
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 April 2026

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, ORDER FOR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS STATEWIDE, POWERHOUSE RIFFLES RESTORATION PROJECT (WDID#5B50CR00132), STANISLAUS COUNTY

On 11 December 2025, Turlock Irrigation 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 9 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: **9 January 2026**
Date all requested information was received: **16 March 2026**

The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Powerhouse Riffles 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 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 Coverage under the Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 purpose of the 28-acre Project is to improve salmonid spawning and rearing habitat along a 2,500-foot stretch of the Lower Tuolumne River below the La Grange Dam. The Project will add approximately 25,000 cubic yards of clean, imported gravel to the Tuolumne River and create approximately 4.8 acres of new gravel features. Existing cascades, steep riffles, and pools will be replaced with spawning riffles, gravel bars, habitat boulders, and large wood features that are anticipated to promote channel complexity and improve rearing habitat.

The design approach is to redistribute the steep slopes of the existing riffles into three longer, more gently sloped riffle and bar complexes: Complex A2, Complex A3, and Complex A4. Each complex will work to incrementally raise the water surface elevation by increasing the elevation of each upstream riffle crest. Each complex will also include boulders and large woody material that will provide additional channel complexity, velocity diversity, and habitat for fish. The gravel bars have been designed to increase river sinuosity and hydraulic complexity, and to remain stable for up to five-year high flow events. Project riffles were designed to be mobile and provide appropriate spawning substrate for salmonids.

Work will occur while the Tuolumne River is flowing. Heavy equipment will be used to place gravel and cobble in the channel. Access to the new riffle and bar features will be accomplished by expanding the existing access road and by placing gravel into the Tuolumne River channel. The construction approach is to have heavy equipment place gravel into the channel, then place heavy equipment on top of the newly placed gravel to place the next gravel load, thus working out into the river while keeping equipment from becoming inundated. Gravel placement and in-water work activities are expected to cause temporary increases in turbidity.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include placing spawning gravel, woody materials, and boulders into the Tuolumne River. These activities will permanently impact approximately 6 acres of the Tuolumne River. These actions are expected to enhance the functions and ecological services of the existing river habitat and will not result in a loss of Waters of the State.

Gravel placement will convert approximately 1.5 acres of existing wetland habitat adjacent to the Tuolumne River into spawning riffles and gravel bars. Due to the lack of existing spawning habitat in the area, and the lack incoming spawning material from upstream sources, conversion of wetland habitat to spawning habitat is warranted and will provide an ecological benefit to endangered salmonids. Conversion of wetland habitat to spawning habitat will not result in a loss of Waters of the State.

Expansion of the existing access road will result in temporary impacts to approximately 0.2 acres of wetland habitat. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-Project condition in accordance with the Powerhouse Riffles Restoration Project Wetland Restoration Plan.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Temporary Impacts¹

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Linear Feet
Wetland	0.167	294

Table 2: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Permanent Impacts

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Linear Feet
Stream Channel	5.88	2,165
Wetland	1.48	1,261

Table 3: Total Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Quantity

Aquatic Resources Type	Enhanced	Established
Stream Channel	5.88	1.48

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located upstream of the La Grange Bridge and downstream of the La Grange Dam along the Tuolumne River.

Latitude: 37.665033°, Longitude: -120.444567°.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

June 2026 through November 2027

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

\$1,123.00 was received on 7 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:

The Central Valley Water Board has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061.

¹ Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include area of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state. Temporary impacts, by definition, are restored to pre-project conditions and therefore do not include a physical loss of area or degradation of ecological condition.

Specifically, the Central Valley Water Board has determined that the issuance of this Order is exempt by the CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided concurrence that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA by the CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Division 13, section 21080.56 on 16 March 2026.

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 anniversary of the effective date 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. An In-Water Work and Diversion Water Quality Monitoring Report shall be submitted within one week on initiation of in-water construction, and every week thereafter.

