Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

6 November 2026

Marla Stark
JMT Wilderness Conservancy
10008 SE River Street
Truckee, CA 96161

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER NO. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS STATEWIDE, REDS MEADOW VALLEY RESTORATION PROJECT (WDID# 5B20CR00144), MADERA COUNTY

On 12 October 2026, the JMT Wilderness Conservancy (Permittee) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide (General Certification Order), which was adopted on 16 August 2022.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Reds Meadow Valley Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order. 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 Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) can be found on the State Water Board's General Orders webpage.

The Project is described in the NOI requesting coverage under the General Certification Order and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified. Failure to comply with Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Restoration actions will use low-tech, process-based (LTPBR) methods, including conifer thinning, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)-guided vegetation management, installation of beaver-dam analogs (BDAs) and post-assisted log structures (PALS), soil decompaction, erosion control, and native revegetation. The restoration actions are designed to raise water tables, reconnect floodplains, slow and spread surface flows, and improve meadow resilience. Seven recreation sites located within riparian conservation areas (RCAs) will be reorganized, reduced, and restored to eliminate sediment runoff and protect sensitive riparian and wetland habitats.

Agnew Meadows
Planned LTPBR methods include conifer removal, thinning in the contributing watershed, cultural burning, installation of BDAs and PALS, soil decompaction, reseeding, native revegetation, and fen fencing to protect pack stock-impacted wetlands.

Reds Meadow
The meadow is currently bifurcated by a campground road that inhibits hydrologic connectivity, causing upstream wet areas to desiccate downstream wetlands. Restoration includes road decompaction, installation of continuous subsurface drainage (angular rock base), regrading, culvert upgrades, and low-water crossings to reestablish hydrologic connectivity. Meadow treatments include conifer thinning, TEK-guided vegetation management, BDAs, PALS, erosion control, and revegetation.

Agnew Meadows RCA & Campground
Planned actions include relocation of campsites to durable terrain outside sensitive habitat; restoration of meadow and riparian soils through decompaction, reseeding, native planting, erosion control, and improved delineation of roads and parking. Culverts will be upgraded to reduce erosion and reestablish natural hydrologic pathways.

Upper Soda Springs RCA & Campground
Located within sensitive riparian terrain, this site experiences degraded meadow and streambank conditions due to unmanaged recreational use. Restoration includes relocation of campsites occupying wetted terrain, decompaction of soils, improved flow routing, erosion reduction, and native revegetation. Culvert upgrades will increase hydrologic connectivity of ephemeral drainages and reduce sediment discharge into the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River.

Pumice Flat RCA & Campground
This site will undergo reorganization to confine recreation to durable upland terrain. Restoration in meadow and riparian areas includes soil decompaction, removal of artificially elevated streambanks, reseeding, and installation of low-impact LTPBR structures. Road and campsite delineation will reduce off-road vehicle impacts. Culvert replacements will reconnect ephemeral drainage features.

Pumice Flat Group RCA & Campground
This group site experiences significant riparian impacts from vehicle encroachment and poorly defined roadways. Restoration includes relocating campsites away from meadow edges, restructuring campground circulation, restoring soils, and revegetation. Hydrologic improvements to ephemeral drainages will reduce sediment delivery to the Middle Fork and improve riparian habitat quality.

Minaret Falls RCA & Campground
Minaret Falls Campground occupies sensitive riparian and meadow terrain where inadequate drainage causes sediment mobilization. Restoration includes relocating select campsites, formalizing road and campsite boundaries, upgrading culverts, restoring compacted soils, and reestablishing native vegetation.

Reds Meadow RCA & Campground
Unmarked roads allow drivers to traverse meadow habitat, causing severe soil compaction and sedimentation into adjacent streams. Planned restoration includes removing 34 campsites from riparian areas, restoring meadow soils, improving drainage routing, replacing failing amenities, installing geotextile beneath roads to enhance cross-slope drainage, and relocating campsites to durable terrain.

