



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

29 May 2025

Sheldon Erickson
Sierra Methodist Chautauqua and Bible Conference Association, Camp Sierra
PO Box 161
Big Creek, CA 93605

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER NO. 2023-0058-DWQ, STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OF DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL TO WATERS OF THE STATE FROM EMERGENCY REPAIR AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES, CAMP SIERRA CLEAN OUT PROJECT (WDID# 5B10CR00137), FRESNO COUNTY

On 13 May 2025, Sierra Methodist Chautauqua and Bible Conference Association, Camp Sierra (Permittee), also known as Camp Sierra, filed a notification originally 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. However, the USACE ultimately determined the Camp Sierra Clean Out Project (Project) does not require a permit from their agency. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has reviewed the application materials and finds the Project meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, the 13 July 2023 State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2023-0058-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State from Emergency Repair and Protection Activities (General Dredge or Fill WDR). The Permittee may proceed with the Project in accordance with the General Dredge or Fill WDR.

A copy of [Order 2023-0058-DWQ](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders/2023/emergency-wdr-main.pdf) can be found on the [State Water Resources Control Board's Adopted Orders Webpage](#).

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. 2023-0058-DWQ. The Permittee is responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Failure to comply with Order No. 2023-0058-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the General Dredge or Fill WDR.

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this Notice of Applicability and the General Dredge or Fill WDR. The Project is described in the

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

notification form requesting coverage under the General Dredge or Fill WDR, dated 13 May 2025, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Dredge or Fill WDR is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The 0.30-acre Project consists of removing sediment from an impoundment on Balsam Creek near Camp Sierra. Following peak spring runoff, a large amount of sediment has accumulated in the impoundment, known as the Camp Sierra Swimming Hole. The impoundment is also a critical water source for forest firefighting personnel. The Project will restore the original capacity of the impoundment.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include removal of sediment to a depth of 15 ft from the top of the impoundment. Additional activities include constructing a bypass or channeling the creek through the impoundment to provide a dry work area.

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1. Temporarily impacted areas shall be restored to pre-Project conditions.

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

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Lake			
Ocean/bay/estuary			
Riparian Zone			
Stream Channel	0.14	950	115
Vernal Pool			
Wetland			

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located on Balsam Creek in the Sierra National Forest, near Big Creek, CA.

Latitude: 37.191052 Degrees and Longitude: -119.260158 Degrees

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Construction is scheduled to commence in May 2025 with an estimated duration of three weeks.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$4,212.00 was received on 14 May 2025. The fee amount was determined as required by the 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.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION:

Water Quality Monitoring

If surface water is present, continuous visual surface water monitoring shall be conducted during active construction periods to detect accidental discharge of construction related pollutants (e.g., oil and grease, turbidity plume, or uncured concrete). Sampling is not required in a wetland where the entire wetland is being permanently filled, provided there is no outflow connecting the wetland to surface waters. The Permittee shall perform surface water sampling:

- i. When performing any in-water work;
- ii. During the entire duration of temporary surface water diversions;
- iii. In the event that the Project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or
- iv. When any activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.

Sampling during in-water work or during the entire duration of temporary water diversions shall be conducted in accordance with Table 2 sampling parameters. The sampling requirements in Table 2 shall be conducted upstream out of the influence of the Project, and approximately 300 feet downstream of the work area unless otherwise approved by 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

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Permittee shall submit all reports in accordance with Section VI.G of the Dredge or Fill WDR, the report submittal instructions in Attachment B of Dredge or Fill WDR, and

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

this Notice of Applicability and email them to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov with a cc to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is 5B10CR00137.

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.

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

cc: Via email only:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
R9cwa401@epa.gov

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Headquarters
SPKRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil

Justin Sloan
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
justin_sloan@fws.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 4
R4LSA@wildlife.ca.gov

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Sheldon Erickson
Camp Sierra