
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

12 November 2025

Craig Geldard
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
3580 E California Avenue
Fresno, CA 93702

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, GARNET FIRE ROAD WINTERIZATION EMERGENCY PROJECT (WDID# 5C10CR00103), FRESNO COUNTY

On 16 October 2025, the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 1 August 2023 State Water Resources Control Board 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 Garnet Fire Road Winterization Emergency (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 0.0046 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 16 October 2025, 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 Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.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 two damaged culverts (crossings #2 and #4) to prevent further erosion and ensure continued access to transmission facilities. Construction activities include water diversion to facilitate replacement of the culverts.

Project elements that affect aquatic resources include replacement and upsizing of culverts to stabilize flow and prevent further erosion. Erosion and sediment control measures are proposed as described in the application materials.

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Table 1. 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	0.0046		
Vernal Pool			
Wetland			

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located within the Sierra National Forest.

Crossing #2 - Latitude: 36.990279 Degrees and Longitude: -119.117514 Degrees

Crossing #4 - Latitude: 36.908842 Degrees and Longitude: -119.073099 Degrees

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The approximate timeframe of Project construction is November through December 2025, depending on the weather.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

The Project is being implemented as part of the Applicant's Wildfire Mitigation Plan therefore fees are not required. 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 H - Wildfire Mitigation by Electrical Corporations, Electric Utilities, and Electrical Cooperatives (fee code 19) 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 2 sampling parameters. The sampling requirements in Table 2 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 2: 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
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 conditions specified in this Notice of Applicability and email it to

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

centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov with a cc to Brandon Salazar at brandon.salazar@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is 5C10CR00103.

a. Notification for In-Water Work and Diversions

The Project proponent should 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.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Brandon Salazar at (559) 445-6287 or at Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original signed by Alex S. Mushegan

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: Via email only:

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