San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

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February 10, 2026

RM 463842
Place ID 904811
WDID# 2 CW463842

Valerie Pierce
1200 Nuns Canyon Road
Glen Ellen, CA 95442
Email: vlpmjs3@gmail.com

Subject: Notice of Applicability (NOA) for Enrollment of Pierce Bank Stabilization Project under the Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (File No. SB12006GN), Sonoma County

Dear Ms. Pierce:

On January 14, 2026, Valerie Pierce (Permittee) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to enroll the Pierce Erosion Control Project (Project) for coverage under the subject General Water Quality Certification (General Certification). On January 15, 2026, we received the full application fee of $1,123 (Fee Category D – *Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Projects*). On January 28, 2026, we received additional information needed to complete the NOI.

Project

The Project will construct a root wad revetment and log vane along the toe of an 82-foot-long eroding stretch of Calabazas Creek (Creek) at Nuns Canyon Road (38.399733, -122.508600) and install fabric-reinforced earth fill above the revetment to rebuild the bank and provide a stable planting medium. High-velocity flows and an upstream log jam, a result of the 2017 Nuns Fire altering channel conditions, are scouring the left bank and threatening the property above it. The Project's objectives are to redirect flows towards the center of the channel, create a stable bank that can withstand anticipated future flows, and enhance habitat value both in-stream and on the bank.

Project work activities will include the following:

1. Excavate approximately 31 cubic yards of streambank soil along the eroding bank to make space for placement of three redwood logs with attached root wads. The logs will be keyed into the streambank and anchored to boulders with threaded rebar and

epoxy adhesive, and additional boulders will be installed between the root wads to stabilize them.

2. Attach an 18-inch-diameter redwood log across the three root wads by bolting it to them, to provide additional anchoring. Install a line of two-ton rocks into the toe of the streambank.
3. Install a redwood log vane directly upstream of the root wad revetment to direct flows back towards the center of the channel. The log vane will be anchored by two boulders and tied into the toe of the bank, angling up to the top of the bank.
4. Place fabric-reinforced earth fill above the 18-inch-diameter redwood log to rebuild the streambank, and revegetate the area with native plants including alders, sedges and rushes. Container plants will be installed in-between rock rip rap.
5. Create an insectary mound with the soil spoils from bank excavation to protect the property from any additional debris washing up. The mound will be approximately 800 square feet and located upslope of the streambank. The mound will be compacted, treated with seed and coir erosion blanket, and held together with wooden stakes.
6. All site access and equipment staging will take place in the driveway and side yard of the Permittee. Temporary erosion control measures, such as straw wattles and erosion control fabric will be installed to prevent the transport of sediment and other wastes into the waterway.
7. If dewatering is necessary, a qualified biologist will supervise the installation of cofferdams upstream and downstream of the project site, and lead fish relocation efforts.
8. All temporarily disturbed areas will be returned to pre-project conditions. Project completion is planned for October 2026, and construction is anticipated to occur over a 2-month span.

Impacts

During Project implementation, ground-disturbing activities may impact water quality by increasing erosion and sedimentation and discharging debris and other waste materials if appropriate best management practices (BMPs) are not implemented.

The Project will permanently impact approximately 0.03 acre of riparian habitat through the installation of the fabric reinforced earth fill and insectary mound, and 0.006 acre of creek through the placement of rock rip rap.

Mitigation

During construction activities, the Permittee will prevent impacts to waters of the State by implementing appropriate and effective BMPs as described in the NOI and as specified in this NOA. These BMPs include, but are not limited to: (1) installing temporary erosion control measures, such as erosion control matting and wattles; (2) minimizing disturbance to riparian vegetation and the aquatic habitat to the greatest extent possible by confining construction staging to the landowner's driveway and side yard;

(3) restricting the use of heavy machinery to above the top of bank; and (4) employing a qualified biologist if dewatering is necessary to supervise dewatering and fish relocation.

The Project will result in temporary and permanent impacts, but with implementation of measures described herein and, in the NOI, adverse effects to waters of the State are not anticipated. The Project's temporary impacts will be mitigated by returning all disturbed areas to pre-project conditions, or better. Permanent impacts will be mitigated by the Permittee through the Project's riparian habitat improvements and bank stabilization detailed in the Habitat Restoration Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (HRMMP) titled, *Monitoring Plan Pierce Bank Stabilization Project* (PCI Ecological, January 2026). The Project will improve in-stream habitat quality through the addition of three root wads, enhance the biotic and structural integrity of the riparian habitat, reduce long-term erosion and sediment delivery to the Creek by restoring bank stability, and revegetate with native riparian species. Overall, the Project will provide an ecological uplift to the Watershed's riparian creek bank and aquatic habitat.

