

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

NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELY ON NEPA DOCUMENT

Project Title: Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project

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

Project Description: The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to complete the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project in Yosemite National Park. The Project will remove existing parking from giant sequoia and wetland habitat and restore the area to natural conditions, improve hydrology related to roads by expanding culverts and re-sloping roads, remove the gift shop, reconfigure the South Entrance as a transit hub, remove tram operations, provide shuttle service from the new South Entrance, convert the Upper Grove loop road to a pedestrian trail, and improve universal accessibility.

In connection with this project, 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). 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).

NPS, as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project and circulated it for public comment. Based on the Environmental Impact Statement 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 10 December 2013.

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: 10 June 2015