California Water Code.

If you require further assistance, please contact me by phone at (530) 224-4994 or by email at Carson.Blodow@waterboards.ca.gov You may also contact Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist of the Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit, by phone at (530) 224-2437 or by email at Lynn.Coster@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Clint E. Snyder, AEO
For Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10/23/2024
Date

Attachment A: Project Maps
Attachment B: Receiving Waters, Impacts, and Mitigation Information
Attachment C: CEQA Findings of Facts

Enclosure: Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File No. SB12006GN

cc via email: U.S. EPA, Region 9, San Francisco
Water Quality Certification Program, SWRCB, Sacramento
Kyler Walsh, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Stacy Alexander, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Redding
Jeff Souza, Tehama Environmental Solutions, Inc., Red Bluff

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Attachment A – Project Maps

Figure 1: Project Location Map

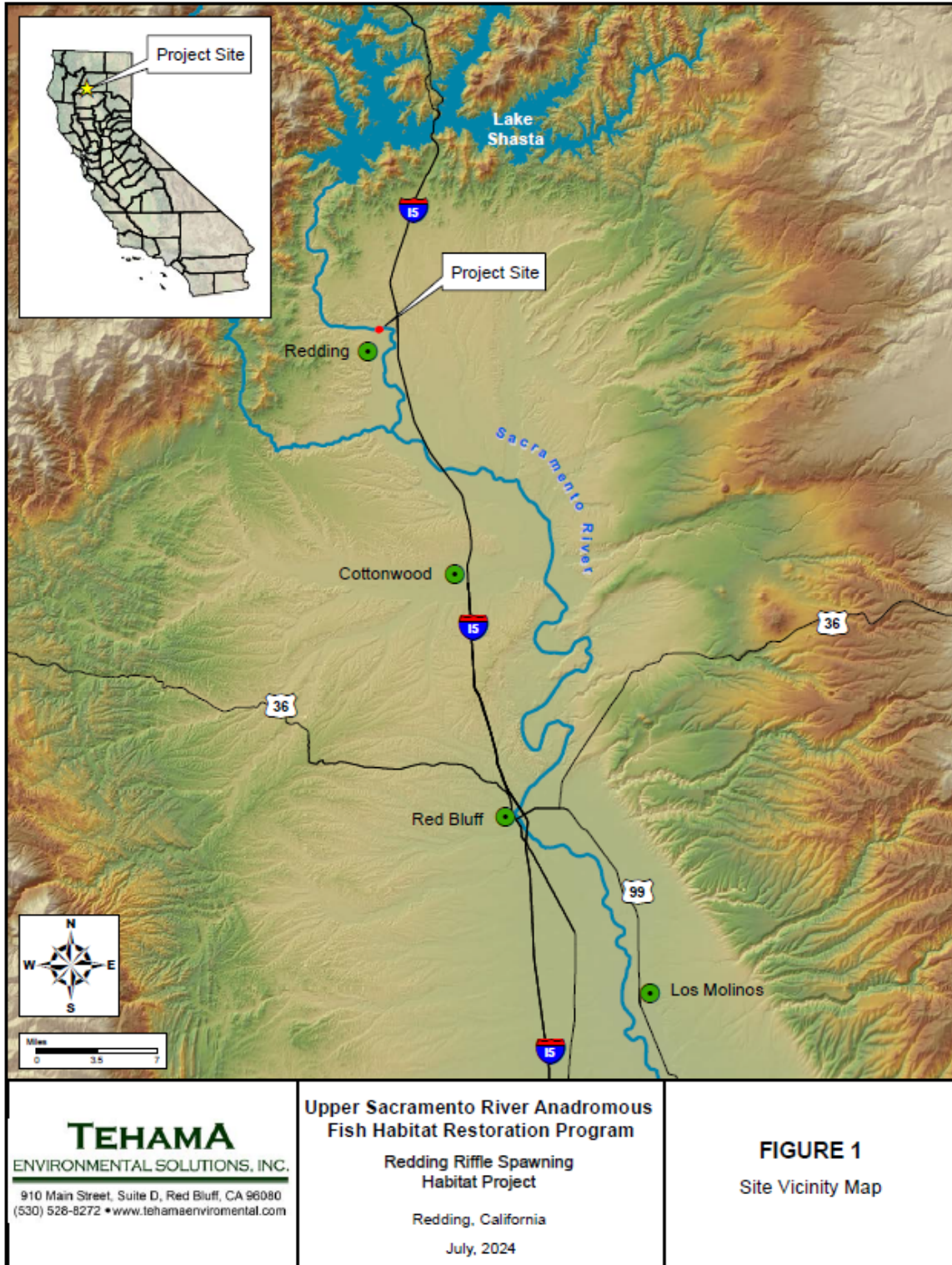
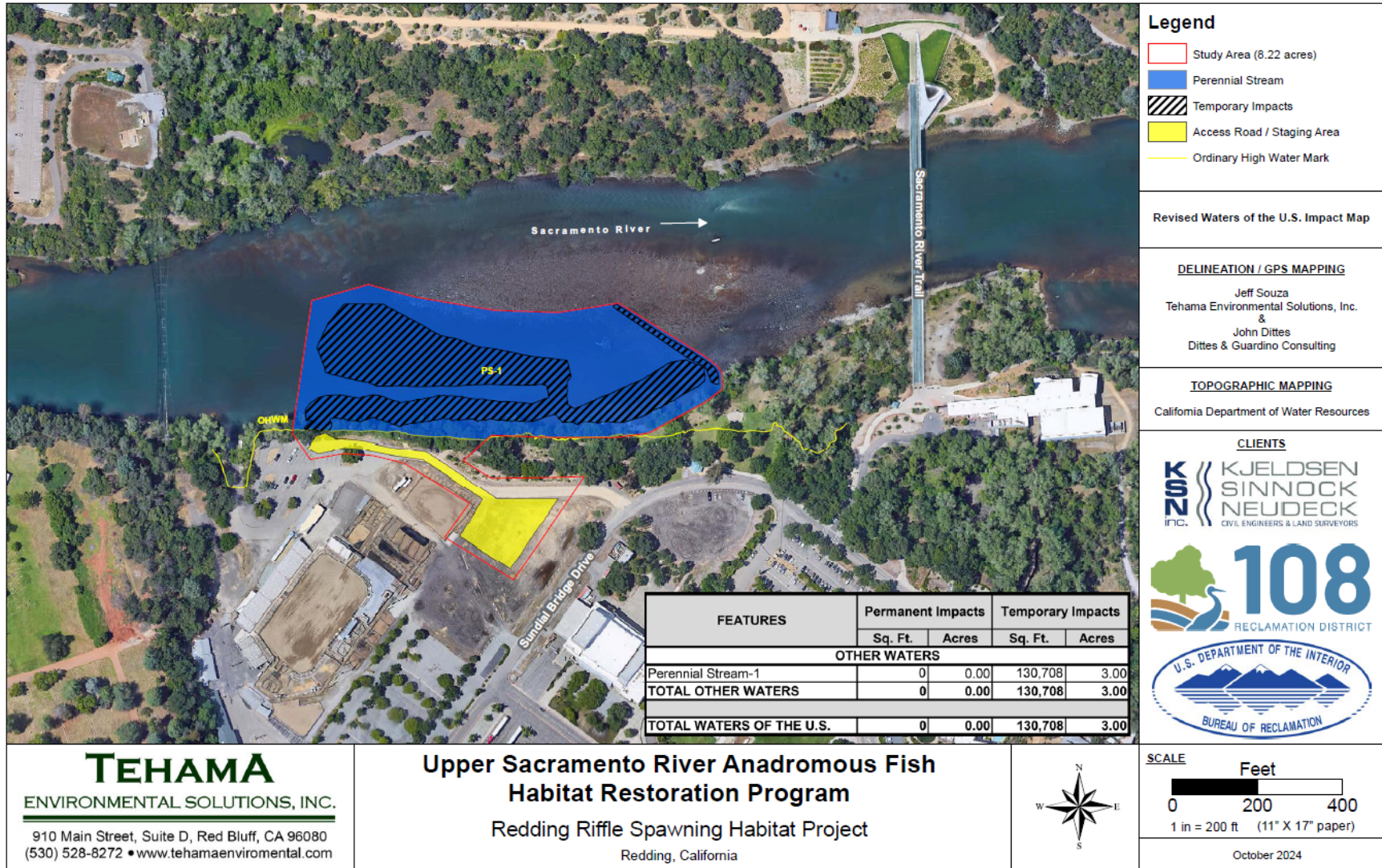


Figure 2: Project Impacts Map



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Attachment B – Receiving Waters, Impacts and Mitigation Information

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

Table 1: Receiving Water Information

Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resources Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant	California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) ID
Redding Riffle Spawning Habitat Project	Sacramento River	Stream	508.10	Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Colusa Basin Drain)	MUN, AGR, IND, POW, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD, NAV	Water Temperature, Toxicity	Not Applicable

Individual Direct Impact Locations

The following table show individual impacts.

Table 2: Individual Temporary Fill/Excavation Impact Information

Impact Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Indirect Impact Requiring Mitigation?	Acre	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Redding Riffle Spawning Habitat Project	40.591403°	-122.381190°	No	3.00	7,910	950

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Attachment C – CEQA Findings of Fact

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 15601.

Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, which consists of projects not to exceed five acres to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

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.

The Central Valley Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days from the issuance of this Order. (California Code of Regulations., title 14, section 15062.)