River Trail Parking Area
The parking area is located adjacent to meadow terrain and currently lacks barriers that prevent unauthorized incursions into sensitive habitat. The Project will reduce its size by roughly 15 percent, install protective barriers, and restore compacted meadow soils through decompaction and revegetation.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.208 acre and 1,960 linear feet of stream channel. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-Project conditions. Approximately 62.1 acres of wetlands (meadow), 7.9 acres of riparian habitat, and 6,200 linear feet of stream channel will be restored as a result of Project activities.

PROJECT LOCATION:
The Project is located along approximately six miles of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River in Reds Meadow Valley, west of Mammoth Mountain in Madera County. The Project encompasses two large meadow systems, Agnew Meadows and Reds Meadow, and seven riparian restoration areas. The latitude and longitude of the approximate centroid of each Project location are listed in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Project Locations

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude
Agnew Meadows	37.68145	-119.08856
Agnew Meadows RCA & Campground	37.68219	-119.08979
River Trail Parking Area	37.68203	-119.08651
Upper Soda Springs RCA & Campground	37.65332	-119.07774
Pumice Flat RCA & Campground	37.64853	-119.07471
Pumice Flat Group RCA & Campground	37.64482	-119.07384
Minaret Falls RCA & Campground	37.63974	-119.08389
Reds Meadow RCA & Campground	37.61908	-119.07551
Reds Meadow	37.61923	-119.07269

PROJECT SCHEDULE:
The Project is expected to begin in 2027 and take approximately five years of seasonal work to complete all restoration activities.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:
$1,123.00 was received on 12 October 2026. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(4), and was calculated as category D - Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Projects (fee code 85) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

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 Central Valley Water Board has determined that the issuance of this Notice of Applicability (NOA) is exempt by the CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife concurred that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA by the SERP pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56 and notified the Water Board on 4 November 2026.

The Central Valley Water Board, as lead agency, will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse within 48 hours from the issuance of this NOA.

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
The Permittee shall follow notification and reporting requirements described in this NOA, and those found in Attachment D of the Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, unless specified as an optional requirement and excluded from this NOA.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION(S):

1. **Annual Reporting**

   The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year within one month of the anniversary of the effective date of this NOA. Annual reporting shall continue until the active discharge period is complete and the Project enters the post-construction monitoring phase, whereupon the Permittee shall annually submit a Post-Construction Monitoring Report (Report Type 2). The Post-Construction Monitoring Report shall be submitted on the anniversary of the date the Project restoration activities were completed.

   The Annual Report and Post-Construction Monitoring Report shall include the information specified in Attachment D, Part A of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment D of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ and email it to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov, with a copy to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is 5B20CR00144.

2. **Notification for In-Water Work and Diversions**

   The Project proponent shall notify the Water Board at least forty-eight (48) hours before initiating work in flowing or standing water or stream diversions. Notification may be made by email, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means.

3. **Environmental Monitoring**

   Per General Protection Measure 5 (GPM-5) of the General Certification Order, a resource specialist shall ensure that all applicable protective measures are implemented during project construction. The resource specialist shall have authority to stop any work if they determine that any permit requirement is not fully implemented. The resource specialist shall prepare and maintain a monitoring log of construction site conditions and observations, which will be kept on file.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:
Upon completion of the Project, the Permittee shall submit a request for a Notice of Project Complete (NOC) Letter no later than 30 days after Project completion. The NOC request shall demonstrate that the Project was carried out in accordance with the Project description, include a map of the Project location showing the final boundaries of the restoration area, and include post-Project photographs. More information about the NOC request is provided in section B (Report Type 4) of the General Certification Order.

