



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

21 February 2024

Cicely Muldoon
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite Village, CA 95389

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER ORDER SB12006GN,
AMENDED ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER
QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR SMALL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS,
RANGER STATION MEADOW TRAIL REROUTE AND MEADOW RESTORATION
PROJECT (WDID#5B55CR00181), TUOLUMNE COUNTY**

On 5 February 2024, the National Park Service submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll under and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. SB12006GN, *Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects*.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed your enrollment materials and finds the Ranger Station Meadow Trail Reroute and Meadow Restoration Project (Project) meets the requirements of, and is hereby enrolled under, Order No. SB12006GN. You may proceed with your Project in accordance with the Order.

A copy of [Order SB12006GN](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/hrpcert032713.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/hrpcert032713.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage and is enclosed.

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Order No. SB12006GN. You are responsible for complying with all applicable Order requirements. Failure to comply with Order No. SB12006GN constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and may result in enforcement action or termination of enrollment under the Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The 3.06-acre Project implements part of the ecological restoration component of the Tuolumne River Plan. Ranger Meadow (Puppy Meadow) is bisected by a rutted, fragmented trail. Multiple trail ruts are damaging natural meadow hydrology, channeling water out of the meadow, and causing erosion and changes to plant communities and meadow function. This Project is located between the Tuolumne Ranger Station and the

Tuolumne River, and includes rerouting this section of trail out of the meadow to the southern edge of the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Road and would restore the old trail sections located in the meadow.

This Project addresses the following:

- Protect, maintain, and restore hydrologic/meadow function by reducing water channeling and erosion, and promoting sheet flow,
- Reduce meadow fragmentation,
- Enhance riparian complexes,
- Enhance federal listed threatened Yosemite toad critical habitat,
- Reduce erosion and water loss in wet meadows,
- Improve resistance to drought and global warming, and
- Increase trail sustainability through placement on durable surfaces, reducing resource damage and maintenance costs, and improve visitor experience.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include ecological restoration of shallow trails using the following potential techniques:

- Placing an obstruction and de-compacting the trail to prevent further damage,
- Salvaging existing plants along the trail,
- Removing the linear nature of trail edge, de-compacting and/or bringing rut up to grade, and discouraging use by placing obstructions and disguising old trail (a grip hoist may be used), and
- Replanting salvaged plants, scattering locally gathered seeds and duff, and watering plants with a solar powered water pump thereby eliminating new social trail development.

Native vegetation will be salvaged prior to tread work and restoration. Restoration of the old trail sections in Ranger Meadow would involve soil de-compaction and restoration of soil topography, the placement of nearby salvaged, small, coarse, woody debris to discourage use of the closed trail, and revegetation with native plants. Temporary signs directing visitors to "Give Plants a Chance" and avoid the closed restoration area would be placed for up to 2-3 seasons. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is anticipated to be 12 inches below surface.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.75 acre/430 linear feet of wetland. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-Project condition.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located between the Tuolumne Ranger Station and the Tuolumne River at Yosemite National Park in Tuolumne County. The approximate center of the Project

area is located at latitude 37.876591° and longitude -119.343757°.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

June 2024 through October 2024

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.

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 Jenna Yang by phone at (916) 464-4764 or by email at Jenna.Yang@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters for:

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File # SB12006GN

Attachment: Figure 1 – Project Location and Impacts Map

cc: [Via email only]

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Figure 1: Project Location and Impacts Map

