Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

16 March 2023

Anthea Hansen
Del Puerto Water District &
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEL PUERTO WATER DISTRICT & SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY, 2023 GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE DEL PUERTO CANYON RESERVOIR PROJECT (WDID#5B50CR00111), STANISLAUS COUNTY

On 30 January 2023, the Del Puerto Water District & San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA) (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 25 February 2022 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification and Order of the United States Army Corps of Engineers 2021 Nationwide Permits (General Certification Order) for the 2023 Geotechnical Investigations for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project (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 proposed activity will take place within less than 0.001 acre/5 linear feet of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #6 (Survey 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/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Order webpage and is enclosed.

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 30 January 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 Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 2023 Geotechnical Investigations for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project (Project) consists of pre-construction geologic, geotechnical, and geophysical investigations and testing to support the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project within Del Puerto Canyon.

Surface Geologic Investigations

Surface geologic investigations (pedestrian surveys) involve noninvasive physical methods of survey to determine soil and rock properties at the surface, including walking transects, soil mapping, and rock analyses using hand tools. These standard investigation methods are commonly used and effects, if any, are typically localized and negligible. The specific walking investigations would be conducted immediately surrounding the proposed inundation area.

Surface Geophysical Investigations

Geophysics surveys are limited to linear survey transects and any effects are typically localized and negligible. Two types of geophysical surveys are proposed: (1) surface seismic refraction testing; and (2) electrical resistivity imaging/tomography. Each linear survey test would typically be performed for over a 1- or 5-day period of 10–12-hour days. Surveys are planned for both wet and dry weather conditions. No equipment would be left onsite overnight. Upon completion of the investigation, equipment would be removed to return the sites to their original condition to the extent practicable.

Subsurface Geotechnical Investigations

Subsurface geotechnical investigations consist of underground exploration utilizing sonic and rotary wash borings with downhole testing and rock coring. All subsurface geotechnical investigation techniques would require some degree of ground disturbance to gain necessary geotechnical information, including spot leveling of areas directly below truck leveling jacks and holes measuring 2 to 10 inches in diameter through which augers and sampling equipment would be lowered to collect subsurface data and samples. Work areas will consist of the smallest footprint necessary to complete the investigations and avoid sensitive biological and cultural resources but would not exceed approximately 100 feet wide by 100 feet long for access and staging purposes for sonic and rotary wash borings that include downhole testing.

Site preparation is not anticipated prior to commencement of activities at each of the geotechnical work areas and therefore would not result in a discharge of dredge or fill material. In addition, high density ridged plastic mats will be used for staging within work areas in assumed regulated aquatic resources to reduce or prevent soil disturbance in

areas with loose or friable soils during work activities. Drilling equipment at select locations would need to be left onsite until drilling and downhole testing activities are completed. Bore holes will be covered overnight. Once work at each boring is complete, augers and testing equipment are removed, borings and probes would be grouted and resurfaced in accordance with California regulations and industry standards. The top 12 inches of the bore holes will be backfilled with existing topsoil. The areas would then be cleared of work items. Duration of activities would range from 1 to 14 days at each location.

The Project will temporarily impact <0.001 acre/5 linear feet of waters of the United States. No permanent impacts are proposed.

PROJECT LOCATION:
The proposed project is adjacent to Interstate 5 in the foothills west of the city of Patterson in Stanislaus County. The project is found on the Patterson and Copper Mountain U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. The zip codes are 95363 and 95387.

Five geotechnical locations identified on the project maps are as follows:

SP-5 – Latitude: 37°48‘8702”, Longitude: -121°20‘7133”

MD-14 – Latitude: 37°48‘7650”, Longitude: -121°20‘8091”

MD-15 – Latitude: 37°48‘685”, Longitude: -121°20‘8672”

MDA-1 – Latitude: 37°48‘6586”, Longitude: -121°20‘8858”

BA-15 – Latitude: 37°46‘6272”, Longitude: -121°25‘4258”

PROJECT SCHEDULE:
1 June 2023 through 1 October 2023

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:
An application fee of $2,734.00 was received on 27 January 2023.

