

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706

INTENT TO RELY ON NEPA DOCUMENT

Project Title: Ahwahnee Meadow Ecological Restoration Project

Project Location: Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park, Mariposa County, CA 95389

Project Description: The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to complete the Ahwahnee Meadow Ecological Restoration Project in Yosemite National Park. The project will restore the Ahwahnee Meadow to natural meadow conditions and protect native California black oaks by removing an abandoned road, restoring the roadbed to natural meadow conditions, and filling drainage ditches within the meadow with native meadow soil.

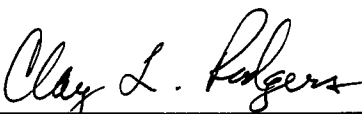
In connection with this project, the NPS has applied for Clean Water Act section 404 permit coverage under Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 27. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires a section 404 permit applicant to obtain a state certification that the resulting discharge will comply with water quality standards (Water Quality Certification). The NPS applied to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) for such a Water Quality Certification, the issuance of which is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The NPS, as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and circulated it for public comment. Based on the EIS and the comments received, Christine S. Lehnertz, Regional Director, Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, approved a Record of Decision (ROD) for the proposed project on 4 September 2014.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15220 and following, the Central Valley Water Board, as Lead Agency under CEQA, has determined that the EIS prepared by NPS meets the requirements of CEQA. Accordingly, the Central Valley Water Board proposes to use the EIS instead of preparing a separate CEQA document. This public notice is being circulated pursuant to section 15225 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The EIS and ROD are available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/planning.htm>.

Anyone having questions on this proposed action should contact Debra Mahnke at (559) 445-6281 or at debra.mahnke@waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone who would be interested in this matter.



CLAY L. RODGERS, Assistant Executive Officer

Dated: 8 August 2016