Conditions

The Water Board Executive Officer finds that the Project meets the eligibility criteria and is hereby conditionally authorized for coverage under the General Certification. The following conditions are associated with this Notice of Applicability (NOA):

1. The Project shall be constructed in conformance with the Project description provided in the NOI. The Permittee shall fully comply with engineering plans, specifications, and technical reports submitted in the NOI or required as part of this NOA. Any changes to information provided in the NOI must be submitted to the Water Board and receive Executive Officer approval before the changes are implemented.

2. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall be minimized. The site shall be stabilized through incorporation of appropriate BMPs, including the successful re-establishment of native vegetation to enhance wildlife habitat values, and to prevent and control erosion.

3. No equipment shall be operated in stream channels or other waters where there is flowing or standing water. Fueling, cleaning, or maintenance of vehicles or equipment during construction shall not take place within any areas where an accidental discharge to waters of the State may occur.

4. No unauthorized construction-related materials or wastes shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where they may be washed by rainfall or runoff into waters of the State. When construction is completed, any excess material shall be removed from the work area and any areas adjacent to the work area where such material may be discharged to waters of the State.

5. The Permittee shall submit a Start of Construction Report at least seven days prior to start of initial ground disturbance activities. The Report shall reference **SOC_463842_Pierce Bank Stabilization** and shall be sent via email to RB2-401Reports@waterboards.ca.gov and nicholas.regent@waterboards.ca.gov, or by mail to the attention of 401 Certifications Reports (see address on the letterhead).

6. Per Condition B.6 of the General Certification, the Permittee shall submit a Notice of Project Construction Completion, acceptable to the Executive Officer, no later than 30 days after completing Project construction activities. The Notice shall include the date Project construction activities were completed, an As-Built Report, and reference **NOC_463842_Pierce Bank Stabilization**. The Notice shall be sent via email to RB2-401Reports@waterboards.ca.gov and nicholas.regent@waterboards.ca.gov, or by mail to the attention of 401 Certifications Reports (see address on the letterhead).

7. The Permittee shall restore all areas of temporary impacts to waters of the State and all upland areas temporarily impacted that could result in a discharge to waters of the State in accordance with the NOI and incorporated herein by reference.

8. To mitigate for 0.036 ac of permanent impacts to waters of the State, the Permittee shall implement the Habitat Restoration Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (HRMMP) titled, *Monitoring Plan Pierce Bank Stabilization Project* (PCI Ecological, January 2026). The Project shall stabilize the 82-foot-long eroding bank with a redwood revetment and fabric-reinforced earth fill, and revegetate the area with alders, sedges and rushes. Soil spoils from the excavation of the streambank shall be used to create an insectary mound to provide additional protection from flood debris, and the mound shall be seeded and stabilized with coir fabric and wooden stakes.

9. To verify that the Project is performing as intended, the Permittee shall monitor the Project site annually for a minimum of five years to verify that the vegetation is successfully established as described in the HRMMP titled, *Monitoring Plan Pierce Bank Stabilization Project* (PCI Ecological, January 2026).The annual performance criteria shall be the following:

   Vegetation Cover (herbaceous plants and willows)

   Year 1: At least 10 percent total vegetation cover
   Year 2: At least 25 percent total vegetation cover
   Year 3: At least 50 percent total vegetation cover
   Year 4: At least 70 percent total vegetation cover
   Year 5: At least 85 percent total vegetation cover

   Tree and shrubs (not including willows)

   Year 1: At least 95 percent survival
   Year 2: At least 95 percent survival
   Year 3: At least 90 percent survival
   Year 4: At least 90 percent survival
   Year 5: At least 85 percent survival
   In addition, invasive plant species shall not comprise greater than ten percent of vegetation in any year. Invasive plants shall be defined as species rated "high" or included as "red alert" species by the California Invasive Plant Council and species rated "high priority" by the Bay Area Early Detection Network.

Estimates of vegetation cover or percent survival can include natural recruitment. Irrigation should be discontinued as soon as possible and plantings shall be irrigated no more than two years after vegetation installation.

