Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

25 April 2025

Stephanie M. Burkhart
Yosemite National Park
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, EL CAPITAN BRIDGE EMERGENCY REHABILITATION AND RIVERBANK RESTORATION PROJECT (WDID# 5B22CR00073), MARIPOSA COUNTY

On 16 April 2025, the Yosemite National Park (Applicant) filed a notification 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 (General Certification Order) for the El Capitan Bridge Emergency Rehabilitation and Riverbank Restoration (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material 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 Certification Order. The proposed activity will take place within 0.60 acre of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project permitted under the United States Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 8, Emergency Repair and Protection Activities, 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/2023/rgp-8-certification-mainbody.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 the General Certification Order. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the General Certification Order, dated 16 April 2025, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The 1.65-acre Project consists of stabilizing the historic El Capitan Bridge abutments and piers while restoring the eroded river-left bank both upstream and downstream of the bridge.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include filling a scour hole under the bridge, sealing the exposed wood bridge piers with concrete, and placing rock slope protection under the bridge and around the upstream and downstream abutments. Additionally, the Project will restore the eroded, river-left bank of the Merced River by utilizing bio-engineered stabilization techniques including riparian plantings and embedding root wads into the river bank below the ordinary high water mark.

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1. Permanent impacts are categorized as those resulting in a physical loss in area and also those degrading ecological condition.

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

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Lake			
Ocean/bay/estuary			
Riparian Zone	0.04		
Stream Channel	0.55		
Vernal Pool			
Wetland	0.01		

PROJECT LOCATION:
The Project is located at the El Capitan Bridge in Yosemite National Park.

Latitude: 37.7241 Degrees and Longitude: -119.6314 Degrees

PROJECT SCHEDULE:
The approximate timeframe of Project construction is July 2025 through October 2025.

APPLICATION FEE 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.

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 Applicant shall perform surface water sampling:

1. When performing any in-water work;
2. During the entire duration of temporary surface water diversions;
3. In the event that the Project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or
4. 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 the Executive Officer.

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 Applicant shall submit all reports in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment B of Order No. WQ 2023-0061-DWQ, and in accordance with conditions specified in this Notice of Applicability and email it to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov with a cc to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is **5B22CR00073**.

The project proponent shall notify the Water Board at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to initiating work in flowing or standing water or stream diversions. Notification may be via e-mail, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means.

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

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:

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