



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

17 March 2026

Veronica Reece
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District
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Modesto, CA, 95358
Operations@eaststanrcd.org

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, ORDER FOR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS STATEWIDE, MOHLER TRACT SALMONID HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT (WDID#5B39CR00437), SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

On 3 December 2025, the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide (Order). The NOI was deemed complete on 5 February 2026. Prior to receiving a complete NOI, Central Valley Water Board staff issued a notice of incomplete application and the Permittee responded to the request for application information on the following date(s):

Date of Notice of Incomplete Application:	2 January 2026
Date all requested information was received:	14 January 2026

Central Valley Water Board staff requested additional information necessary to supplement the contents of the complete NOI and the Permittee responded to the request for supplemental information on the following dates:

Date of Request for Supplemental Information:	5 February 2026
Date all requested information was received:	10 March 2026

The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Mohler Tract Salmonid Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order. 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 [Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo2022-0048-dwq.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

General Orders webpage.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Coverage under the Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified. Failure to comply with Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The approximately 40-acre Project consists of establishing rearing habitat for fall-run Chinook Salmon and California Central Valley (CCV) steelhead, with anticipated benefits to other native fish, on the lower Stanislaus River. The Project will grade approximately 4.5 acres of seasonally inundated rearing habitat, consisting of a side channel with incorporated floodplain benches within the Mohler Tract of the San Joaquin River national Wildlife Refuge.

Approximately 52,000 cubic yards (CY) of material will be removed within a 4.5-acre footprint to create the seasonal side channel and floodplain. The constructed features will function under a variety of flow conditions present on the lower Stanislaus River and will support a variety of ecological services, including salmonid rearing and riparian habitats. Site designs may incorporate the use of large wood structures, such as trees with root wads, obtained from within the on-site excavation footprint to create habitat complexity within the floodplain and side channel areas.

Approximately 2,600 CY of concrete rubble will be removed from the north bank of the Stanislaus River within the site. Construction is anticipated to occur during the summer low flow period which would not require in-water work to remove the concrete rubble. Removed concrete rubble and excavated sediment will be hauled to designated spoils areas within the Project site.

The Project will require the operation of construction equipment, such as rubber-tired front-end loaders, excavators, articulated haulers, bulldozers, skid-steers, and scrapers. The clearing and grubbing will be performed by excavator, bulldozer, and skid-steer with a masticator attachment. The sediment removed to create the side channels and floodplains will be excavated by an excavator. An off-road haul truck will transport the sediment and offload it at the spoils areas. The large wood structures will be constructed by an excavator with a thumb. The final grading of the side channel and floodplain benches will be performed by excavator and bulldozer.

Staging areas will be restricted to designated locations in the Project area that will avoid any significant impacts to sensitive natural resources. Existing roads will be used where possible, but temporary access roads will need to be cut through riparian areas to reach the off-channel grading area and spoil locations. Construction activities will be sequenced such that connections between the side channel entrance and exit and the main channel will occur near the end of the earthwork activities to limit water flowing through the site until construction is near completion. Apart from connection of the side

channel entrance and exit, there is no expected need for construction activities to occur within the Stanislaus River.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include grading to establish side channel and floodplain rearing habitat. The Project will temporarily impact 0.32 acre of riparian habitat and permanently impact 0.42 acre of forested wetland habitat. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-Project condition. Forested Wetland habitat within the Project area is expected to increase post project as a result of the restoration actions.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located along the Lower Stanislaus River, near the City of Ripon.

Latitude: 37.718697°, Longitude: -121.149183°

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

April 2026 through October 2026.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

\$1,123.00 was received on 5 January 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 D - Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Projects (fee code 85) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT:

On 5 March 2026, the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District, as lead agency for the Mohler Tract Salmonid Restoration Project, adopted the State Water Resources Control Board's Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2019100230 for the Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO) and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on 10 March 2026 under the SRGO PEIR for the Project.

The Central Valley Water Board is a responsible agency under CEQA (Public Resources Code, section 21069) and has reviewed, considered, and finds that the PEIR addresses the Project's impacts within the scope of the Board's jurisdiction and that no additional environmental review is required. (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096, subdivision (f), 15162, 15163.)

REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Permittee shall follow notification and reporting requirements described in this Notice of Applicability (NOA), and those found in Attachment D of the Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, unless specified as an optional requirement and excluded from this NOA.

1. Annual Reporting

The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year within one month of the effective month of this Notice of Applicability. Annual reporting shall continue until

the active discharge period is complete and the project enters the post-construction monitoring phase where upon the Permittee shall annually submit a Post-Construction Monitoring Report (Report Type 2) The Post-Construction Monitoring Report shall be submitted on the anniversary of the date that the project restoration activities were completed.

The Annual Report and Post Construction Monitoring Report shall include the information specified in Attachment D, Part A of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment D of Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ and email it to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov and cc Nicholas Savino at Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov.

2. Notification for In-Water Work and Diversions

The project proponent shall notify the 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. Within three (3) working days following completion of work in water or stream diversions, an In-Water Work and Diversions Water Quality Monitoring Report must be submitted to the Water Board.

