
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 September 2026

Erin Wick
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
3580 East California Avenue
Fresno, CA 93725

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN JOAQUIN NO. 2 PENSTOCK HEADWALL & CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID# 5B20CR00143), MADERA COUNTY

On 17 August 2026, the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 1 August 2023 State Water Resources Control Board's 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 San Joaquin No. 2 Penstock Headwall & Culvert Replacement (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 0.134 acre 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) (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 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 27 August 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 Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 Project consists of replacing a damaged culvert and associated headwalls beneath the San Joaquin No. 2 penstock, part of the Crane Valley Hydroelectric Project. Activities involve removing approximately 46 linear feet of existing 24-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert and installing 56 linear feet of new 36-inch diameter CMP culvert (minimum 16-gauge thickness). Stone headwalls will be replaced with cast concrete headwalls at both ends. The Project includes regrading eroded areas, placing Class III riprap at the culvert inlet and outlet per Caltrans standards, and minor earthen fill for stabilization. Temporary access and equipment movement will occur immediately upstream and downstream of the crossing.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include fill from constructing the concrete headwalls and placing riprap within the stream channel during replacement of the culvert.

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	0.13		
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	0.0041		
Vernal Pool			
Wetland			

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located at the San Joaquin No. 2 (SJ2) Penstock where it crosses North Fork Willow Creek.

Latitude: 37.20663 Degrees and Longitude: -119.5063 Degrees

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The approximate timeframe of Project construction is to begin construction in September 2026 and last approximately one month.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$4,212.00 was received on 27 August 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

Parameter	Unit of Measurement	Type of Sample	Minimum Frequency
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 the conditions specified in this Notice of Applicability 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 5B20CR00143.

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) 445-6278 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

Maya Bickner (SPK-2026-00501)
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Headquarters
Maya.A.Bickner@usace.army.mil

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

Pacific Gas & Electric Company
San Joaquin No. 2 Penstock Headwall & Culvert Replacement

22 September 2026

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
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