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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 October 2020

Hazem Gabr, Water Quality Section Manager  
Southern California Edison  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
GO-1, Quad 2C, Environmental Services  
Rosemead, CA 91770

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, CREEK FIRE - DAM 4 EMERGENCY DEBRIS REMOVAL AND VALVE REPAIR PROJECT (WDID#5B10CR00098), FRESNO COUNTY**

On 17 October 2020, Southern California Edison (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 9 October 2018 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit 8 (General Certification Order) for the Creek Fire - Dam 4 Emergency Debris Removal and Valve Repair (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 Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 8, Emergency Repair and Protection 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](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/rgp8_cert.pdf) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/rgp8\\_cert.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/rgp8_cert.pdf)) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

The Project is being conducted 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 17 October 2020, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

At the time the Application Package was submitted, the Creek Fire had burned more than 344,000 acres within the Sierra National Forest within Fresno and Madera Counties and remained at 55% containment. The Applicant maintains transmission, distribution, telecom, and hydroelectric facilities within the burned area. As a part of the fire response, the Applicant evaluated the hydroelectric facilities to determine potential threats from the expected debris flow in the burn area. During review of these facilities, it was determined that the low level outlet valve (LLOV) at Dam 4 would likely be unable to properly function as needed to pass water and sediment in an emergency situation. In order to alleviate this risk, the Applicant requests authorization to remove accumulated sediment to create additional storage capacity within the reservoir and repair the valve so that it can function in an emergency situation. Additionally, the Applicant requests authorization to complete additional sediment removal within the reservoir as a result of any excessive debris flows that may occur during the upcoming storm season due to the damage caused by the Creek Fire.

The Project may permanently impact and will temporarily impact waters of the United States. Upon completion of emergency activities, the Applicant will submit to the Central Valley Water Board, a report that summarizes temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters, a summary of restoration activities taken to restore temporarily impacted areas, and a proposal for mitigation for permanently impacted areas.

**ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:**

1. After the initial draining of the reservoir, conduct a sediment analysis to determine composition of the sediment and provide an estimate of the total quantity of sediment that is deposited within the reservoir.
2. **Within 14 days** of commencement of the Project, provide a monitoring plan to the Central Valley Water Board to assess the pre- and post-project condition of the stream channel downstream of the dam, including the impact of sediment deposition caused by draining of the reservoir and its potential impact on stream habitat. The plan should include potential mitigation measures to address any negative habitat impacts caused by sediment deposition.
3. After refilling of the reservoir, provide the quantity of sediment physically removed from the reservoir and the location of the sediment disposal.
4. **By 31 March 2021**, provide a sediment management plan to the Central Valley Water Board to address potential sediment deposition due to the fire impacts within the reservoir.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The Project is located adjacent to Southern California Edison's Powerhouse 1, Big Creek, Fresno County, Latitude: 37.203334°, Longitude: -119.241414°.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

The Applicant will begin the Project as soon as permits are in place.

**APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:**

The Applicant must submit an application fee of \$1,949 **within 48 hours of project initiation.**

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 category F - Emergency Projects authorized by a Water Board General Order (fee code 85) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Debra Mahnke at (559) 445-6281 or at [Debra.Mahnke@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Debra.Mahnke@waterboards.ca.gov).

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