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

The Permittee shall adhere to the Water Quality Monitoring Plan submitted for the Project. 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 Central Valley Water Board's 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

cc: Distribution List, page 6

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location
Figure 2: Project Design
Figure 3: Project Impacts

DISTRIBUTION LIST
[Via email only]

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Figure 1: Project Location

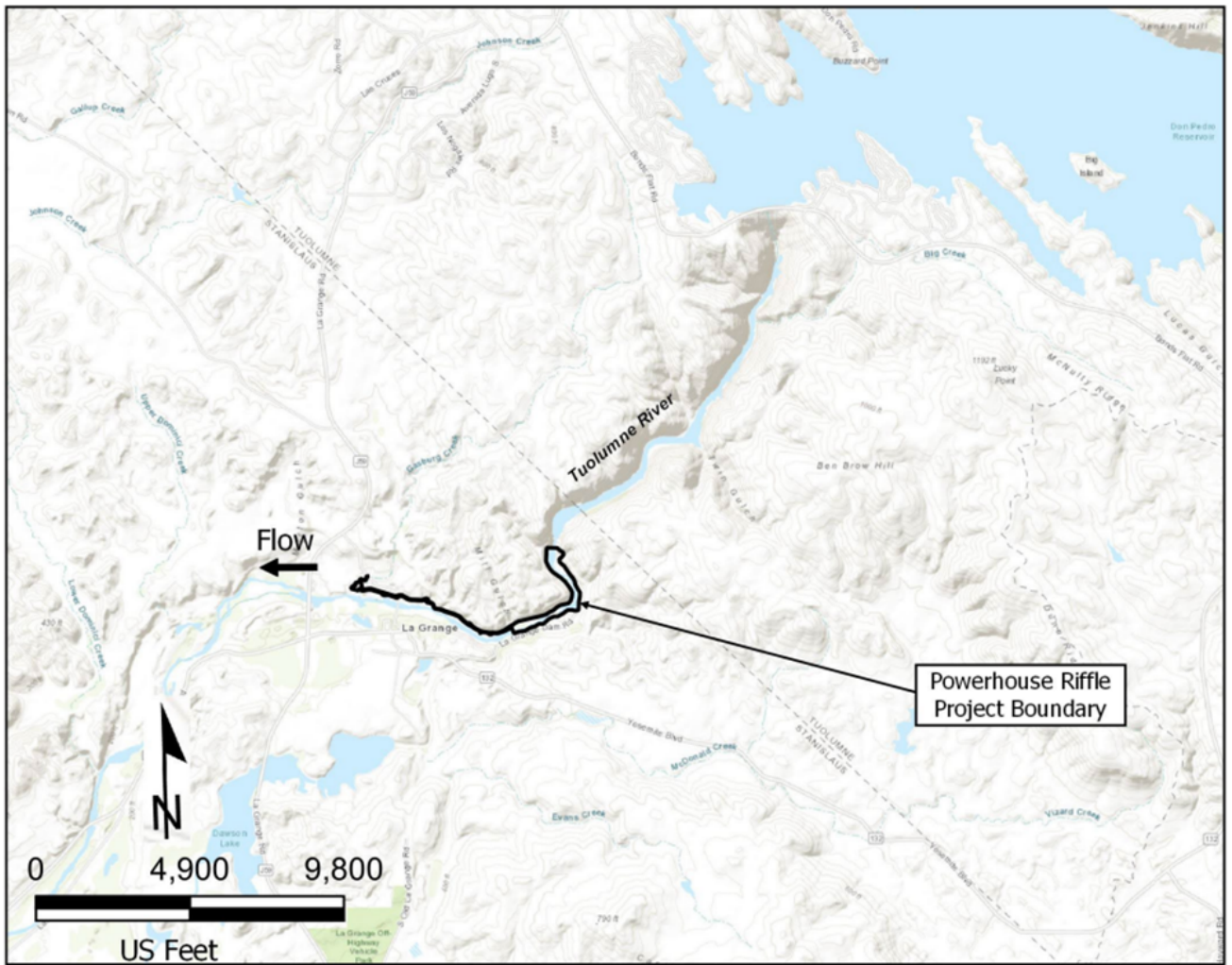


Figure 2: Project Design

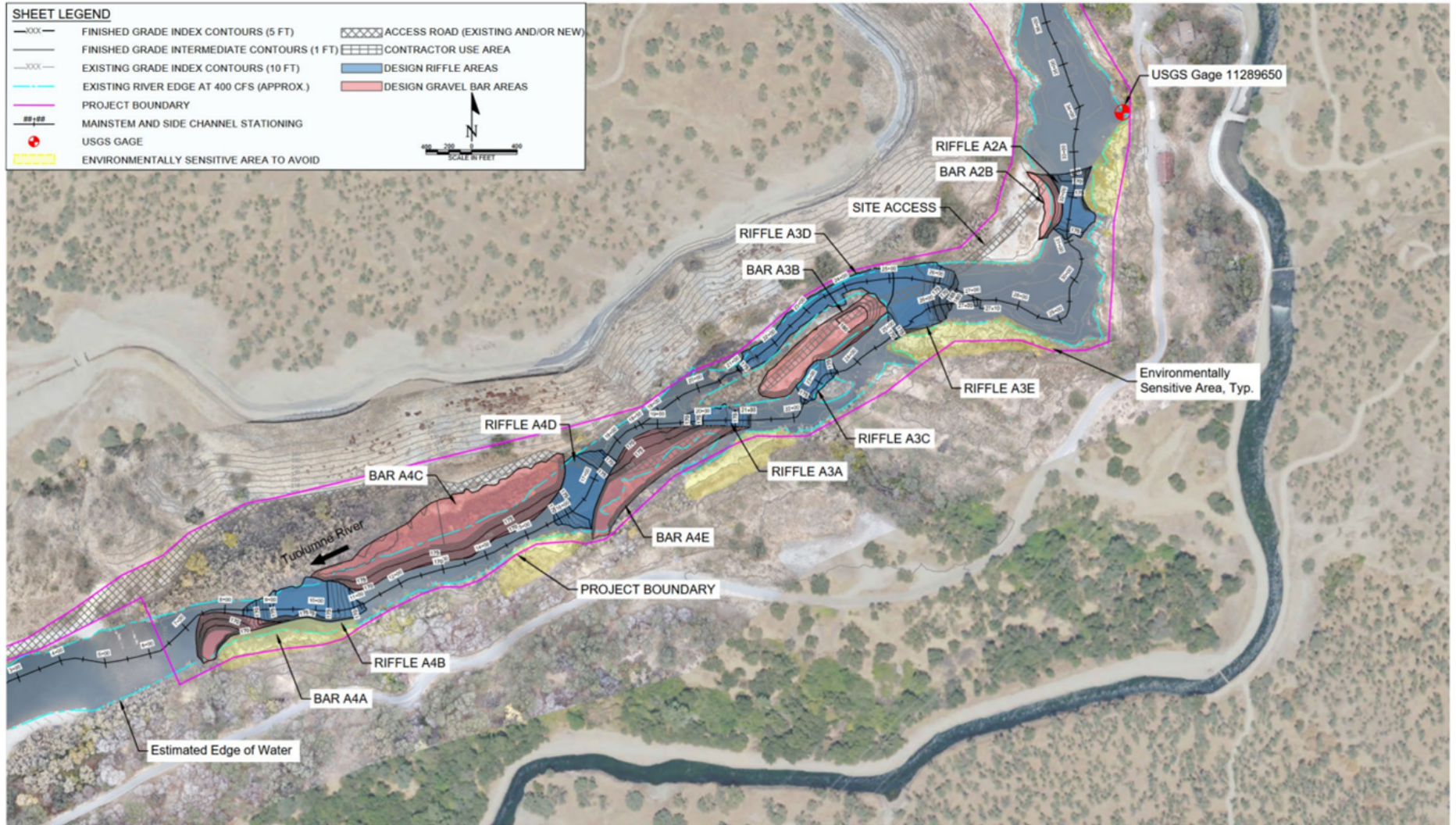


Figure 3: Project Impacts

