



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

30 October 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL

9589 0710 5270 1470 8204 61

Reylando Garcia
US Bureau of Reclamation
1140 West Wood Street
Willows, CA 95988

CERTIFIED MAIL

9589 0710 5270 1470 8204 78

Connley Clayon
Clayton Ranches, LLC
1102 N. Chinworth Street
Visalia, CA 93291

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ-0269; STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY; UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, ARROYO CANAL-SACK DAM PROJECT – DEWATERING DISCHARGE; MADERA COUNTY

On 3 October 2025, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) from NW Construction, Inc. on behalf of the United States Bureau of Reclamation to obtain coverage under *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality*, WQ Order 2003-0003-DWQ (hereafter General Order). The NOI is for the discharge of dewatered groundwater to land from construction activities associated with the Arroyo Canal Fish Screen and Sack Dam Bypass Project (Project) near Dos Palos. The discharge will be used for dust control or sprayed on approximately 87 acres of open agricultural land owned by Clayton Ranches, LLC in Madera County. The submittal includes a signed NOI form, project maps, Dewatering and Unwatering Plan, Groundwater Control Plan, Discharge Monitoring Plan, and a signed lease agreement. The application fee was received on 8 October 2025, and additional information to support the NOI was submitted on 10 October 2025.

The submittal contains the information required to evaluate the applicability of the discharge under the General Order. Based on the information provided in the NOI and associated documents, the proposed discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under **General Order 2003-0003-DWQ-0269**. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge. A copy of the

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

[Low Threat General Order](#) is enclosed and available on the Central Valley Water Board's website at:

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo2003-0003.pdf).

PROJECT LOCATION

Sack Dam is situated on the San Joaquin River approximately seven miles east of Dos Palos between Fresno and Madera Counties as shown in **Attachment A**. Dewatered groundwater from the Project will be discharged on approximately 87 acres of open agricultural land east of the San Joaquin River in Madera County, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 022-090-008 (36° 59' 1.22" N, 120° 30' 0.47" W). This portion of Madera County is within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin.

The operative Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve water quality objectives for all waters of the basin.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will include construction of monitoring wells and dewatering wells to facilitate construction of a river bypass and fish ramp along the San Joaquin River and adjacent canal. On 28 August 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights issued a Notice of Applicability for construction of the bypass and ramp under the *General Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide, Order WQ-2022-0048*. Additionally, it is Staff's understanding that the Discharger is in the process of obtaining additional permits from the United States Army Corp of Engineers for streambed alterations related to this Project, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

According to the submittal, the Project will be divided into three phases and is expected to extend through 2027. During each phase, the Discharger will install a series of observation and dewatering wells around the perimeter of the planned excavation area to draw down groundwater levels below the planned excavation. The dewatered groundwater, including water collected within the excavations, will be pumped to a series of three 21,000-gallon frac tanks to settle solids and reduce turbidity. Following the frac tanks, dewatered groundwater will flow into two percolation/storage ponds or be placed in water trucks for use as dust control during construction activities. The percolation/storage ponds will have a combined storage capacity of about 560,000 gallons. According to Carl Adamek, with NW Construction, Inc., the ponds will be operated in series and excess water will be allowed to overflow out the northeast corner of the last pond and spread out over the field as shown in **Attachment B**. The area will be monitored and protected with silt fences to prevent runoff onto adjacent properties and nearby surface waters. A third

pond may be added to the system if necessary. Additionally, the discharge may be directed to two sprinkler areas adjacent to the settling ponds on land owned by Connley Clayton. The sprinkler lines will be adjusted (i.e., moved), as needed, to cover the field and prevent excessive ponding.

The submittal includes a copy of the lease agreement between Connley Clayton for Clayton Ranches, LLC and NW Construction, Inc. for the use of the adjacent agricultural land (APN 022-090-008) for equipment/vehicle storage, stockpiled soil, and discharge of dewatered groundwater.

