



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

23 January 2024

David Johnson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1829 S. Oregon Street
Yreka, CA 96097

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY: STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AMENDED ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR SMALL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS FILE NO. SB12006GN FOR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, SISSON MEADOWS WETLAND AND POLLINATOR RESTORATION PROJECT, SISKIYOU COUNTY, WDID NO. 5A47CR00063

On 11 December 2023, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Applicant) filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting coverage under the 27 March 2013 State Water Resources Control Board Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File No. SB12006GN (General Certification Order) for the Sisson Meadows Wetland and Pollinator Restoration Project (Project). After review of the NOI 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 the General Certification 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 the General Certification Order is enclosed. The General Certification Order may also be accessed on the [State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders Web Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2013)

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The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this Notice of Applicability and General Certification Order. Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project, as described, is modified.

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I. Public Notice

The Central Valley Water Board provided public notice of the application from 15 December 2023 to 5 January 2024. The Central Valley Water Board did not receive any comments during the comment period.

II. Project Description

The Project will restore the hydrology of the wet meadow by reversing incision of an unnamed creek that flows through the meadow and raising the water table in the meadow. The project proposes to construct 36-38 willow weave structures, spaced approximately 20 feet apart, throughout 750 feet of the creek. The willow structures will be built using on-site willow cuttings (approximately 0.75" to 1.5" in diameter) pushed vertically into the creek channel by hand and then weaving smaller diameter willow cuttings and wetland grasses through the vertical willow cuttings. The structures will be approximately one to two feet in height, two feet in length, and approximately three inches in width. The willow structures will be built during low flow periods, or when the creek is dry but the soil in the channel is moist, so that the cuttings can be easily pushed by hand into the creek channel. Willow cuttings will be harvested from around the seasonal wetland and the upstream (northern) section of the creek. Cuttings will be spread out so as not to significantly impact the function of the willow habitats. As such, up to 0.5 acre of willow habitat may be impacted.

III. Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1. 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 Permanent Physical Loss of Area Impacts

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Stream	0.0004	6.5	76

IV. Project Schedule

Construction will be completed during low flow either between 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024, or 1 September 2024 to 15 October 2024. The work is expected to take approximately 4 days to complete.

V. Project Location

Address: East Castle Street

County: Siskiyou County

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 057-331-020 & 057-331-040

Nearest City: Mount Shasta

Latitude: 41.316553° and Longitude: -122.309597°

VI. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The Central Valley Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061.

Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, which consists of projects not to exceed five acres to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

VII. Fees Received

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.

VIII. Findings of Applicability

This letter serves as formal notice that Order No. SB12006GN is applicable to this fish habitat restoration project. Your waste discharge identification (WDID) number is 5A47CR00063.

IX. Reporting

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted by the applicant no later than 30 days after the work has been completed. The NOC shall demonstrate that the work has been carried out in accordance with the description provided in the applicant's Notice of Intent.

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of Order No. SB12006GN may expose U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enforcement action pursuant to the Clean Water Act and California Water Code.

If you require further assistance, please contact Daniel Warner by phone at (530) 224-4848 or by email at Daniel.Warner@waterboards.ca.gov. You may also contact Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist of the Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit, by phone at (530) 224-2437 or by email at Lynn.Coster@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Clint Snyder, AEO
(for) Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

1/23/2024
Date

- Attachment A:** Project Maps
- Attachment B:** Receiving Waters, Impacts, and Mitigation Information
- Attachment C:** CEQA Findings of Facts

Enclosure: Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File No. SB12006GN (Applicant Only)

cc via
email: U.S. EPA, Region 9, San Francisco
Water Quality Certification Program, SWRCB, Sacramento
Kasey Sirkin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco
Stacey Alexander, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Redding
Siskiyou Land Trust, Mount Shasta

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Attachment A – Project Maps

Figure 1. Project Location Map



Figure 2. Impacts Location Map



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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
Sisson Meadows Wetland and Pollinator Restoration Project	Unnamed tributary to Cold Creek	Stream	525.22	Lake Siskiyou	REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, SPWN, WILD	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Individual Direct Impact Locations

The following table shows individual impacts.

Table 2: Individual Permanent Fill/Excavation Impact Information

Impact Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Indirect Impact Requiring Mitigation?	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Sisson Meadows Wetland and Pollinator Restoration Project	41.316553°	-122.309597°	No	0.0004	6.5	76

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Attachment C – CEQA Findings of Fact

FINDINGS FOR CEQA EXEMPT PROJECT

The Central Valley Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061.

Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, which consists of projects not to exceed five acres to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

Additionally, the Central Valley Water Board concludes that no California Code of Regulations, title 14, section exceptions to the CEQA exemption apply to the activities approved by this Order.

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