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 E - Low Impact Discharges (fee code 87) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Jenna Yang by phone at (916) 464-4764 or by email at Jenna.Yang@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters for:
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: State Water Board Certification of the 2021 Nationwide Permits General Water Quality Certification and Order

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Map Location
Figure 2: Map of Impacts (1 of 2)
Figure 3: Map of Impacts (2 of 2)

cc: [Via email only]

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Figure 1: Project Location Map

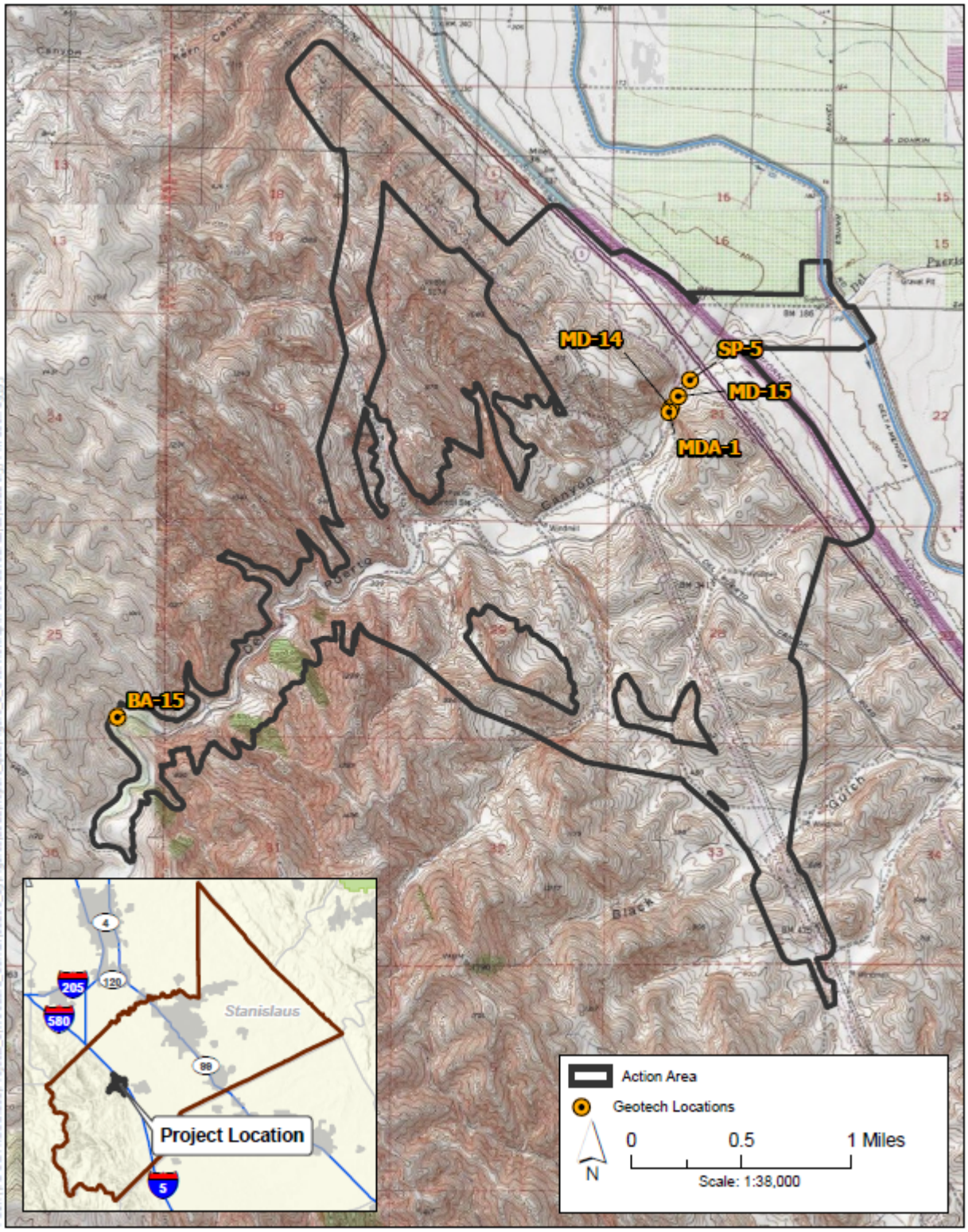

Figure 2: Map of Impacts (1 of 2)

