
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

5 November 2025

Robert LeMoine
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, KERN RIVER NO. 3 CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, (WDID# 5C54CR00164), TULARE COUNTY

On 25 September 2025, Southern California Edison (Permittee) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 12 October 2021 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permits (Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ) for the Kern River No. 3 Culvert Replacement (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Permittee, 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 0.017 acres of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 3a, Maintenance, 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/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.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 General Certification Order. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the General Certification Order, dated 25 September 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 Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 Project consists of replacing a previously existing 36-inch culvert crossing on the Tunnels 10-12 Access Road, which was washed out by a large storm between 2010 and 2013. The culvert conveys flows from a stream channel tributary to the Kern River.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include placing fill and excavating to re-establish the road prism and replace the 36-inch culvert with a 48-inch culvert to improve hydraulics of the crossing. Additionally, rock slope protection will be placed on either side of the culvert on the streambed to protect it from scour. The Project will temporarily impact 0.008 acre, 14 linear feet and permanently impact 0.009 acre, 27 linear feet of stream channel. Temporarily impacted areas shall be restored to pre-Project condition.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located approximately 10 miles north of Kernville. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 35.891875 Degrees North and longitude -118.456854 Degrees West.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The Project is expected to commence in Fall of 2025 depending on weather and access to the Project site. Duration of construction will last one week.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$4,212.00 was received on 30 September 2025. 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 E - Low Impact Discharges (fee code 87) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION:

1. **Annual Reporting:** The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year on the 1st day of the month, one year after the effective date of this Notice of Applicability. Annual reporting shall continue until the Central Valley Water Board issues a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee.

The Annual Report shall include the information specified in Attachment B, Part A of Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment B of Order No. WQ 2021-0048-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 5C54CR00164.

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:

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

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

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

Jason Lambert
Southern California Edison