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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

30 November 2023

Mimi Huie, Project Manager  
Caltrans District 10  
1976 East Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Stockton, CA 95205

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CALTRANS DISTRICT 10, GEOTECH INVESTIGATION FOR MARIPOSA COUNTY SOUTH FORK MERCED RIVER BRIDGE (10-0X760) PROJECT, (WDID# 5B22CR00069), MARIPOSA COUNTY**

On 16 November 2023, Caltrans District 10 (Permittee) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 12 October 2021 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permits (Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ) for the Geotech Investigation for Mariposa County South Fork Merced River Bridge 10-0X760 (Project or 10-0X760). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Permittee, 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 0.000009 acres 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) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2021/certification-denial-corps-nationwide-permit-project-general-order-10122021.pdf](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 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 16 November 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:**

At the South Fork Merced River Bridge, five (5) borings are planned to be drilled within the westbound travel lane of State Route 140: one per abutment, one per pier, and one for the proposed retaining wall. Measures such as filter socks, soil berms, and plugging deck drains will be applied to control water derived from the drilling operation from entering the river. The subsurface investigation will utilize seismic refraction and Ground Penetrating Radar to locate top of bedrock along the proposed retaining wall alignment and parallel to the proposed pier layouts. The seismic refraction lines will be located on the embankment fill adjacent to westbound State Route 140 and on the banks of the South Fork Merced River channel.

At the new pier locations, two borings are proposed to be drilled through the bridge deck, between the existing interior and exterior girders, and into the South Fork Merced River channel. Drilling through the deck will require approval from the Area Bridge Maintenance Engineer. Ground Penetrating Radar will be used to locate the deck reinforcement, which will be avoided as much as possible while locating borings.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.000009 acres/11 linear feet of stream bed aquatic resource. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-Project condition.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The Project is located at South Fork Merced River Bridge on State Route 140. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 37.653800 degrees North and longitude -119.888561 degrees West.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

The Project schedule includes a start date of 1 January 2024 and an end date of 31 December 2024.

**APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:**

An application fee of \$2,734.00 was received on 16 November 2023. However, the applicable application fee per California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) (i.e., Category E - Low Impact Discharges (fee code 87)) is \$2,985. Thus, there is an outstanding balance of \$251. **This Notice of Applicability is not valid until payment of the outstanding balance of \$251.**

The Permittee shall submit reports in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment B, Part A of Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment B of Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ and email it to [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov) with a carbon copy to Ernesto P. Garcia at [Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov). The WDID number for this Project is WDID: 5B22CR00069.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Ernesto P. Garcia at (559) 445-6287 or at [Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original Signed by Alexander Mushegan*  
For Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

cc: Via email only:

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