

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 June 2026

Andrew Mishler
El Dorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667
Andrew.Mishler@usda.gov

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER WQ 2022-0048-DWQ,
ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS
STATEWIDE, FORNI MEADOW COMPLEX RESTORATION PROJECT
(WDID#5A09CR00258), EL DORADO COUNTY**

On 30 April 2026, the El Dorado National Forest submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide (Order).

The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Forni Meadow Complex Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order. 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 [Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Coverage under the Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified. Failure to comply with Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project consists of constructing beaver dam analogs (BDAs), large woody debris jams (LWDJs), and post assisted log structures (PALS) within incised stream channels in the Forni Meadow Complex. Installing these structures is expected to stop channel incision and reconnect the stream channels to the meadow floodplains.

The Forni Meadow Complex is made up of 3 meadows in the South Fork American River watershed: Forni Meadow, West Forni Meadow, and Forni Lake Meadow. Approximately 300 structures will be constructed and installed within the main channels and tributaries of the 3 meadows. BDAs, PALS, and LWDJs will be installed to mimic beaver dams and naturally occurring woody structures that accumulate within stream channels. They will be composed of woody materials and sediment harvested on site and will be constructed using hand tools. When necessary, a hand-held post driver will be utilized to install 3-inch diameter posts to reinforce the structures to the channel bed.

All project activities will be performed during the late summer and fall while flow rates are at their lowest levels. All woody material will be sourced from onsite and will include overstocked stands of conifers, fire-killed conifers, and encroaching live conifers within meadows. All vehicles used for transporting personnel and materials will remain on existing roads and within designated road corridors for staging.

Installation of the structures will permanently impact 0.08 acre of stream channels and 0.05 acre of wetlands. Permanent impacts are expected to result in the enhancement of the aquatic resources present on the project site and will not result in a loss of waters of the state. Reducing channel incision and increasing inundation is anticipated to enhance approximately 50 acres of wetlands and 5 acres of stream channel.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located along Forest Road 11N28Y, approximately 4.2 miles west of the Forni Meadows Trailhead on Wrights Lake Road within the El Dorado National Forest in El Dorado County.

Latitude: 38.818135°, Longitude: -120.1758821°

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The Project will be implemented over several years (2026-2029), with work occurring from August through October each season.

APPLICATION FEE:

Federal dischargers involved in Dredge and Fill Operations only are not subject to permit fees as required by Section 3833(b)(3)(A) and Section 2200(a)(3) of the California Code of Regulations.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT:

The Central Valley Water Board, as lead agency, determined that the project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the project was determined to be categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of

Regulations, title 14, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects.

The Central Valley Water Board will file an NOE with the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days from the issuance of this Order. (California Code of Regulations., title 14, section 15062.

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Permittee shall follow notification and reporting requirements described in this Notice of Applicability (NOA), and those found in Attachment D of the Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, unless specified as an optional requirement and excluded from this NOA.

1. Annual Reporting

The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year within one month of the anniversary of the effective date of this Notice of Applicability. Annual reporting shall continue until the active discharge period is complete and the project enters the post-construction monitoring phase where upon the Permittee shall annually submit a Post-Construction Monitoring Report (Report Type 2) The Post-Construction Monitoring Report shall be submitted on the anniversary of the date that the project restoration activities were completed.

The Annual Report and Post Construction Monitoring Report shall include the information specified in Attachment D, Part A of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment D of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ and email it to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov and cc Nicholas Savino at Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov.

2. Notification for In-Water Work and Diversions

The project proponent shall notify the Water Board at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to initiating work in flowing or standing water or stream diversions. Notification may be via e-mail, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means.

3. Environmental Monitoring

Per General Protection Measure 5 (GPM-5) of the Order, a resource specialist shall ensure that all applicable protective measures are implemented during project construction. The resource specialist shall have authority to stop any work if they determine that any permit requirement is not fully implemented. The resource specialist shall prepare and maintain a monitoring log of construction site conditions and observations, which will be kept on file.

