
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

19 September 2025

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR BNSF, BNSF 1086.900 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID#5B50CR00127), STANISLAUS COUNTY

On 18 August 2025, BNSF (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 25 February 2022 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification and Order of the United States Army Corps of Engineers 2021 Nationwide Permits (General Certification Order) for the BNSF 1086.900 Bridge Replacement Project (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 0.05031 acre/32 linear feet of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #3 (Maintenance 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/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 Order webpage and is enclosed.

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 18 August 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 Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 BNSF 1086.900 Bridge Replacement Project (Project) consists of the replacement of a rail bridge over Ceres Main Canal in Stanislaus County, California.

A failing Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) timber box railroad bridge will be replaced by a steel liner bridge. Fifteen pilings will be removed from the channel, with six being constructed as part of the new structure. A temporary earthen causeway consisting of compacted dirt fill and base will be constructed to the west of the existing structure to allow for construction equipment to perform the necessary work. Four 36-inch corrugated metal culverts will be installed within the causeway to allow for passage of any stormwater flows that may occur.

The Ceres Main Canal transports water released by the Turlock Irrigation District. Work would be conducted during the time period when the canal is anticipated to be dry. The only water that could be present in the canal at the time of work would be a that which results from rain. Once work is completed, all temporary fills would be removed. The operation will involve a pile driver, crane, loaders, excavators, and backhoes. The Project will permanently impact 0.00031 acre/7 linear feet and temporarily impact 0.05 acre/25 linear feet of waters of the United States.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Ceres Main Canal at Santa Fe Avenue
Latitude: 37.60874° and Longitude: -120.88448°

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

15 October 2025 through 30 November 2025.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$4,212.00 was received on 2 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.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Olivia Ilsley by phone at (916) 464-4673 or by email at Olivia.Ilsley@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters for:

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: State Water Board Certification of the 2021 Nationwide Permits General
Water Quality Certification and Order

cc: Distribution List, see page 3

Attachment: Figures 1: Project Vicinity
Figure 2: Approximate Location of Impacts

**Distribution List
(via email only)**

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Office
Regulatory Division
SPKRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil

Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2
R2LSA@wildlife.ca.gov

United States Environmental Protection Agency
R9CWA401@epa.gov

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
State Water Resources Control Board
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Sam Moose
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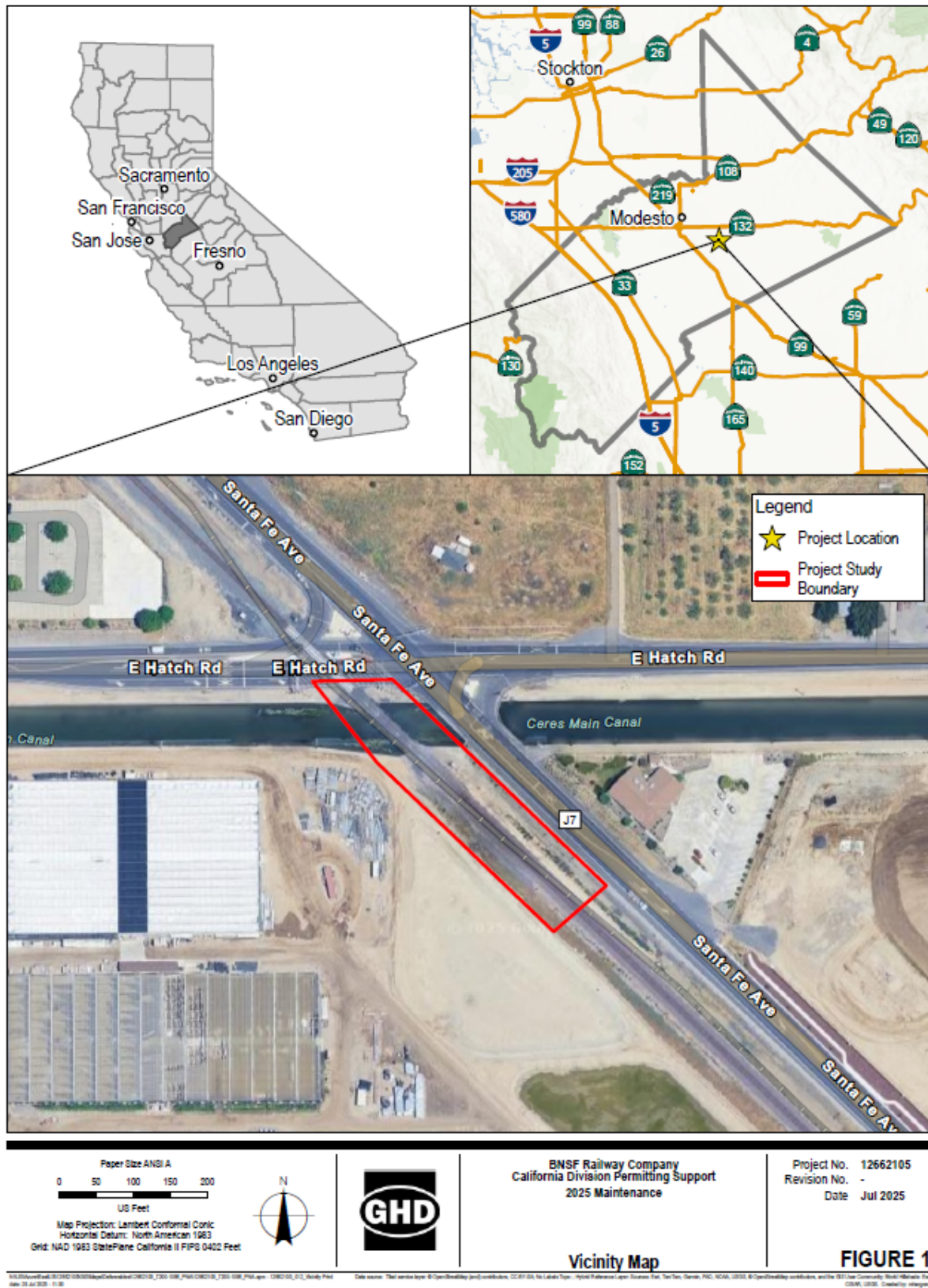