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

Attachment 1 – Project Map

cc: Electronic copy only

Cody Barnes
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Headquarters

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9

Justin Sloan
United States Fish & Wildlife Service

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 4

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board

Michael Piatti
The JMT Wilderness Conservancy

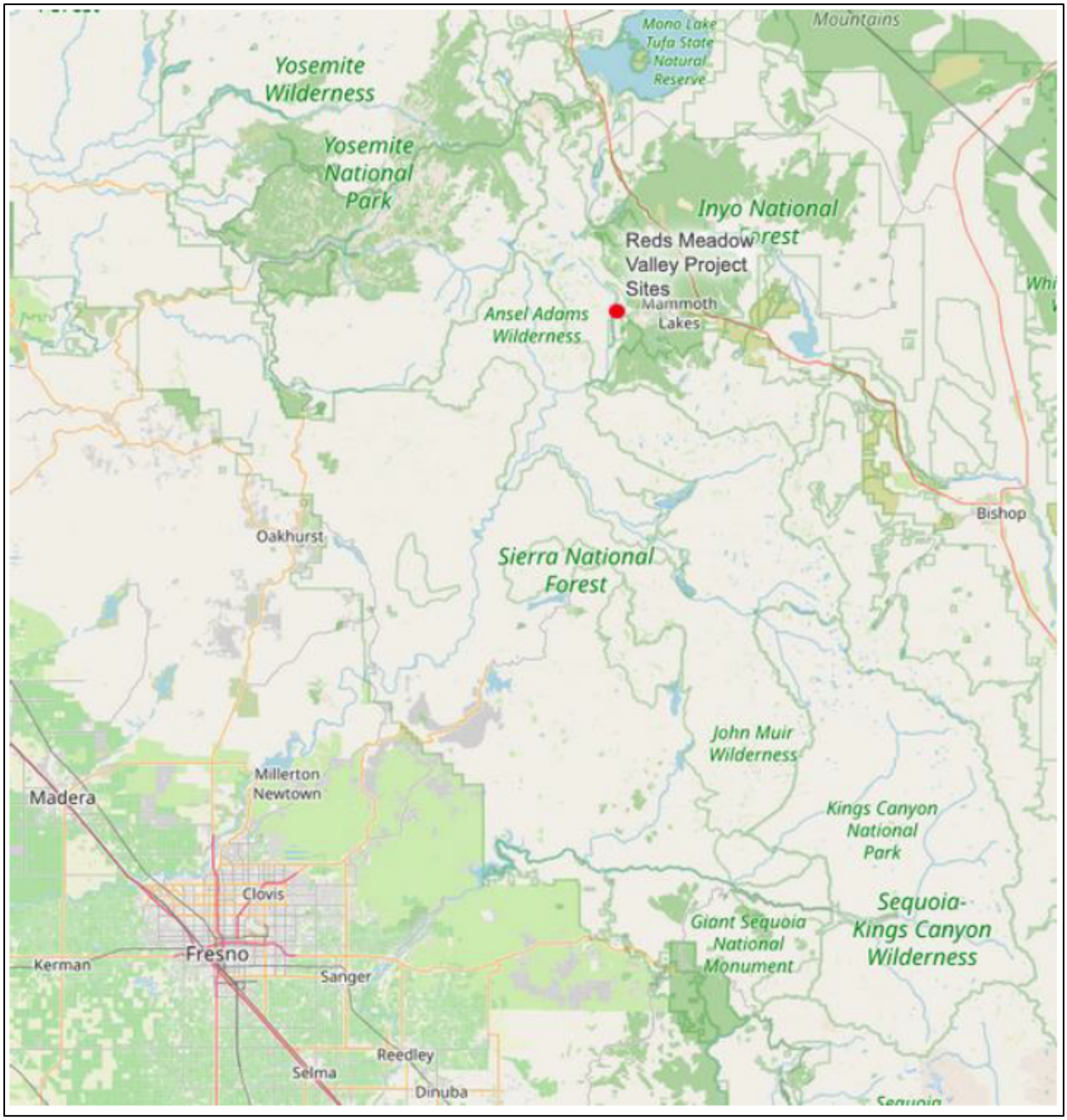


Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map