Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

23 January 2026

Robert LeMoine
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove
Monrovia, CA 91770

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, COLD SPRINGS EMERGENCY CULVERT REPAIR PROJECT (WDID# 5C10CR00104), FRESNO COUNTY

On 12 January 2026, Southern California Edison (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 1 August 2023 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 Cold Springs Emergency Culvert Repair (Project). After reviewing 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 is taking place in 0.015 acre/40 linear feet of waters of the United States.

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/2023/rgp-8-certification-mainbody.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 15 January 2026, 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 Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 0.25-acre Project consists of emergency restoration of a culverted crossing on a tributary to Sycamore Creek that was rendered inoperable due to severe storm damage and associated debris blockage. The failure of the existing culvert has compromised an access route required for maintenance and operational activities associated with Southern California Edison's electrical transmission infrastructure. The Project will remove the damaged culvert pipes and install two 42-inch corrugated metal pipes (CMPs) within the existing roadway footprint to restore hydraulic capacity and structural integrity.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include construction of riprap headwalls at the inlet and outlet, placement of riprap for erosion protection, and installation of the CMPs. A temporary diversion of the Sycamore Creek tributary will be implemented to maintain downstream flows and provide a dry work area during construction. Best Management Practices (BMPs), including sediment and erosion control measures, will be deployed throughout all phases of work to prevent discharge of pollutants and minimize environmental disturbance. All activities will occur within previously disturbed areas and will not result in expansion of the roadway or creation of new access routes.

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. Permanent impacts are categorized as those resulting in a physical loss in area and also those degrading ecological condition. Temporarily impacted areas shall be restored to pre-Project condition.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Temporary Impacts

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Lake			
Ocean/bay/estuary			
Riparian Zone			
Stream Channel	0.013		30
Vernal Pool			
Wetland			

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

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Lake			
Ocean/bay/estuary			
Riparian Zone			
Stream Channel	0.002		10

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Vernal Pool			
Wetland			

PROJECT LOCATION:
The Project is located at a culvert crossing over a tributary to Sycamore Creek in Eastern Fresno County near Cold Springs Rancheria.

Latitude: 36.964423 Degrees and Longitude: -119.323120 Degrees

PROJECT SCHEDULE:
The Project started construction on 21 January 2026 and will continue for approximately 10 workdays.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:
An application fee of $4,212.00 was received on 21 January 2026. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(4), 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.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

1. **Water Quality Monitoring**

   If surface water is present, continuous visual surface water monitoring shall be conducted during active construction periods to detect accidental discharge of construction related pollutants (e.g., oil and grease, turbidity plume, or uncured concrete). Sampling is not required in a wetland where the entire wetland is being permanently filled, provided there is no outflow connecting the wetland to surface waters. The Applicant shall perform surface water sampling:

   i. When performing any in-water work;

   ii. During the entire duration of temporary surface water diversions;

   iii. In the event that the Project activities result in any materials reaching surface waters; or

   iv. When any activities result in the creation of a visible plume in surface waters.

   Sampling during in-water work or during the entire duration of temporary water diversions shall be conducted in accordance with Table 3 sampling parameters. The sampling requirements in Table 3 shall be conducted upstream out of the influence of the Project, and approximately 300 feet downstream of the work area unless otherwise approved by the Executive Officer.

Table 3: Sample Type and Frequency Requirements

Parameter	Unit of Measurement	Type of Sample	Minimum Frequency
pH	Standard Units	Grab	Every 4 hours
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	Every 4 hours
Temperature	Degrees F (or as degrees C)	Grab	Every 4 hours
Visible construction related pollutants[1]	Observations	Visual Inspections	Continuous throughout the construction period

2. **Reporting and Notification Requirements**

The Applicant shall submit all reports in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment B of Order No. WQ 2023-0061-DWQ, and in accordance with conditions specified in this Notice of Applicability and email it to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov%20with a cc to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is 5C10CR00104.

a. Notification for In-Water Work and Diversions

The Applicant should 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 e-mail, delivered written notice, or other verifiable means.

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.

Digitally signed by Alex S. Mushegan

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: Via email only:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
R9cwa401@epa.gov

[1] Visible construction-related pollutants include oil, grease, foam, fuel, petroleum products, and construction-related, excavated, organic or earthen materials.

cc: Maya Bickner (SPK-2026-00043)
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Headquarters
maya.a.bickner@usace.army.mil

Justin Sloan
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
justin_sloan@fws.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 4
R4LSA@wildlife.ca.gov

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Richard Haywood
Southern California Edison