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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

25 May 2022

Joan Clayburgh  
The Sierra Fund  
204 Providence Mine Road, Suite 214  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER SB12006GN,  
AMENDED ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER  
QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR SMALL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS,  
SIERRA MEADOWS PROCESS BASED RESTORATION PROJECT (WDID#  
5B10CR00114), FRESNO AND MADERA COUNTY**

On 15 April 2022, The Sierra Fund submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. SB12006GN, Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Sierra Meadows Process Based Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. SB12006GN. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order.

A copy of [Order SB12006GN](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/srhcpcert032713.pdf) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/srhcpcert032713.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/srhcpcert032713.pdf)) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage and is enclosed.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. SB12006GN. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Failure to comply with Order No. SB12006GN constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The 2.55-acre Project of three riparian meadows with incised stream channels and actively evolving head cuts that rapidly drain the meadow floodplains, resulting in reduced residence time of water, reduced riparian wet-meadow habitat for amphibians or native fish, reduced stream complexity, increased erosion, and rapid drying following spring snowmelt have been selected for restoration.

All in-stream restoration activities will follow process-based design criteria and do not require engineered designs due to the planned use of on-site, natural materials and stream energy while minimizing overall disturbance. Instream project designs will include low-tech biogenic structures such as post-assisted log structures (PALS) and beaver dam analogs (BDAs), which are ephemeral structures that are used to treat channel head cut features by allowing sediment to aggrade in the channel and halt stream incision. It is anticipated that by adding structural complexity to incised channels upstream sediments will be deposited and aggrade the channels, especially within the wildfire footprints, leading to more floodplain connectivity and subsequent inundation. Restoration also includes removing meadow-encroaching conifer trees which are not adapted to desired wet-meadow conditions.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include the installations of PALS and BDAs using wooden stakes or reclaimed trees into the meadow stream channels as part of the support system for the devices. The Project will permanently impact 1.05 acre/396 linear feet of stream channel.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The Project consists of three separate meadows: McCreary, Lower Grouse, and Ahart Meadows in the Sierra National Forest within Fresno County and Madera County.

McCreary Meadow

County: Madera

Latitude: 37.491 degrees and Longitude: -119.272 degrees

Lower Grouse Meadow

County: Fresno

Latitude: 37.1728 degrees and Longitude: -119.2027 degrees

Ahart Meadow

County: Fresno

Latitude: 37.011 degrees and Longitude: -119.046 degrees

**PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

Each meadow is expected to require 20 days of work, therefore a total 60 days of work for the entire project. Work is expected to occur in September through November each year. The project will commence September of 2022 and cease work in November of 2025.

**APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:**

\$645.00 was received on 21 April 2022. 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) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

**MITIGATION AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES:**

The permittee shall implement the mitigation and minimization measures proposed in the supplemental information document, "PBR Design for Plumas and Sierra NF Meadows".

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION:**

Upon completion of the Project, you shall submit a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after Project completion. The NOC 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 is listed in section B.6 of the Order.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Brandon Salazar by phone at (559) 445-6278 or by email at [Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:*  
Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File # SB12006GN

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