



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 January 2026

Russ Wittmeier
California State University, Chico
25 Main Street, Suite 103
Chico, CA 95928

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY: STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER FOR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS STATEWIDE (ORDER NO. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ), CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO, LOWER BATTLE CREEK SIDE CHANNEL & BACKWATER RESTORATION PROJECT (WDID NO. 5A45CR00684), SHASTA AND TEHAMA COUNTIES

On 4 December 2025, California State University, Chico (Applicant) filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting coverage under State Water Resources Control Board's Order for Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide, Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ (Statewide Restoration General Order) for the Lower Battle Creek Side Channel & Backwater Restoration Project (Project). After review of the NOI 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 the Statewide Restoration General Order.

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) is being issued at the request of California State University, Chico (hereinafter Enrollee) under the Statewide Restoration General Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations. Although the Statewide Restoration General Order may also serve as a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, this NOA is being issued solely as waste discharge requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code, § 13000 et seq.).

NOA Effective Date: 28 January 2026

NOA Expiration Date: 28 January 2031

A copy of the Statewide Restoration General Order is enclosed. You may also access the Statewide Restoration General Order on State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders Web Page: [Order 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).

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the Statewide Restoration General Order. Failure to comply with this NOA and the Statewide Restoration General Order constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action and/or termination of enrollment under the Statewide Restoration General Order. The Project is described in the NOI Form requesting coverage and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the Statewide Restoration General Order is no longer valid if the Project is modified from that described in the Application Package.

I. Public Notice

The Central Valley Water Board provided public notice of the application from 5 December 2025 to 26 December 2025. The Central Valley Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

II. Project Description

The Project objectives are to increase the availability and quality of instream and floodplain habitat along lower Battle Creek. The Project elements include creation of a side channel along Battle Creek to increase juvenile salmonid rearing habitat; grading of a backwater area to reduce fish stranding and increase salmonid habitat; removal of two levees to increase the extent and quality of floodplain habitat along Battle Creek; and stabilization of a headcut to prevent high flows on Battle Creek from depositing salmonids in Grover's Ditch. Construction will include the establishment of four spoils areas, temporary construction roads, and two staging areas and transplanting of several elderberry shrubs.

III. Project Location

County: Shasta and Tehama Counties

Latitude: 40.390293° and Longitude: -122.186438°

IV. Project Impact and Receiving Waters Information

The Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Water Board. Receiving waters and groundwater potentially impacted by this Project are protected in accordance with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, February 2019 (Basin Plan). The plan for the region and other plans and policies may be accessed at the [State Water Resources Control Board's Plans and Policies Web page](#)

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/). The Basin Plan includes water quality standards, which consist of existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the state, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and the state and federal antidegradation policies.

It is the policy of the State of California that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This NOA promotes that policy by requiring discharges to meet maximum contaminant levels designed to protect human health and ensure

that water is safe for domestic use.

Project impact and receiving waters information can be found in Attachment B. Table 1 of Attachment B shows the receiving waters and beneficial uses of waters of the state impacted by the Project. Individual impact location and quantity are shown in Tables 2 and 3 of Attachment B.

V. Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2. Permanent impacts are categorized as those resulting in a physical loss in area and also those degrading ecological condition.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Temporary Physical Loss of Area Impacts

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Riparian	0.2	0	456

Table 2: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area Impacts

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Riparian	3.38	19,604	4,733
Streambed/Stream bank	0.33	3,934	1,263

VI. Project Schedule

In-water construction work is planned between 15 July and 30 September 2026. Upland construction work will occur between 1 August 2026 and 1 February 2027.

VII. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

On 16 August 2022, State Water Resources Control Board, as lead agency, certified a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No.2019100230) for the Statewide Restoration General Order and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on 12 September 2022.

The Central Valley Water Board is a responsible agency under CEQA (Public Resources Code, section 21069) and in making its determinations and findings, must presume that State Water Resources Control Board's PEIR comports with the requirements of CEQA and is valid. (Public Resources Code, section 21167.3; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15231.)

The Central Valley Water Board has reviewed and considered the PEIR and finds that the environmental document addresses the Project's impacts within the scope of the Board's jurisdiction and that no additional environmental review is required. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096, subdivision (f), 15162,

15163.)

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will file a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research within five (5) working days of issuance of this NOA. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096, subdivision (i).)

VIII. Fees Received

An application fee of \$1,123.00 was received on 6 January 2026. 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 D - Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Projects (fee code 85) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

IX. Findings of Applicability

This letter serves as formal notice that Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ is applicable to this habitat restoration project. Your waste discharge identification (WDID) number is 5A45CR00684.

