7 August 2024

Janice Pinero
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
801 I street
Sacramento, CA 95814
jpinero@usbr.gov

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, DELTA CROSS CHANNEL GATES GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION PROJECT (WDID#5A34CR00895), SACRAMENTO COUNTY

On 17 June 2024, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (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 2022 Nationwide Permits (General Certification Order) for the Delta Cross Channel Gates Geotechnical Investigation 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 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 17 June 2024, 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 Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 Delta Cross Channel (DCC) is a controlled diversion channel between the Sacramento River and Snodgrass Slough. Near the upstream end of the DCC there are two 60-foot-wide by 30-foot-tall radial gates that can open to allow water to flow down the channel or close to prevent fish from being drawn into the interior Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The gate structure extends across the full width of the channel and, when open, provides a 120-foot-wide opening for passing fresh water from the Sacramento River into Snodgrass Slough and the Lower Mokelumne River.

The Delta Cross Channel Gates Geotechnical Investigation Project consists of conducting geotechnical investigations in the DCC adjacent to the gate structure to determine if potentially liquefiable soils exist from the ground surface to a depth of approximately 110 feet below the ground surface on either side of the gate structure.

The geotechnical investigation includes drilling two land-based borings with companion cone penetrometer tests, and two barge-based borings in the DCC. All four borings would include Standard Penetration tests (SPTs). The two barge-based borings and SPTs would be located approximately 100 feet upstream and 100 feet downstream from the edge of the gate structure in the DCC.

Drilling fluid would consist of bentonite mixed with water to achieve a workable viscosity. The cuttings and drilling mud would be contained and circulated in a closed loop system with discharge into a fully contained mud tub. Excess drilling mud and drill cuttings would be stored onsite until test results are obtained to determine the appropriate disposal process. The drums would then be transported to the appropriate disposal facility. Secondary spill containment will be provided with 20-millimeter plastic sheeting and straw wattles (erosion control logs).

The borings and CPTs will be backfilled with bentonite cement grout in accordance with Reclamation and County of Sacramento requirements. The grout will be placed from bottom to top using a tremie pipe in a closed loop system with the tremie pipe slightly below the grout level during the backfilling process. To prevent incomplete backfilling, if the tremie pipe does not extend to the bottom of the boring, the hole will be cleaned out until the tremie pipe can be extended to the bottom of the boring. The borings will be sealed just below the bottom of the channel to facilitate the mud rotary drilling process. This seal will be maintained during backfill so the bentonite cement grout will not make contact with the surface water. The total volume of grout will be checked regularly against the calculated theoretical backfill volume. If grout loss occurs, backfilling will be stopped immediately, and the cause of grout loss will be investigated. The channel water will be observed for signs of grout and corrective actions will be implemented prior to resuming grouting. A photographic log will be provided documenting the pre-drilling and post-drilling conditions.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.00000032 acre/1.34 linear feet of waters of the United States.

PROJECT LOCATION:
The project is located at the confluence of the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) and Sacramento River, between the communities of Locke and Walnut Grove, in Sacramento County.

Latitude: 38.2466° and Longitude: -121.5096°

PROJECT SCHEDULE:
In-water work will begin in early September 2024 after Labor Day to avoid public impacts and gate operations and will be completed by 30 September 2024. The two in-water bores will take approximately one day each to complete.

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.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Nicholas Savino at (916) 464-4920 or Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters for:
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: State Water Board Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permits General Water Quality Certification and Order

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location Map
Figure 2: Boring Location Map

cc: [Via email only]

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Office
Regulatory Division
SPKRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil

Carolyn Bragg
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
CBragg@usbr.gov

United States Environmental Protection Agency
R9CWA401@epa.gov

Jamail Ibrahim
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
jamil.ibrahim@stantec.com

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
State Water Resources Control Board
StateBoard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Sam Pyros
National Marine Fisheries Service
sam.pyros@noaa.gov

