
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

23 June 2026

Carlos Gonzalez
Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AVENUE 174 FRIANT-KERN CANAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, (WDID# 5C54CR00170), TULARE COUNTY

On 26 March 2026, the Tulare County Resource Management Agency (Permittee or County of Tulare) filed a notification requesting coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State and Partial Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Partial Denial of the Corps' 2026 Nationwide Permits (Order No. WQ 2025-0066-DWQ)(General Order) for the Avenue 174 Friant-Kern Canal Bridge Replacement (Project). After reviewing 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 Order. The proposed activity will take place within less than 0.20 acres of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project permitted under United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 14, Linear Transportation Projects, 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 Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of the [General Order](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2026/nwp2026-general-order.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2026/nwp2026-general-order.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 Order. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the General Order, dated 26 March 2026, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage under the General Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The 0.2-acre Project consists of a two-span precast prestressed voided slab bridge superstructure supported on a pier wall and seat-type abutments. The pier wall would be built on a spread footing or cast-in-drilled-holes (CIDH) piling, and the abutments would be built on 24-inch CIDH pilings. The bridge would provide a 12-foot lane and eight (8) foot shoulder in each direction, would incorporate an open style bridge railing, and would be approximately 100 feet long. In addition, approach work would extend approximately 600 feet to the east and west of the bridge. The roadway approaches would be widened from the existing 20 feet to 40 feet to accommodate two 12-foot lanes and two eight (8) foot shoulders. The roadway profile would need to be raised to accommodate current freeboard requirements of two (2) feet above the canal high water elevation.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.19 acres/111 linear feet and permanently impact less than 0.01 acres/45 linear feet of stream channel aquatic resource. Temporarily impacted areas will be restored to pre-Project condition. The permanent impacts will occur over the footprint covered by existing concrete and would result in no new loss of aquatic resources. Thus, the permanent impacts are functionally equivalent to temporary impacts. For regulatory tracking purposes and for determining the need for compensatory mitigation, the 0.01 acres of permanent impacts will be considered temporary impacts for a Project total of 0.20 acres of temporary impacts. Since none of the impacts will be considered permanent, no compensatory mitigation is required.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located north of the City of Porterville, approximately 0.8 miles west of State Route 65. The approximate center of the Project area is located at latitude 36.1056 degrees and longitude -119.0589 degrees.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The Project is anticipated to be initiated in October 2026 and to be completed in November 2027.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$4,212.00 was received on 26 March 2026. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(4) and was calculated as Category A - Fill & Excavation Discharges (fee code 84) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

An additional fee of \$2,921.00 based on total Project impacts was received on 15 June 2026.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION:

1. **Annual Reporting:** The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year on the 1st day of the month, one year after the effective date of this Notice of Applicability. Annual reporting shall continue until the Central Valley Water Board issues a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee.

The Annual Report shall include the information specified in Attachment B, Part A of Order No. WQ 2025-0066-DWQ. The Permittee shall submit the report in accordance with the report submittal instructions in Attachment B of Order No. WQ 2025-0066-DWQ and email it to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov with a cc to Ernesto P. Garcia at Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov. The WDID No. for this Project is 5C54CR00170.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Ernesto P. Garcia at (559) 445-6126 or at Ernesto.Garcia@waterboards.ca.gov.

Digitally signed by Alex S. Mushegan
for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: Via email only:

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