
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

27 June 2023

Rebecca Carr Wong
Devils Postpile National Monument
PO Box 3999
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT, DEPO MEADOW TRAIL REPAIR PROJECT, (WDID# 5B20CR00130), MADERA COUNTY

On 25 May 2023, Devil's Postpile National Monument (Permittee) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 12 October 2021 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permits (Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ) for the DEPO Meadow Trail Repair Project (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Permittee, 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 proposed activity will take place within less than 0.05 acres of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 3a, Maintenance, 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/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage.

The Project must proceed 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 25 May 2023, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The 0.05-acre Project consists of repairs to the Visitor Use Meadow Trail that provides access from the Ranger Station to a large gravel bar on the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River near Reds Meadow. This trail was formalized in 2003 with portions fortified by geoblocks to reduce erosion and test out the geoblock effectiveness. Project elements that affect aquatic resources include:

- Remove any vegetation and topsoil in the trail bed and along the edges and stockpile for later use.
- Remove the cobble along the bottom of the trail and replace with soil.
- Fill trail up to natural grade.
- Place geoblock in more vulnerable sections (those that are more incised) and cover with soil.
- Replant salvaged plants adjacent to the trail as well as on top of the geoblocks.
- Collect seed from the adjacent meadow and spread over the disturbed areas.
- Replace fencing to keep visitors on the trail.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.05 acre of wetland (meadow). Temporarily impacted areas shall be restored to pre-Project condition.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located along the San Joaquin River near the Devil's Postpile Ranger Station. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 37.629723 degrees North and longitude -119.085382 degrees West.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Construction is expected to commence in August 2023 and conclude by 31 October 2023.

APPLICATION FEE 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.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION:

1. **Annual Reporting:** The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year on the 1st day of the month, one year after the effective date of this Notice of Applicability. Annual reporting shall continue until the Central Valley Water Board issues a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee.

The Annual Report shall include the information specified in Attachment B, Part A of Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment B of Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ and email it to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov with a cc to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is 5B20CR00130.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Brandon Salazar at (559) 445-6287 or at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.



for

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc (via email only):

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