X. Conditions

The Enrollee shall comply with all applicable conditions of the Statewide Restoration General Order, including but not limited to the following:

A. Reporting and Notification Requirements

1. In-Water Work and Diversions:

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

XI. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Contact

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Jerred Ferguson at (530) 224-4784 or Jerred.Ferguson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Clint E. Snyder, AEO

1/28/2026

For Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Date

Attachment A: Project Maps

Attachment B: Receiving Waters, Impacts, and Mitigation Information

Attachment C: CEQA Findings of Facts

Enclosure: State Water Resources Control Board Order for Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide, Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ

cc email: U.S. EPA, Region 9, San Francisco
Water Quality Certification Program, SWRCB, Sacramento
Hillary Regnart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Robert Irwin, Chico State Enterprises, Chico

Attachment A
Project Maps

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Attachment A – Project Maps

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

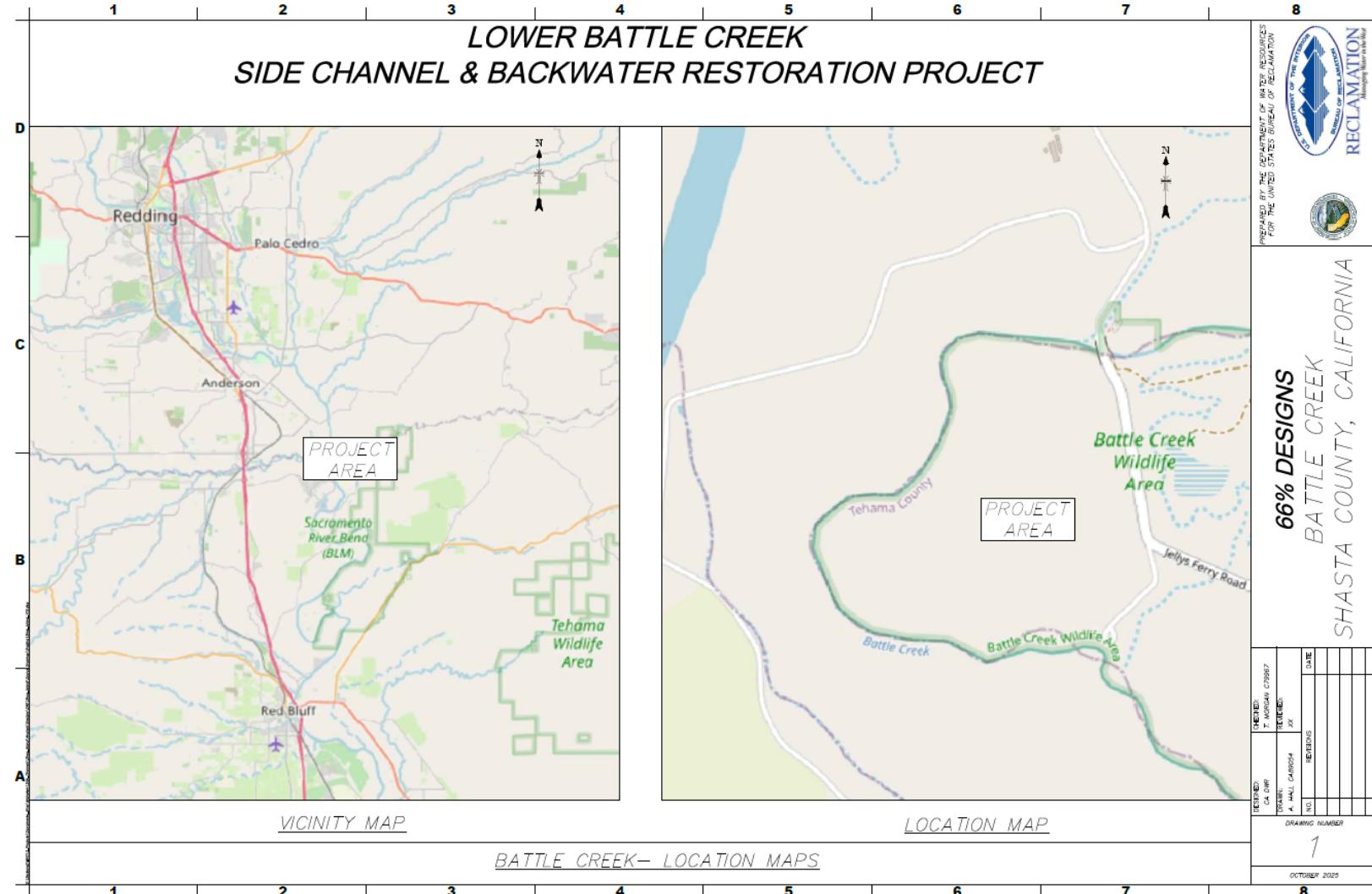
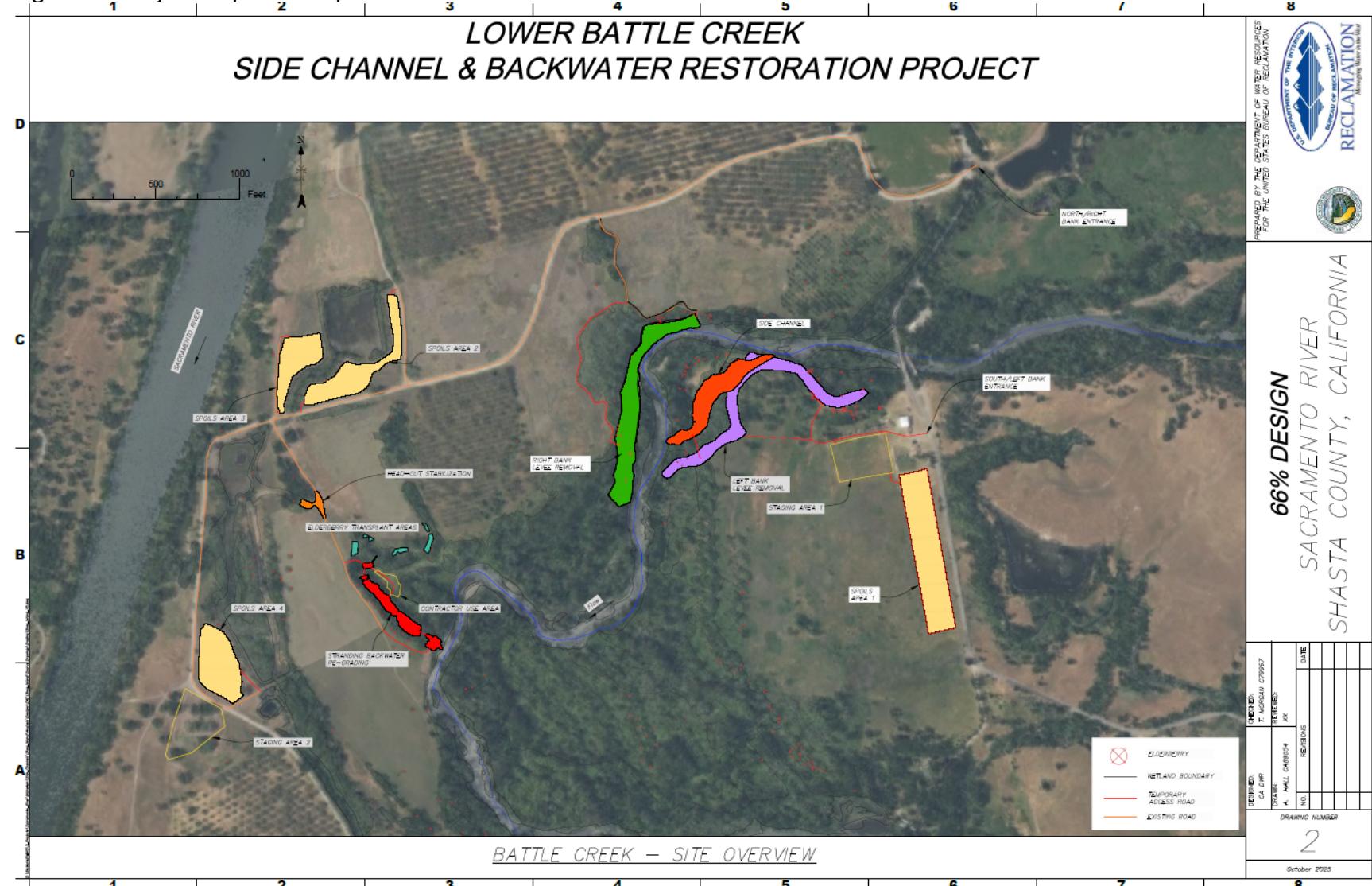