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 Nicholas Savino by phone at (916) 464-4920 or by email at Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters
For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location
Figure 2: Project Design

cc: [Via email only]

United States Environmental Protection Agency
R9CWA401@epa.gov

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
State Water Resources Control Board
StateBoard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Allison Hacker
American Rivers
AHacker@americanrivers.org

Michelle Havens
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michelle_Havens@fws.gov

Zachary Kearns
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Zachary.Kearns@wildlife.ca.gov

Eric Nicita
El Dorado National Forest,
Placerville Ranger District
Eric.Nicita@usda.gov

Figure 1: Project Location

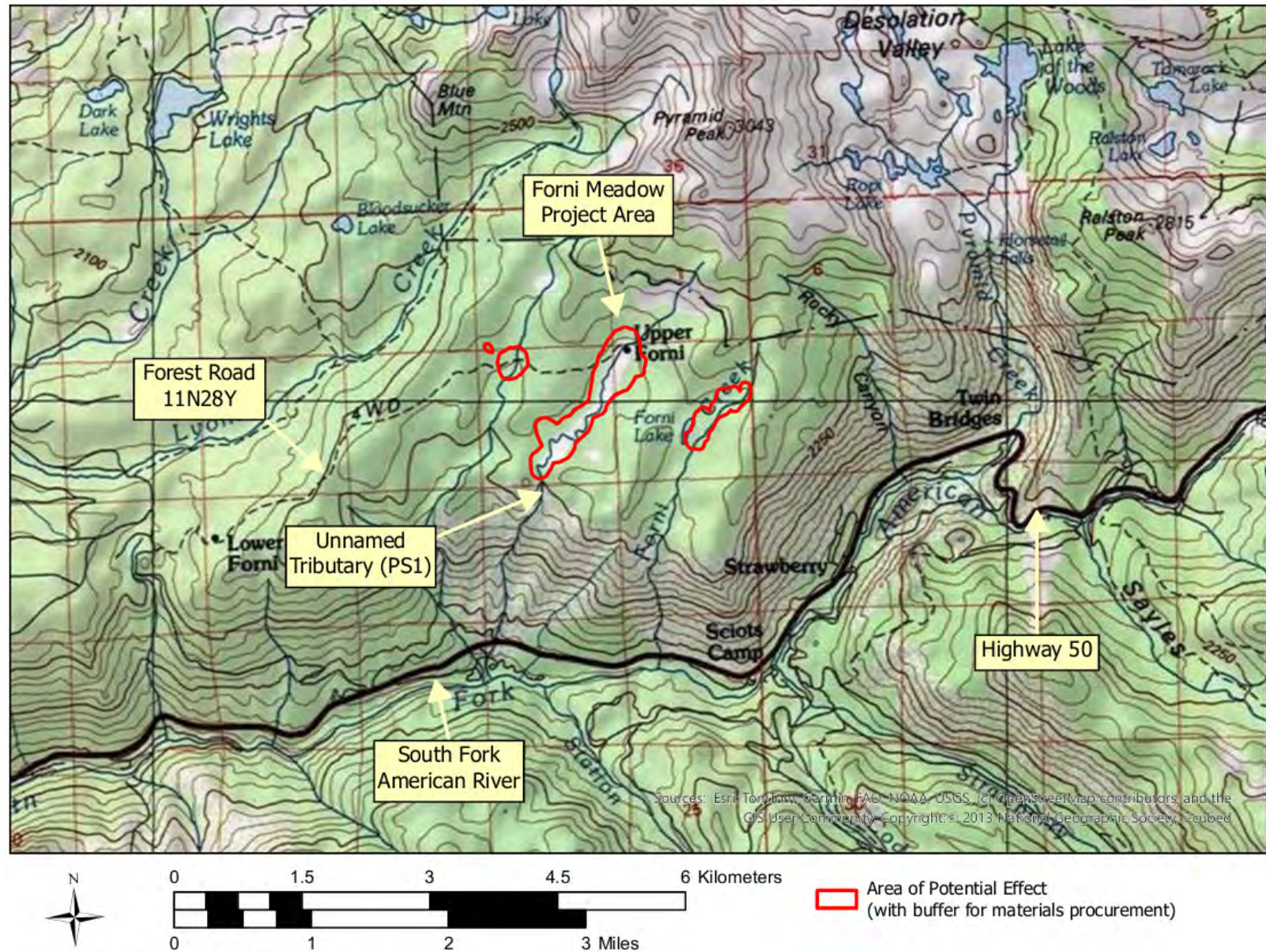


Figure 2: Project Design