Figure 1: Project Location

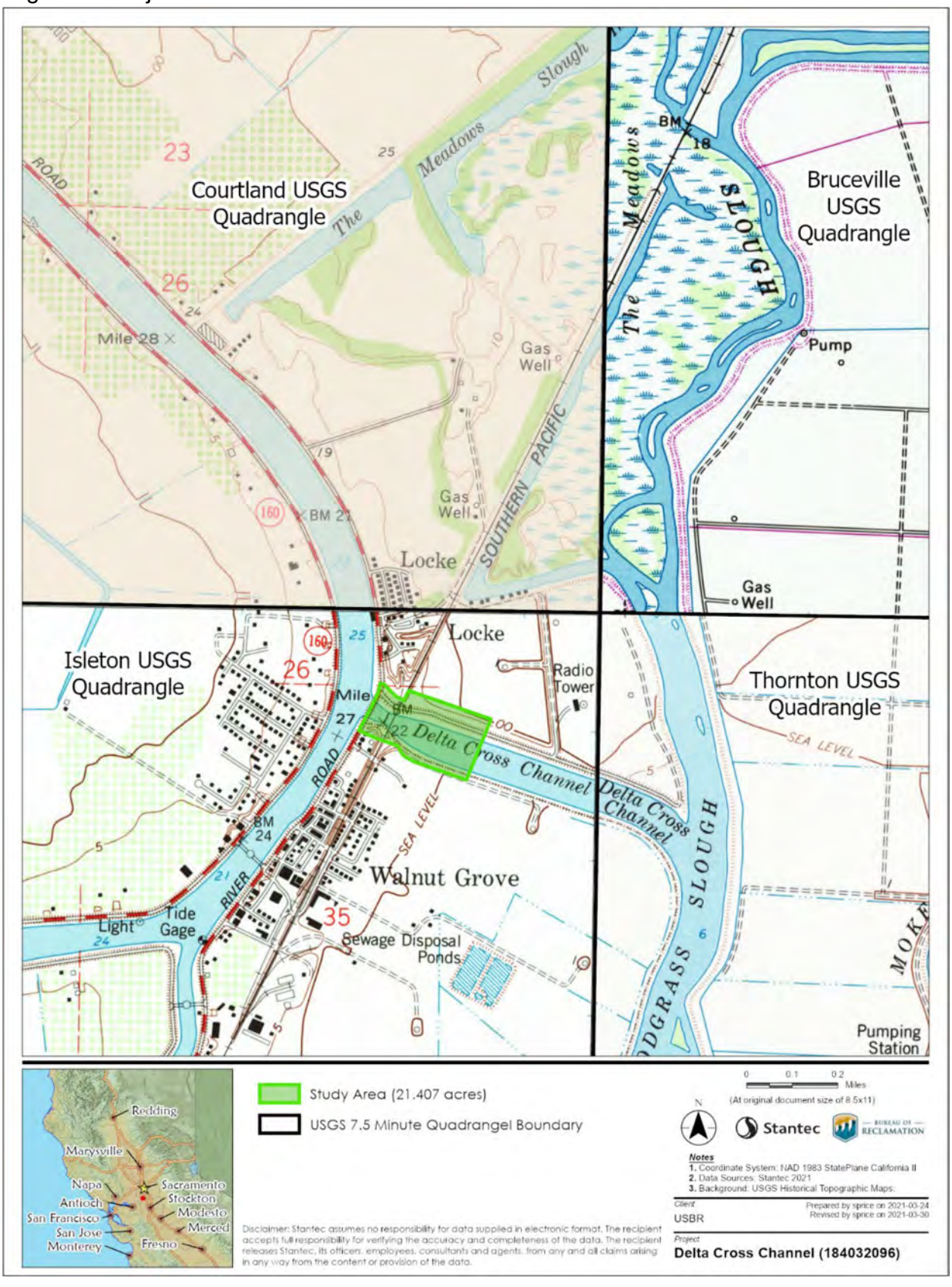

Figure 2: Boring Locations