According to the submittal, a Dewatering Specialist will be assigned to manage and maintain the dewatering system. The dewatering system will operate continuously during construction activities until the structural engineer determines the structure is stable and can handle groundwater uplift forces. The estimated volume of dewatered groundwater anticipated during the Project phases is detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Estimated Dewatering Plan

Project Phase (see 1 below)	Days	Estimated Volume (gallons)
Phase 1 (Startup)	7	2,257,920
Phase 1 (Dewatering)	180	23,328,000
Phase 2 (Startup)	7	2,126,880
Phase 2 (Dewatering)	180	22,032,000
Phase 3 (Startup)	7	1,068,480
Phase 3 (Dewatering)	180	11,404,800
Total	561	62,218,080

1. Startup includes the initial drawdown to bring groundwater levels below the limits of the excavation. Dewatering will continue throughout the remainder of excavation and construction activities, as needed, to maintain groundwater levels and remove water that infiltrates into the excavation.

Upon completion of dewatering activities, all observation and dewatering wells will be abandoned in accordance with California well standards. The preferred method of abandonment will be to remove all well screens and casings and backfill the hole with neat cement. If a casing cannot be completely removed, the well will be grouted and the casing cut approximately three feet below grade, and the hole will be backfilled with neat cement.

According to the Discharge Monitoring Plan, water levels, groundwater elevation, and pump flows from the dewatering system will be monitored daily. In addition, the

Discharger will monitor the discharge of dewatered groundwater for turbidity and pH at the point where it leaves the frac tanks prior to entering the settling ponds or sent to the water trucks or adjacent sprinkler system. The Discharger shall also monitor the land application areas during the discharge for evidence of ponding, runoff, or erosion.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The General Order and this NOA cover the discharge of dewatered groundwater generated during construction of the Project to open agricultural land owned by Clayton Ranches, LLC east of Dos Palos in Madera County. The Discharger shall comply with the requirements specified in the General Order and the facility-specific requirements listed below.

1. Discharge to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Discharge of dewatering water at a location or in a manner different from that described in the NOI and this NOA is prohibited.
3. The discharge shall be evenly spread across the application areas, as needed, to minimize ponding and all water must infiltrate/evaporate within 72 hours.
4. In accordance with the General Order's monitoring requirements, all monitoring results, including the cumulative and daily discharge from the frac tanks, shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis (i.e., July through December monitoring data shall be submitted by 15 February of each year, and January through June monitoring data shall be submitted by 15 August of each year). If no discharge occurs during the reporting period the monitoring report shall so state.
5. At a minimum, the discharge from the frac tanks shall be monitored for pH and electrical conductivity (EC) on a weekly basis when the discharge is occurring.
6. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing statement issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until this NOA is officially terminated.

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the details of the proposed discharge. Failure to comply with the requirements of this NOA, Low Threat Order 2003-0003-DWQ, or applicable monitoring requirements may result in enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code, which could include civil liability.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: Arroyo Canal-Sack Dam Project – Dewatering Discharge
Program: NON-15
Order: 2003-0003-DWQ-0269
CIWQS Place ID: 903195

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Fresno Office
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

All documents, including responses to inspections and written notifications, submitted to comply with this NOA shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the Compliance and Enforcement Unit, attention to Omar Mostafa. Mr. Mostafa can be reached at (559) 488-4397 or Omar.Mostafa@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of the Wavier, and notification for termination of coverage under the General Order, shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the WDR Permitting Unit, attention Katie Carpenter. Ms. Carpenter can be reached at (559) 445-5551 or by email at Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Resources Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. [Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions](#) may be found on the internet or will be provided upon request.
(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality).

Digitally signed by Alex S. Mushegan
For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

(see attachments, enclosures, and cc list on next page)

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Location Map
- Attachment B – Site Map

Enclosures:

- General Order 2003-0003-DWQ

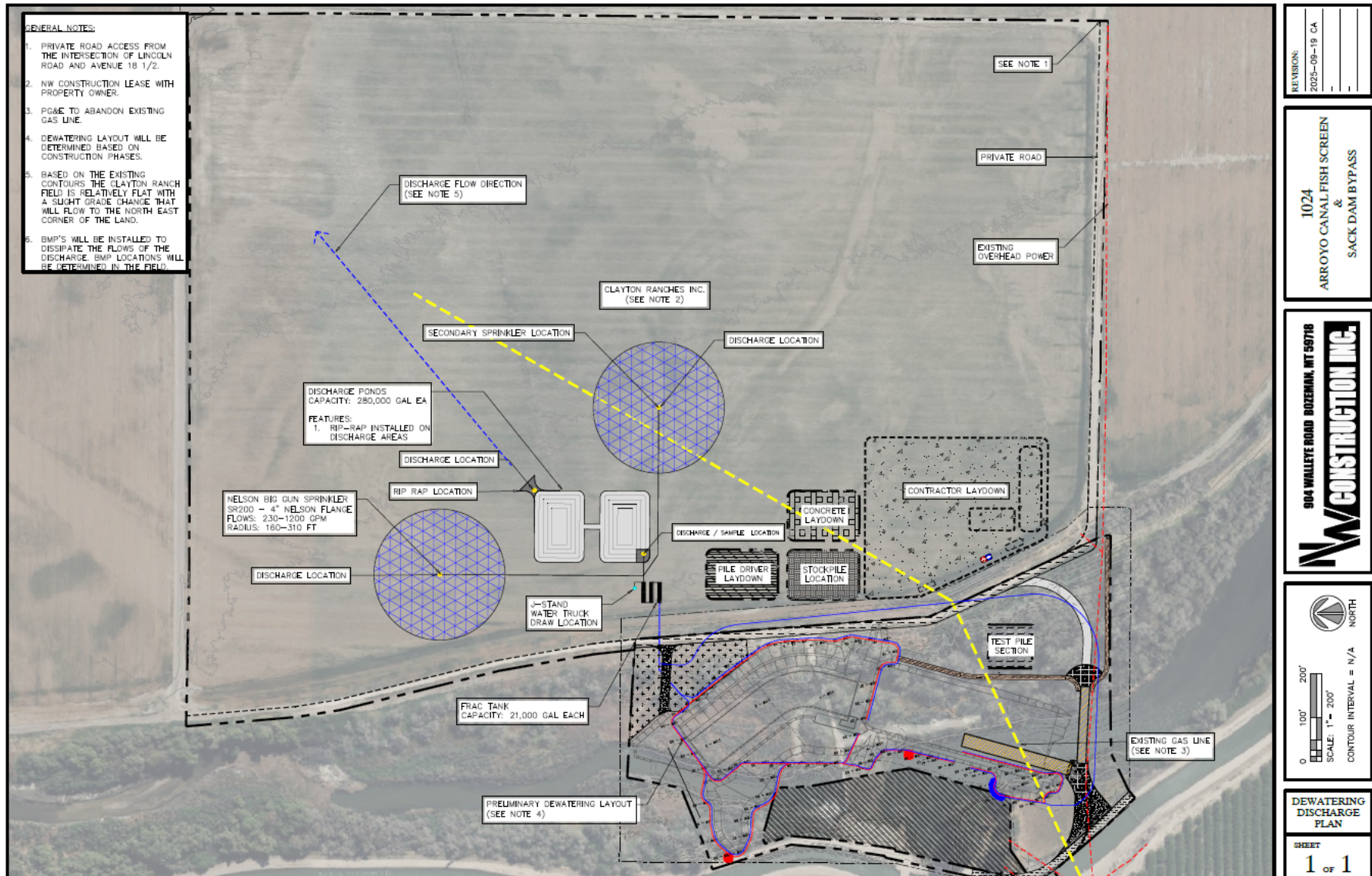
cc w/o encs.:

- Kathy Norton, US Army Corps of Engineers (via email)
- Chris Moskal, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC (via email)
- Rajaa Hassan, State Water Resources Control Board, DWR (via email)
- Stephanie Torres, State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ (via email)
- Matt Scroggins, Central Valley Water Board (via email)
- Omar Mostafa, Central Valley Water Board, (via email)
- Carl Adamek, NW Construction, Inc., (via email)
- David Dempsey, NW Construction, Inc., (via email)

ATTACHMENT A – Location Map



ATTACHMENT B – Site Plan



NW Construction, Inc.; Dewatering/Unwatering Discharge Plan; 19 September 2025