3. Water Quality Monitoring Plan for In-Water Work or Diversions

A Water Quality Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the approving Water Board for acceptance at least thirty (30) days in advance of commencement of project activity. Standards for in-water work or diversions are discussed in General In-Water Measures, specifically IWW-6, presented in Attachment A. The Permittee shall comply with the approving Water Board-specific water quality control plan water quality objectives and reporting requirements.

4. Environmental Monitoring

Per General Protection Measure 5 (GPM-5) of the Order, a resource specialist shall ensure that all applicable protective measures are implemented during project construction. The resource specialist shall have authority to stop any work if they determine that any permit requirement is not fully implemented. The resource specialist shall prepare and maintain a monitoring log of construction site conditions and observations, which will be kept on file.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION:

The Applicant shall obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended for discharges to surface waters comprised of storm water associated with construction activity, including, but not limited to, demolition, clearing, grading, excavations, and other land disturbance activities of one or more acres, or where projects disturb less

than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

Upon completion of the Project, you shall submit a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after Project completion. The NOC shall demonstrate the Project was carried out in accordance with the Project description, include a map of the Project location with final boundaries of the restoration area, and include post-project photographs. More information on the NOC is listed in section B.6 of the Order.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Nicholas Savino by phone at (916) 464-4920 or by email at Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters
For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments: Project Maps

cc: [Via email only]

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CWA Section 401 WQC Program
State Water Resources Control Board
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Figure 1: Project Location

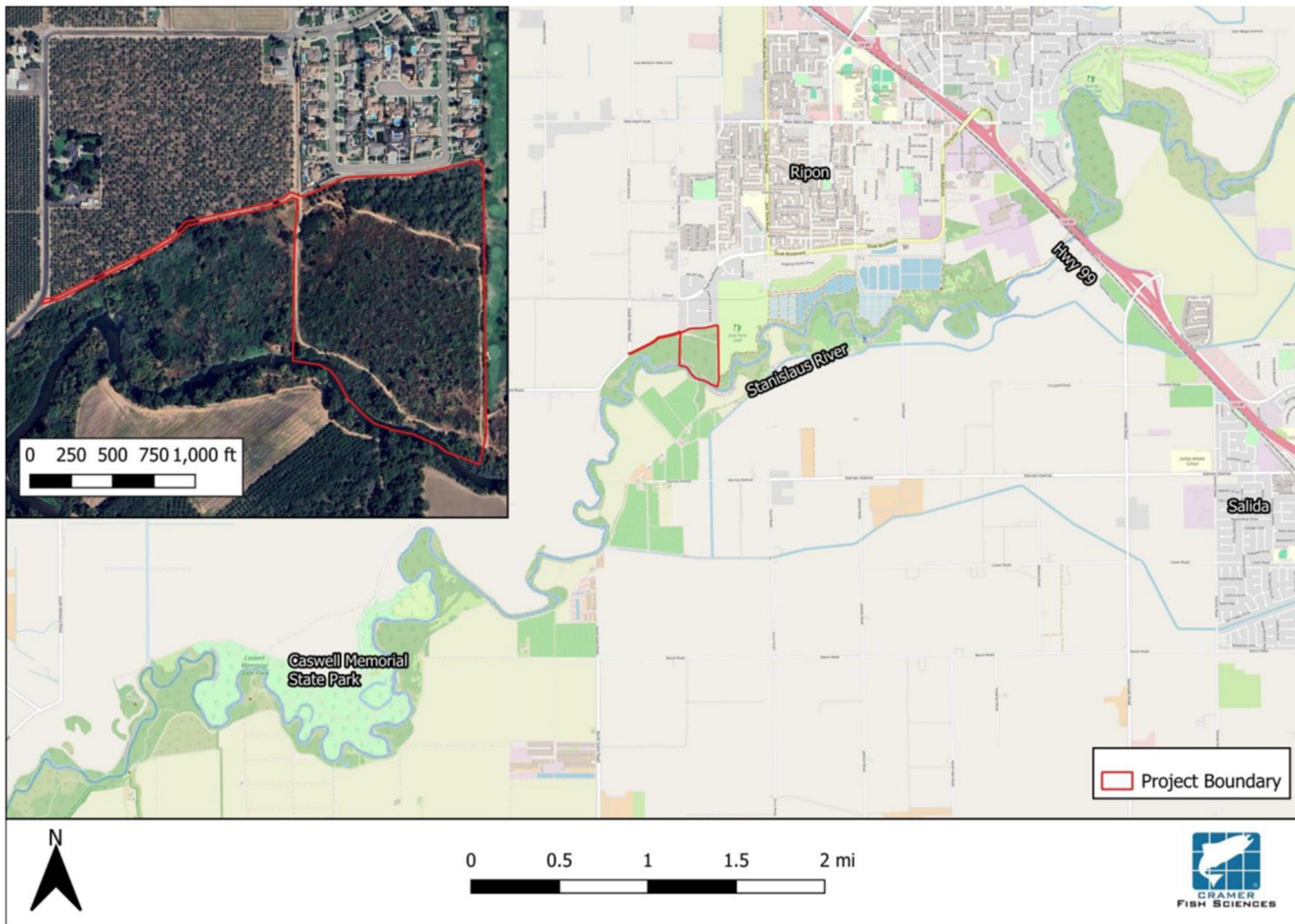


Figure 2: Project Design