If the performance criteria are not achieved, the Permittee shall, in consultation with the Water Board and other appropriate agencies, undertake an evaluation that identifies corrective actions, and implement corrective actions upon receiving written acceptance by the Executive Officer. Further, the monitoring period shall be extended until the final performance criteria are achieved.

10. To verify that the Project is performing as intended, annual assessments of creek stability shall be performed by a qualified professional for a minimum of five years as described in the HRMMP titled, *Monitoring Plan Pierce Bank Stabilization Project* (PCI Ecological, January 2026). These assessments shall be performed through the Project site and 100 feet upstream and downstream. Monitoring shall be conducted at approximately the same time annually during the low flow summer season and shall consist of photo-documentation and visual inspections to assess whether the Project is functioning as intended. The performance criterion shall be no erosion or sedimentation that threatens water quality or property.

    If performance criteria are not achieved, the Permittee shall, in consultation with the Water Board and other appropriate agencies, undertake an evaluation that identifies the cause of the excessive erosion and/or sedimentation, and develop corrective actions to ensure channel stability. The evaluation of the cause of failure shall include, but not be limited to, the results from the current and previously performed geomorphic assessments, storm event data, and topographic surveys. The Permittee shall implement all corrective actions identified in the evaluation upon receiving written acceptance by the Executive Officer. Further, the monitoring period shall be extended until performance criteria are achieved.

11. The Permittee shall submit annual monitoring reports, acceptable to the Executive Officer, by January 31 following each monitoring year. The first monitoring year commences in the calendar year after completing the Project. <u>At the time of this Order, the Project completion is anticipated in 2026. Therefore, monitoring shall begin in 2027, and the first annual monitoring report shall be submitted by January 31, 2028, unless the Project is completed at a different time.</u> Each annual report shall summarize each year's monitoring results, including the need for, and implementation of, any adaptive management actions needed to help meet the performance criteria. The annual reports shall compare data to previous monitoring years and describe progress towards meeting final performance criteria. The Permittee shall implement all remedial measures upon receiving written acceptance by the Executive Officer, and not before.

12. The final monitoring report shall document if the site meets the final performance criteria. If the final criteria are not met, the Permittee shall, in consultation with the Water Board and appropriate agencies, identify remedial measures to be undertaken, including extending the monitoring and reporting period until the criteria are met. The Permittee shall implement all remedial measures identified upon receiving written

acceptance by the Executive Officer. Success of the mitigation program shall be determined by, and acceptable to, the Executive Officer.

13. Annual monitoring reports shall reference **AMR_463842_Pierce Bank Stabilization** and shall be submitted via email to rb2-401reports@waterboards.ca.gov and Nicholas.Regent@waterboards.ca.gov , or by mail to the attention of 401 Certifications Reports (see the address on the letterhead).

14. Within 30 days of successfully achieving the Project's final monitoring performance criteria, the Permittee shall submit, acceptable to the Executive Officer, a Notice of Mitigation Monitoring Completion notifying the Water Board that the Project has been completed. The Notice shall include the date the construction was completed, the date the project monitoring indicated successful completion, and shall be submitted via email to rb2-401reports@waterboards.ca.gov and Nicholas.Regent@waterboards.ca.gov, or by mail to the attention of 401 Certifications Reports. This notification shall reference **NMMC_463842_Pierce Bank Stabilization.**

15. In accordance with 23 CCR section 2200, the Permittee shall pay an annual fee to the Water Board each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) until Project construction activities are completed and an acceptable Notice of Project Completion is received by the Water Board. If monitoring is required, the Permittee shall pay an annual fee to the Water Board until monitoring activities are completed, and an acceptable Notice of Project Completion is received by the Water Board. Annual fees will be automatically invoiced to the Permittee.

    The Permittee must notify the Water Board at Project and monitoring completion with a final report to request to terminate annual invoicing. The Notification (NOT) shall reference **NOT_463842_Pierce Bank Stabilization** and shall be sent to rb2-401reports@waterboards.ca.gov and Nicholas.Regent@waterboards.ca.gov. Water Board staff will verify conditions of the General Certification have been met and may request a site visit at that time to confirm the Project's status and compliance with this General Certification.

If you have any questions, please contact Nick Regent of my staff by email to Nicholas.Regent@waterboards.ca.gov or at (510) 622-2328.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Keith H. Lichten, Assistant Executive Officer
Date: 2026.02.10 17:18:22 -08'00'

Water Boards

for Eileen M. White, P.E.
Executive Officer

cc: SWRCB, DWQ, stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov
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