
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

27 March 2020

Josh Hooper
Federal Highway Administration
12300 W. Dakota Ave.
Lakewood, CO 80228

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, UPPER AND LOWER KINGS RIVER BRIDGES PROJECT (WDID# 5C10CR00072), FRESNO COUNTY

On 16 February 2020, the Federal Highway Administration (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 17 March 2017 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification and Order of the United States Army Corps of Engineers 2017 Nationwide Permits (General Certification Order) for the Upper and Lower Kings River Bridges (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 0.005 acre/23 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 #6 (Survey 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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/nw_p_go.pdf) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/nw_p_go.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Order webpage.

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 16 February 2020, 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 Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 0.01-acre Project consists of preliminary geotechnical and scour investigations for the future replacement of two bridges. On the Lower Kings River Bridge, four geotechnical borings are needed in the riverbed to determine the material on which the new bridge pier footings will be founded. The bores will be set through the bridge deck to avoid equipment in flowing water. At the Upper Kings River Bridge, one scour test pit will be dug. This investigation is needed to classify the bed materials size and shape to determine the potential for scour to occur at the bridge foundations. The test pit will be located on an elevated gravel point bar in the river to avoid using equipment in flowing water. Additional borings are needed around the bridge abutments in upland area and therefore will not impact waters of the United States.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.005 acre/23 linear feet of waters of the United States.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

1. No equipment shall be placed in waters of the United States except for the boring equipment with a diverter casing as specified in the notice of intent.
2. During geotechnical boring, the diverter casing will be visually inspected for turbidity to ensure that the diverted casing is functioning properly. If no plume is observed, then the contractor shall continue drilling operation until the investigation is complete. If a visual turbidity plume is observed, the contractor will temporarily stop drilling. If the plume subsides, then the contractor may continue drilling. If, upon resuming drilling, a plume is observed a second time, then the contractor will employ additional isolation best management practices. Drilling operations may not continue to completion until the contractor can demonstrate the drilling activities do not result in increased downstream turbidity.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Section 18, Township 13 South, Range 31 East, MDB&M

Lower Bridge - Latitude: 36°47'52.329" North and Longitude: 118°41'12.169" West

Upper Bridge - Latitude: 36°47'12.784" North and Longitude: 118°36'59.804" West

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

12 April 2020 through 16 April 2020

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED

Federal agency applicants are exempt from application and project fees.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Brandon Salazar at (559) 445-6278 or brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:

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