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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

16 June 2026

Leah Feigelson  
California Department of Water Resources  
3500 Industrial Blvd., Rm 168  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2004-0004-DWQ, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, INDIAN CREEK FAULT TRENCHING PROJECT (WDID NO. 5A32CR00264), PLUMAS COUNTY**

On 1 June 2026, California Department of Water Resources, (Applicant) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting coverage under State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order 2004-0004-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction (General Order). 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 Indian Creek Fault Trenching Project (Project) qualifies for enrollment under the General Order.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ. This Notice of Applicability (NOA) is being issued at the request of California Department of Water Resources (hereinafter Enrollee) under the General Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

**NOA Effective Date:** 16 June 2026

**NOA Expiration Date:** 16 June 2031

A copy of the General Order is enclosed. You can also access the General Order on [State Water Resources Control Board's Adopted Orders Web Page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf)).

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the General Order. The Project is described in the NOI Form requesting coverage and supplementary information (Application Package). If the Project is modified from

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NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

that described in the Application Package, then coverage under the General Order is no longer valid.

### **I. Public Notice**

The Central Valley Water Board provided public notice of the application from 5 June 2026 to 26 June 2026.

### **II. Project Description**

To evaluate past tectonic activity and better define the location and history of the Indian Creek Fault (ICF) that could influence dam safety at Antelope Lake in the future, the Enrollee proposes to excavate and study one trench site (T-15) approximately 6 miles upstream of Antelope Dam along Indian Creek. Site access from the U.S. Forest Service road will be along an existing dozer cut.

The trench is expected to be slotted, approximately 100 feet long by 3 feet wide, and 3 to 4 feet deep or upon reaching bedrock. The trench excavation will have safety fencing around the perimeter to protect public and wildlife from entry. The open trench will also be covered by plywood sheeting at the end of each day. The trench will be open for up to three weeks.

Some preliminary subsurface geologic exploration at the ICF site will take place prior to excavation, with an estimate of up to 20 hand auger locations (4-foot maximum depth). A hand auger or post-hole tool (approximately 3 to 6-inch diameter) will be used to dig up to 4 feet, or until refusal, into the ground and then backfilled with the same soil. Tarps will be used to place the soil temporarily until backfilling. All preliminary work will be completed in a day; no hand-dug locations will be left open.

At the end of the project, the site will be restored to original conditions using the excavated spoils, straw, and native seed per Plumas National Forest (USFS) direction. The trench will be compacted using the excavation equipment bucket. Topsoil initially removed from the trench will be stockpiled separately from the subsoil and other excavated materials. Following trench backfilling, the topsoil will be replaced across the surface to preserve the existing seed bank and promote natural vegetation regrowth.

### **III. Project Location**

County: Plumas

Nearest City: Janesville

Section 30, Township 28 North, Range 12 East, MDB&M.

Latitude: 40.252575° and Longitude: -120.665417°

Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A of this NOA.

#### IV. Project Impact and Receiving Waters Information

The Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Water Board. Receiving waters and groundwater potentially impacted by this Project are protected in accordance with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, February 2019 (Basin Plan). The plan for the region and other plans and policies may be accessed at the [State Water Resources Control Board's Plans and Policies Web page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans\\_policies/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/)). The Basin Plan includes water quality standards, which consist of existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the state, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and the state and federal antidegradation policies.

Project impact and receiving waters information can be found in Attachment B. Table 1 of Attachment B shows the receiving waters and beneficial uses of waters of the state impacted by the Project. Individual impact location and quantity is shown in Table 2 of Attachment B.

#### V. Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1.

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

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Wetland	0.007	46	103

#### VI. Description of Indirect Impacts to Waters of the State – Not Applicable

#### VII. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

California Department of Water Resources, as lead agency, determined that the project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the project was determined to be categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The Department of Water Resources filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the State Clearinghouse (SCH) (SCH No. 2026060204) on 4 June 2026.

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.).

### VIII. Compensatory Mitigation

No compensatory mitigation is required because the Project will only result in temporary impacts which will be restored to pre-construction conditions upon completion of construction activities.

### IX. Petitions for Reconsideration

Any person aggrieved by this action may petition the State Water Board to reconsider this NOA in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3867. A petition for reconsideration must be submitted in writing and received within 30 calendar days of the issuance of this NOA.

### X. Fees Received

An application fee of \$4212.00 was received on 10 March 2026. 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.