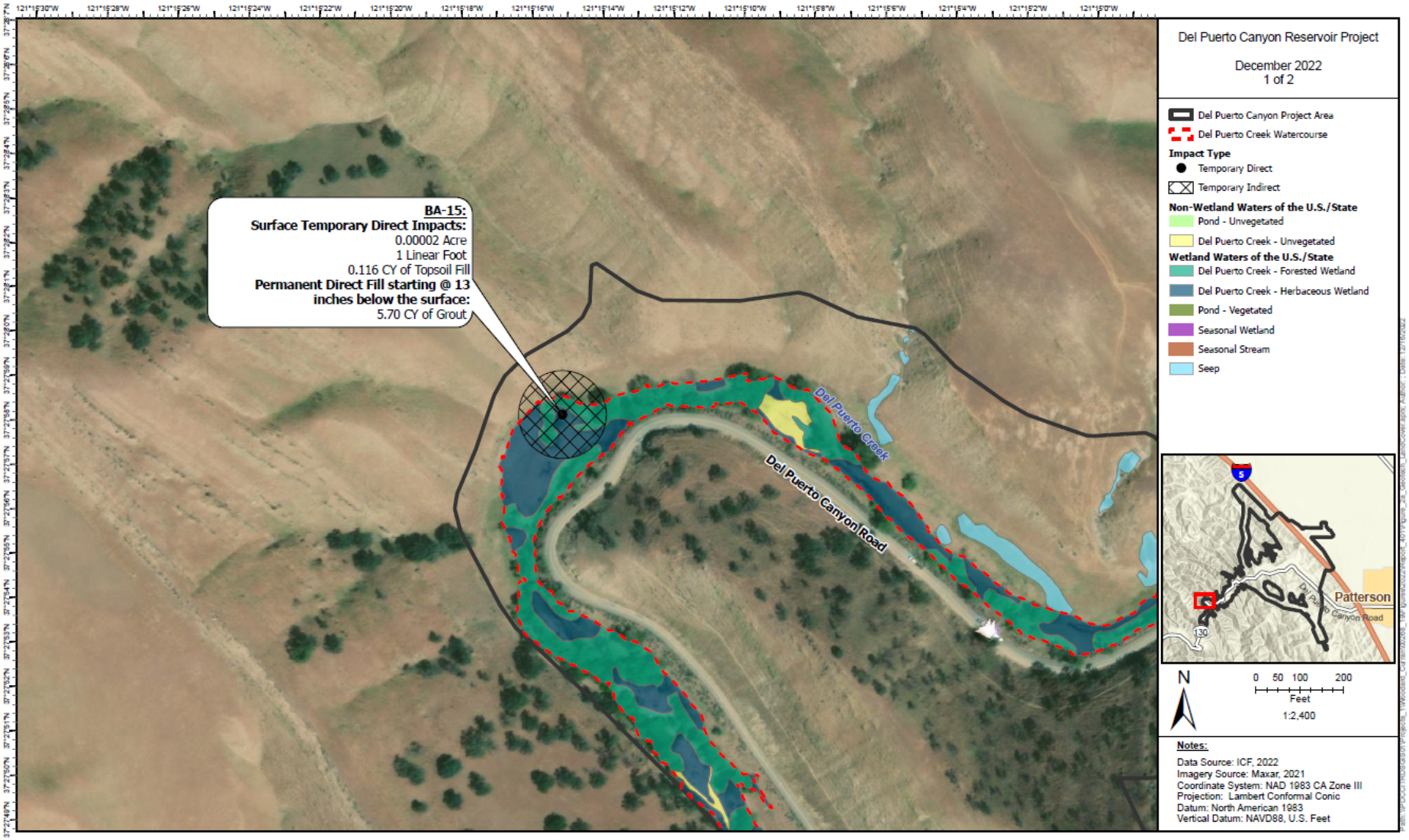

Figure 3: Map of Impacts (2 of 2)