

Notice of Intent (NOI) Application Reception

File Number: 302026-03

Project Name: Rancho Sonado Restoration Project

Received: 3/18/2026

Date Posted: 3/25/2026

End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 4/14/2026

Project Location: 33.733441° N, -117.652724° W

Project City and County: Silverado, Orange

Applicant Organization: Orange County Dept of Education

Applicant Name: Patricia Mccaughey

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: Infrastructure hardening for emergency vehicle access and fire-resilient reconstruction-following damage from the 2020 Bond Fire. The only anticipated discharge to waters of the state (WoS) is temporary dredge/fill associated with culvert replacement in an ephemeral frontage ditch.

Project Activities: The project involves renovation, repair, and reconstruction of facilities at the Inside the Outdoors Environmental Education Program site at Rancho Sonado, damaged/destroyed by the 2020 Bond Fire, to resume school and public operations with fire-resilient upgrades. Proposed activities include improvements to the driveway/access road, installation of a new on-site fire hydrant, native/drought tolerant landscaping, parking lot enhancements, signage, and renovation of outdoor teaching stations/buildings using non-combustible materials. WoS Impacts: Work within WoS is limited to temporary impacts to an underground 2-foot diameter culvert over 8 linear feet (approximately 16 square feet total area disturbed). This involves trenching to install piping approximately 6 feet underground, followed by culvert replacement, backfill, compaction, and full restoration to pre-construction conditions. No permanent fill or loss of WoS function is anticipated. Duration of proposed activities is less than three weeks. Please see the attached figures (site maps showing WoS location, impact area, and culvert details) and recent site photographs.