### XI. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Contact:

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Carson Blodow at (530) 224-4994 or [Carson.Blodow@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Carson.Blodow@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original Signed by Lynn Coster*

*6/16/2026*

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For Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Date

Enclosure: State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction (General WDRs)

Attachments: Attachment A - Project Map  
Attachment B - Receiving Waters, Impacts, and Mitigation Information  
Attachment C – California Environmental Quality Act

cc

via email: U.S. EPA, Region 9, San Francisco  
Water Quality Certification Program, SWRCB, Sacramento  
Bayan Ahmed, Department of Water Resources, West Sacramento  
Colleen Heard, USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough  
Ranger District, Quincy

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Figure 1. Site location map

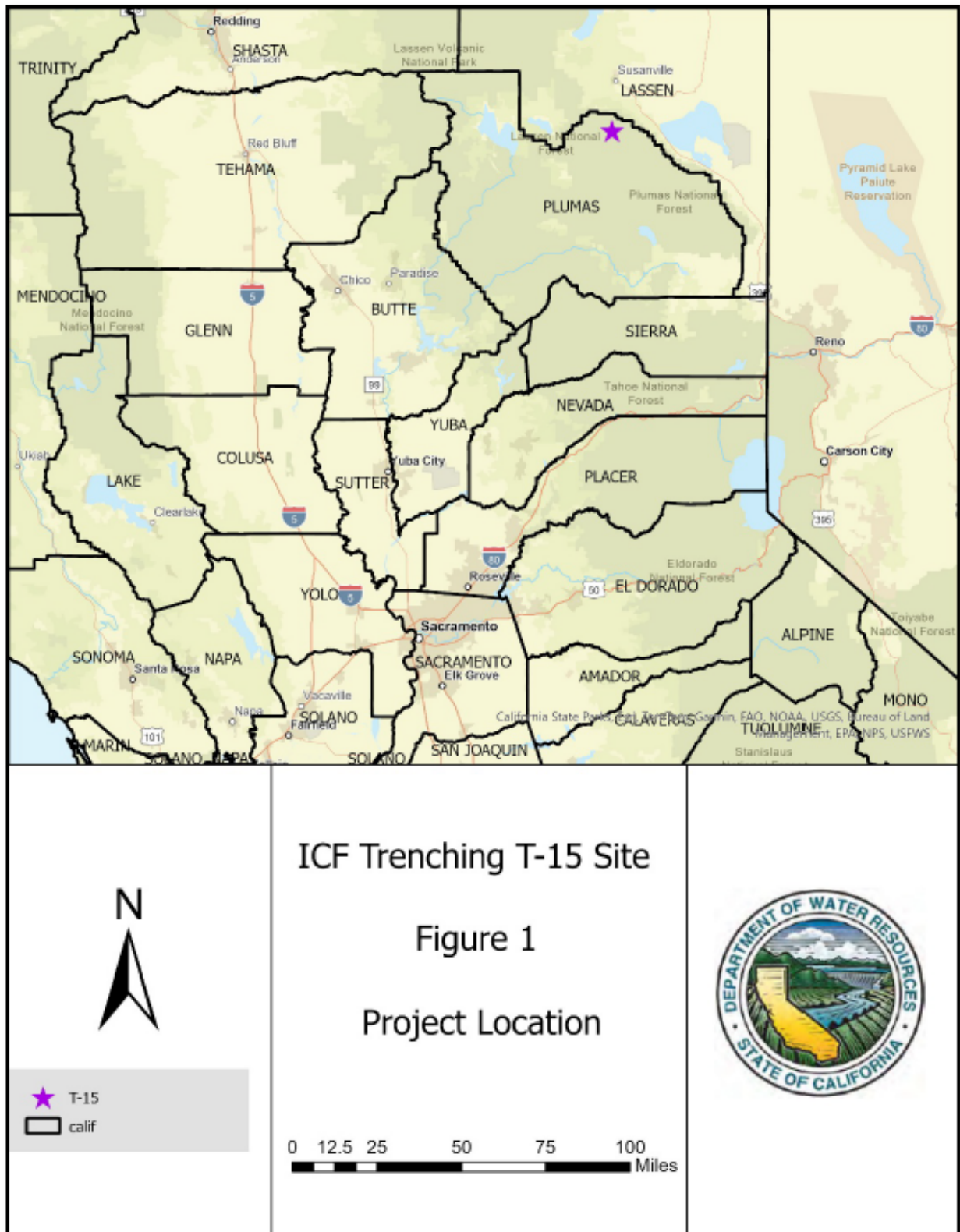
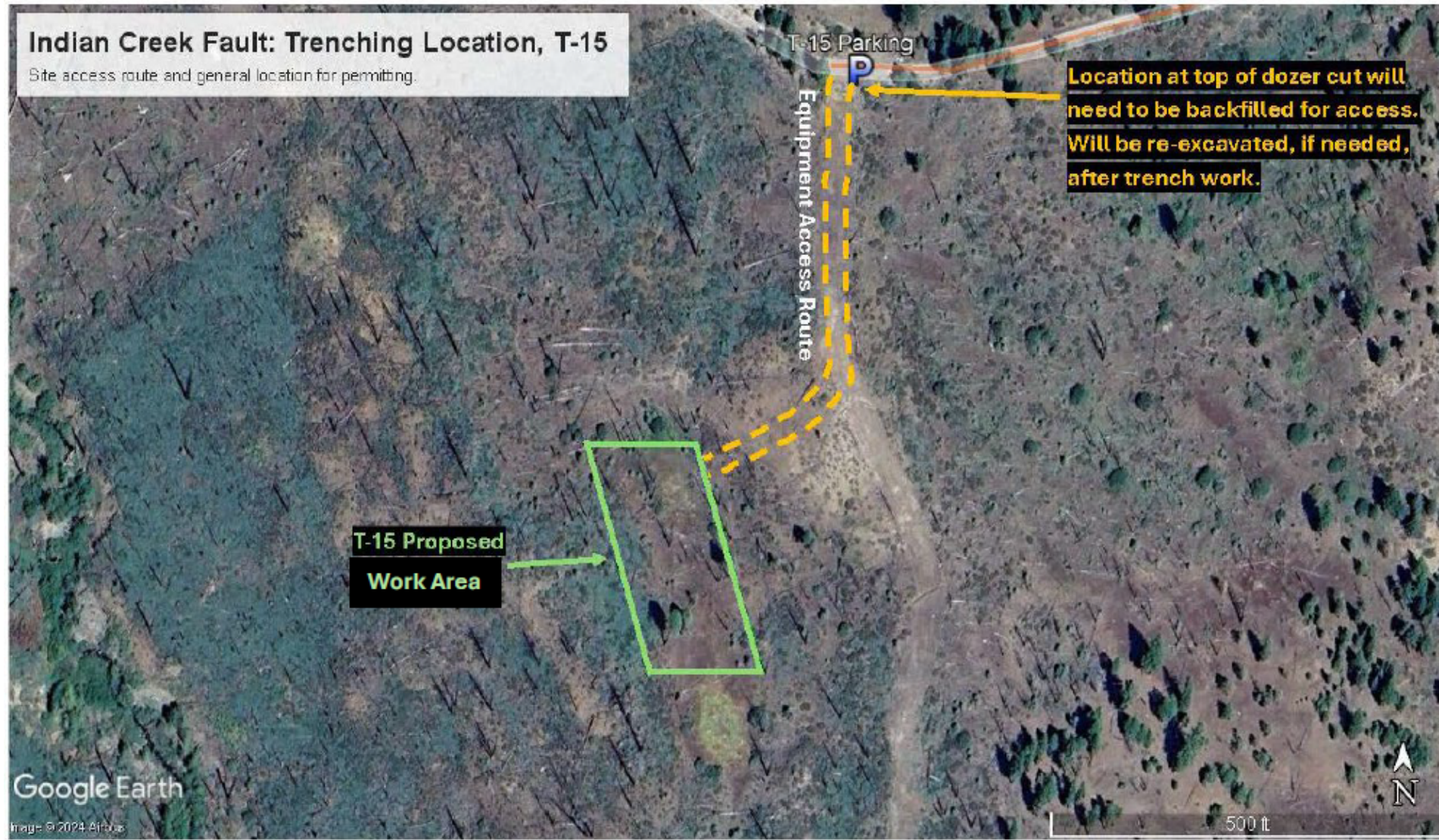


Figure 2. Site access and impact location map



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**Receiving Waters, Impacts and Mitigation Information**

The following table shows the receiving waters associated with each impact site.

**Table 1: Receiving Water(s) 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
T-15	Unnamed Wetland	Wetland	518.54	East Branch, North Fork, Feather River	MUN, POW, REC-1, REC-2, COLD, SPWN, WILD	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**Individual Direct Impact Locations**

The following tables show individual impacts.

**Table 2: Individual Temporary Impact Information**

Impact Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Indirect Impact Requiring Mitigation?	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
T15	40.252575	-120.665417	No	0.007	46	103

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### **CEQA Findings of Fact**

California Department of Water Resources, as lead agency, determined that the project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the project was determined to be categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The Department of Water Resources filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the State Clearinghouse (SCH) (SCH No. 2026060204) on 4 June 2026.

The Central Valley Water Board is a responsible agency under CEQA (Public Resources Code, section 21069) and has reviewed and comports with the lead agency's determination. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304.

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