Figure 1: Project Vicinity

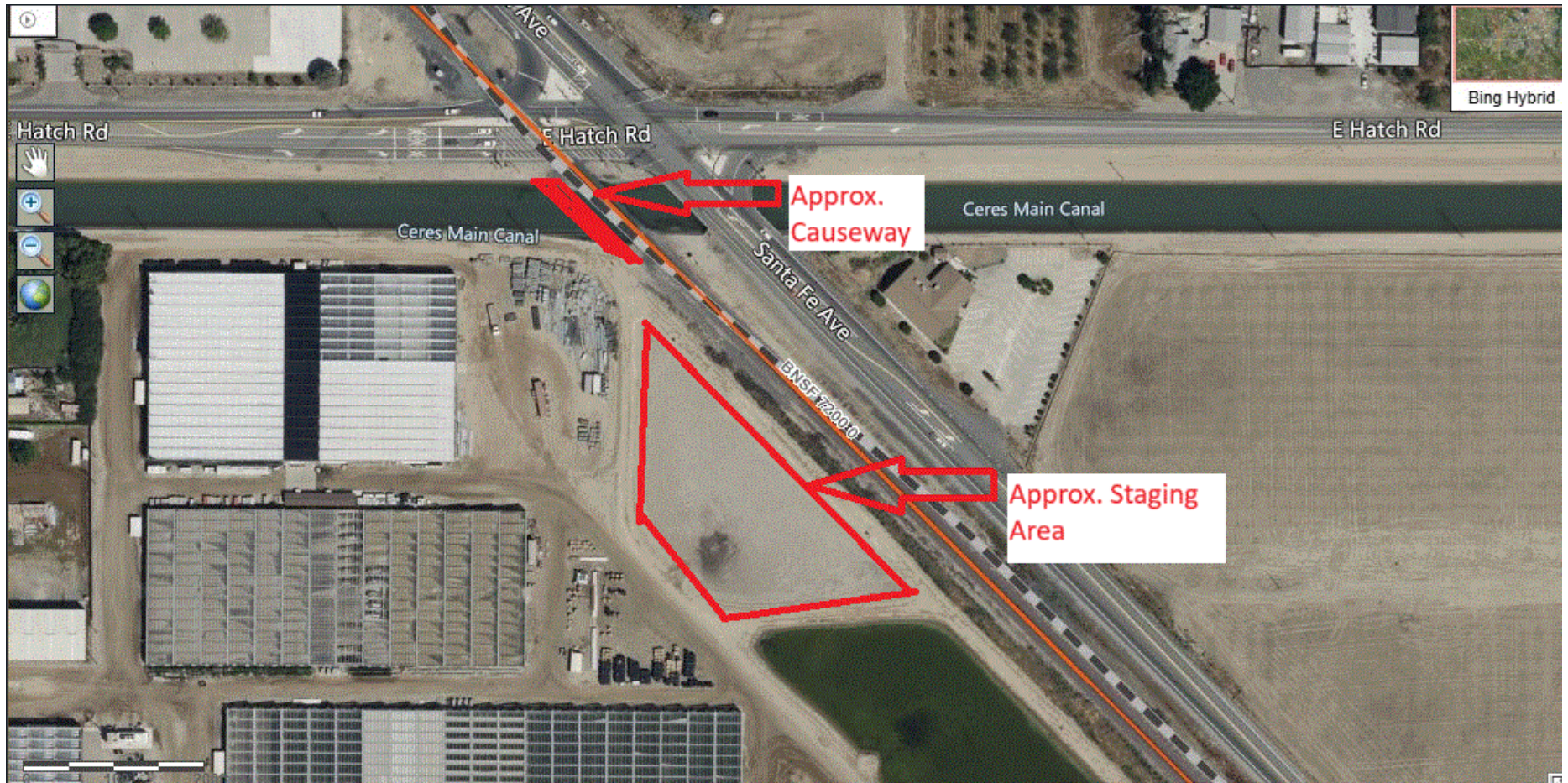


Figure 2: Approximate Location of Impacts