



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

17 May 2024

Evan King
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1234 E. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

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, MONACHE MEADOW RESTORATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (WDID# 5C54CR00147), TULARE COUNTY

On 2 May 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (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 WDRs), which was adopted on 16 August 2022.

The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Monache Meadow Restoration and Engagement 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.

A copy of [Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

The Project is described in the NOI requesting coverage under the General WDRs and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General WDRs is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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:

The 3.10-acre Project consists of constructing six restoration complexes composed of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post-assisted log structures (PALs). The restoration

structures are intended to induce ecological responses that will benefit fish, wildlife, and vegetation. All structures will be built by hand using hand tools (saws, loppers, sledgehammers) and utilize local natural materials (conifer, sagebrush, willow). Structures will scale to the size of the channel width and depth, but will generally be 1 - 3 ft tall, 5 - 25 ft wide (laterally, bank to bank), and an average of 3.2 ft in depth (longitudinally, upstream-downstream).

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include construction of BDAs and PALs structures within the South Fork Kern River. The Project will permanently impact 0.10 acre of stream channel. The project is anticipated to rehabilitate up 19.1 acres of wetland through the restored hydraulic connectivity of the floodplain.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located at Monache Meadow in the Sequioia National Forest. The approximate center of the Project area is at latitude 36.225242 degrees North and longitude -118.172681 degrees West.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The Project is scheduled for construction between July and October of 2024 and 2025 with an anticipated ten days of work between the two years.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$2,985.00 was received on 8 May 2024.

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 D - Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Projects (fee code 85).

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Permittee shall follow notification and reporting requirements described in this Notice of Applicability (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:

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 where upon 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 that 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 cc to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is 5C54CR00147.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

Upon completion of the Project, the Permittee shall submit a Request for Notice of Project Complete (NOC) Letter no later than 30 days after Project completion. The NOC request shall demonstrate the Project was carried out in accordance with the Project description, include a map of the Project location with final boundaries of the restoration area, and include post-project photographs. More information on the NOC request is listed in section B (Report Type 4) of the 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.

For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachment 1 – Project Maps

cc: Electronic copy only

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State Water Resources Control Board
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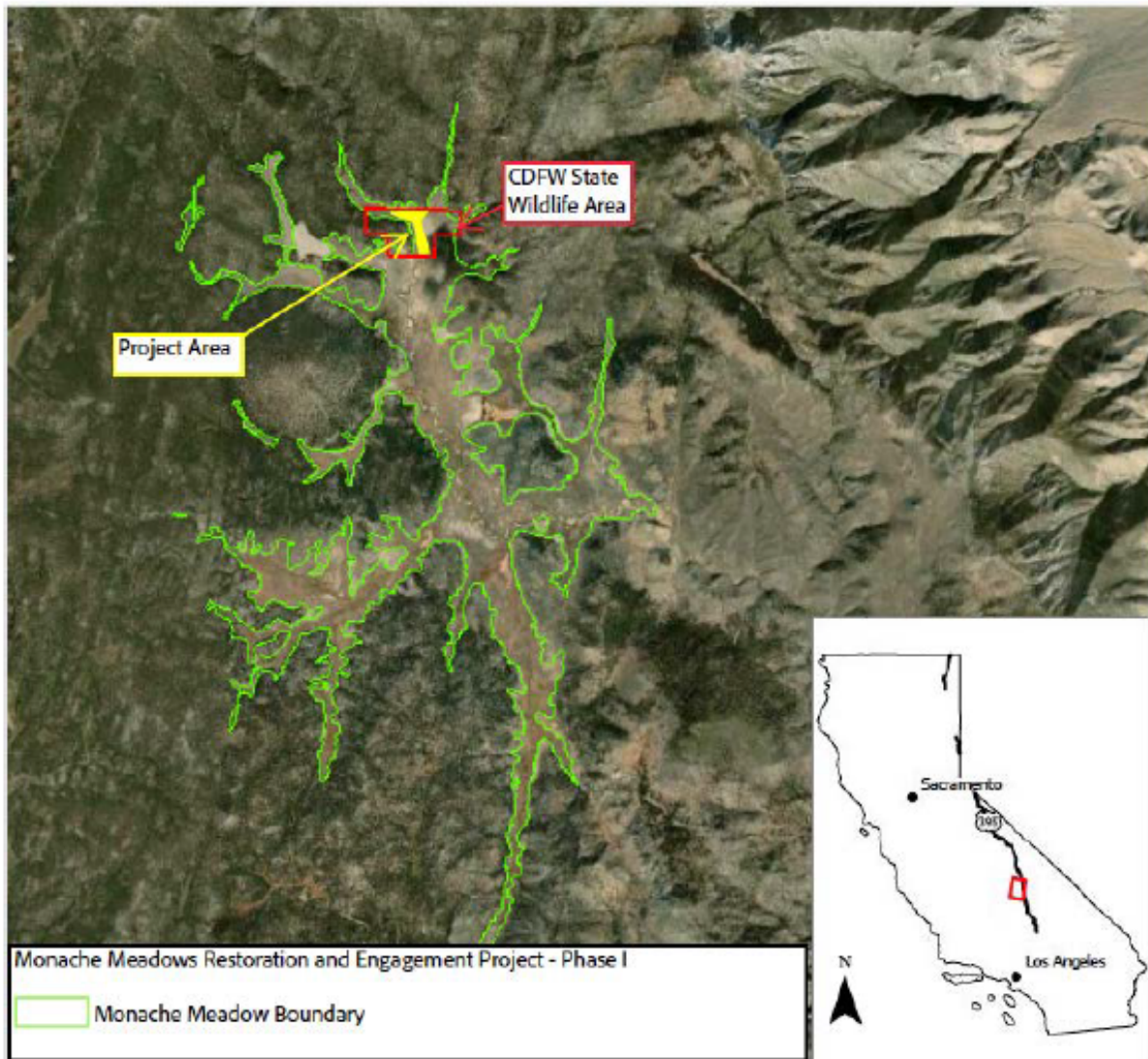


Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map

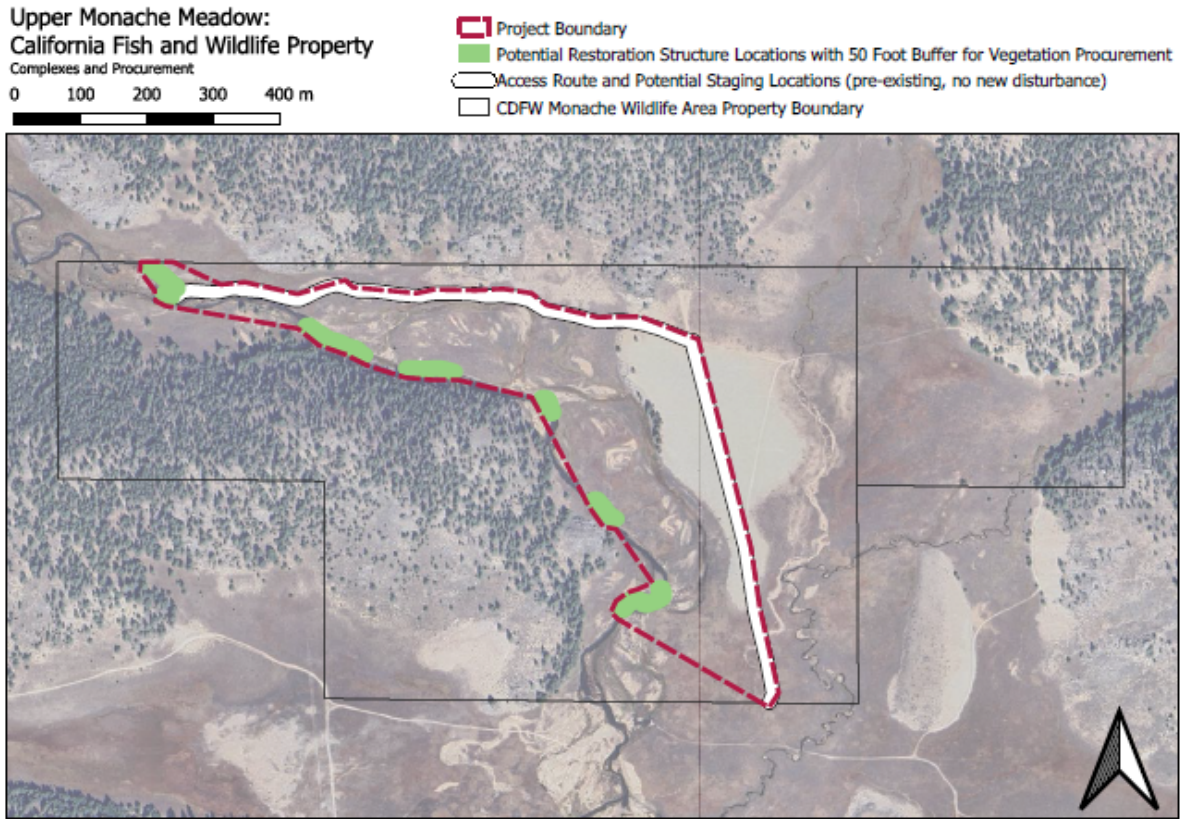


Figure 2: Project Impact Map