



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

29 September 2022

Hazem Gabr
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, BIG CREEK EMERGENCY DEBRIS FLOW RESPONSE DAMS 5 AND 6 PROJECT (WDID# 5B10CR00119), FRESNO COUNTY

On 11 August 2022, Southern California Edison (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 9 October 2018 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 Big Creek Emergency Debris Flow Response Dams 5 and 6 (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 less than 2.05 acres / 1,324 linear feet of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under 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/generalorders/rgp8_cert.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/rgp8_cert.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

The Project is being conducted 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 11 August 2022, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The 4.15-acre Project consists of sediment removal from the impoundments of Dam 5 and Dam 6, reconstruction of an access road and failed culvert, repairs to the Debris Net Barrier System, and removal of trapped debris in the channel behind the debris net adjacent to the Dam 5 damaged roadway. A large volume of debris and sediment migrated into the impoundment at Dam 5 and is blocking the intake structure. Additionally, the debris flow resulted in road infrastructure damage thereby washing out the existing culvert on the access road which will be replaced in kind as part of the project. The debris fencing, which was installed to collect debris was also filled during this event and needs to be maintained in order to provide proper protection. At Dam 6, elevated flows through Big Creek overwhelmed the diversion tunnel leading to BC8 and washed over the road, and along the side of the Powerhouse, depositing a debris flow with sediment, woody material, rock, some boulders, and mud, preventing proper use of the facility. SCE intends to conduct an emergency dewatering of the impoundments as necessary to assess the facilities and determine the estimated material and means/methods for removal.

The Project will temporarily impact 2.05 acres / 1,324 linear feet of waters of the United States.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

1. The Applicant shall obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended for discharges to surface waters comprised of storm water associated with construction activity, including, but not limited to, demolition, clearing, grading, excavations, and other land disturbance activities of one or more acres, or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres.
2. The applicant shall dispose of any dredge or excavated materials in an upland area where the risk of discharge to waters of the state is minimal after implementation of stormwater / erosion measures, or an approved US Forest Service designated storage area.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located at Dam 5 and Dam 6 of the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project near Big Creek, CA.

Dam 5 - Latitude: 37.199459 Degrees North and Longitude: -119.307531 Degrees West

Dam 6 - Latitude: 37.209789 Degrees North and Longitude: -119.328881 Degrees West

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The Project started construction on 12 August 2022 and will continue until through November 2022. Dam 5 dredging and draining was performed from 12 August 2022 through 31 August 2022. The culvert replacement and debris flow barrier work will commence in late September 2022 or early October 2022.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$ 2,417.00 was received on 16 August 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 H - Emergency Projects authorized by a Water Board General Order (fee code 85) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Brandon Salazar at (559) 445-6287 or Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Scott J. Hatton for:

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Electronic Copy Only)
Region 9
R9cwa401@epa.gov

United States Army Corps of Engineers (Electronic Copy Only)
Sacramento District Headquarters
SPKRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil

Patricia Cole (Electronic Copy Only)
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
patricia_cole@fws.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife (Electronic Copy Only)
Region 4
R4LSA@wildlife.ca.gov

CWA Section 401 WQC Program (Electronic Copy Only)
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Jason Lambert
Southern California Edison
jason.lambert@sce.com