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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

24 May 2022

Jennifer Christie  
Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District  
57003 Road 225  
North Fork, CA 93643

**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,  
BENEDICT MEADOWS AND MESERVE MEADOWS RESTORATION PROJECTS  
(WDID: 5B20CR00119), MADERA COUNTY**

On 13 April 2022, Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District (Sierra National Forest BLRD) 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 Benedict Meadow and Meserve Meadow Restoration Projects (Projects) meet the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. SB12006GN. You may proceed with your Projects in accordance with the Order.

A copy of [Order SB12006GN](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/srhc032713.pdf) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/srhc032713.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/srhc032713.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:**

Work at Benedict Meadows includes placement of three biogenic Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) which include approximately 1.8 cubic yards of rock and soil fill, and 10.4 cubic yards of woody material into 18 feet of channelized flow. All work would be completed by a hand crew. Filling the over-sized channel is expected to induce more

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

frequent flow onto the floodplain, thereby preserving and enhancing the adjacent wet meadow habitat. The Project would preserve and enhance wetlands. The Benedict Meadows Project will permanently impact 0.003 acres and 18 linear feet of Streambed/Stream bank habitat.

Work at Meserve Meadow includes placement of 10 to 35 woody, biogenic structures, totaling approximately six (6) cubic yards of rock and soil fill, and 32 cubic yards of woody material into 210 feet of channelized flow. Channelization was likely caused by intentional excavation of flow paths to manage water for livestock grazing productivity. Filling the two over-sized channels is expected to induce more frequent flow onto the floodplain, thereby preserving and enhancing existing wet meadow habitats. Woody material would also serve to discourage straight-line cattle trailing. The Project would preserve and enhance wetlands. All work would be completed by hand crews. The Meserve Meadow Project will permanently impact 0.02 acres and 210 linear feet of Streambed/Stream bank habitat.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Benedict Meadow is in North Fork, Madera County California. The approximate center of the Project area is at latitude 37.24786 degrees North and longitude -119.43337 degrees West.

Meserve Meadow is in North Fork, Madera County California. The approximate center of the Project area is at latitude 37.36642 degrees North and longitude -119.57977 degrees West.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

Work at both Benedict Meadow and Meserve Meadow is expected to occur sometime between July 2023 and October 2023. The work would occur during the dry summer season work period with a 10-day total estimated number of workdays.

**APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:**

Fees are not required for Federal Agencies.

**MITIGATION AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES:**

You must implement the mitigation and minimization measures proposed in your Mitigation Plan as specified in Section VIII of the Notice of Intent.

**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 Ernesto P. Garcia by phone at (559) 445-6281 or by email at [Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original Signed by Scott J. Hatton 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

cc: [Via email only]

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