Figure 2. Project Impacts Map



Attachment B
Receiving Waters, Impacts and Mitigation Information

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Attachment B – Receiving Waters, Impacts and Mitigation Information

The following table shows the receiving waters associated with each impact site.

Table 1: Receiving Water Information

Impact Site ID	Waterbody Name	Impacted Aquatic Resources Type	Water Board Hydrologic Units	Receiving Waters	Receiving Waters Beneficial Uses	303d Listing Pollutant	California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) ID
Lower Battle Creek Side Channel & Backwater Restoration Project	Battle Creek	Stream Channel	507.12	Battle Creek	AGR, POW, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, WILD	N/A	N/A

Individual Direct Impact Locations

The following tables show individual impacts.

Table 2: Individual Temporary Fill/Excavation Impact Information

Impact Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Indirect Impact Requiring Mitigation?	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Lower Battle Creek Side Channel & Backwater Restoration Project (Riparian)	40.390293	-122.186438	No	0.2	0	456

Table 3: Individual Permanent Fill/Excavation Impact Information

Impact Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Indirect Impact Requiring Mitigation?	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Lower Battle Creek Side Channel & Backwater Restoration Project (Riparian)	40.390293	-122.186438	No	3.38	19,604	4,733
Lower Battle Creek Side Channel & Backwater Restoration Project (Stream Channel)	40.390293	-122.186438	No	0.33	3,934	1,263

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FINDINGS FOR CEQA EXEMPT PROJECT

On 16 August 2022, State Water Resources Control Board, as lead agency, certified a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2019100230) for the Statewide Restoration General Order and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on 12 September 2022.

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