
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 December 2013

Scott Flake
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
P.O. Box 15830
6201 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95852-0803

Duane A. Nelson
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ, STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT, IOWA HILL PUMPED STORAGE CORE DRILLING PROJECT, EL DORADO COUNTY

On 13 December 2013, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for discharges to land of recovering groundwater water from the Iowa Hill Pumped Storage Core Drilling Project.

The submittals contain all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order; therefore, the NOI is complete. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the proposed discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under General Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ-0052. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION

SMUD is constructing a pumped storage facility at Iowa Hill adjacent to the existing Slab Creek Reservoir within its Upper American River Project that will require geotechnical core borings. Exploratory rock coring will occur at two locations: one location on U.S. Department of Agricultural Forest Service lands near the Slab Creek Reservoir (Core No. 1 and Core No. 2); the other on property owned by SMUD near Iowa Hill (Core No. 3). The two coring locations are shown on Attachment A.

The recovered groundwater will be applied to four spray field zones, each approximately 113,650 square feet located in the Iowa Hill area of the City of Camino, El Dorado County, Section 30, Township 11 North, Range 11 East MDB&M. This portion of El Dorado County is within the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fourth Edition, revised October 2011 (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, contains implementation plans and policies for protecting waters of the basin, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Pursuant to §13263(a) of the California Water Code (CWC), waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Coring operations for Core No. 1 have begun, with Core No.2 and Core No. 3 to follow thereafter. The total drilling length of these borings is greater than 3,800 feet. Recovered groundwater will be collected and pumped into one of three 400-gallon recirculation tanks each equipped with a baffle system that works to settle out drill cuttings from the water. Drill cuttings and settled drilling mud will be removed from the tanks and stored in 55-gallon drums for off-site disposal at a permitted facility. Water will be decanted from the tanks and placed in open-top 2,000-gallon portable tanks. A flocculant will be used to assist in separating and settling out the cuttings from the water. Once the cuttings have settled, the water will then be pumped into a 4-inch main line for land discharge to spray field zones.

The discharge system is a spray field infiltration system, with an estimated application rate of 0.66 gallons per square foot per day. There are four zones; each zone consists of 200 feet of 2-inch pressurized spray pipe with twenty ¼-inch orifices per zone that would discharge approximately 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm). Three zones can be switched or regulated by ball valves to receive the decanted water. The spray zones will be located near the core holes as shown in Attachment B and C. Excess water may also be collected in a water truck for application to the access roads (Slab Creek Reservoir Road and Cable Road) for dust control, also shown on Attachment A.

The discharge will be intermittent and sporadic. Portions of the core hole may be sealed using 100 percent Portland cement during drilling operations to minimize continued groundwater intrusion. The discharge design is for 50 gpm; however, the average monthly volume anticipated is less than 10 gpm or 14,400 gallons per day.

The General Order and this Notice of Applicability (NOA) regulate the discharge of recovered groundwater from SMUD's Iowa Hill Pumped Storage Core Drilling Project to land owned by SMUD and the U.S. Department of Agricultural Forest Service.

DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Water generated from geotechnical core borings shall be disposed of as described in the NOI and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Discharge of water at a location or in a manner different from that described in the NOI is prohibited.
3. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.

4. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated. **SMUD must submit a Notice of Termination following completion of the discharge and before 30 June 2014 in order to avoid being billed for the annual fee for fiscal year 2014/2015.**
5. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including its monitoring and reporting requirements, and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

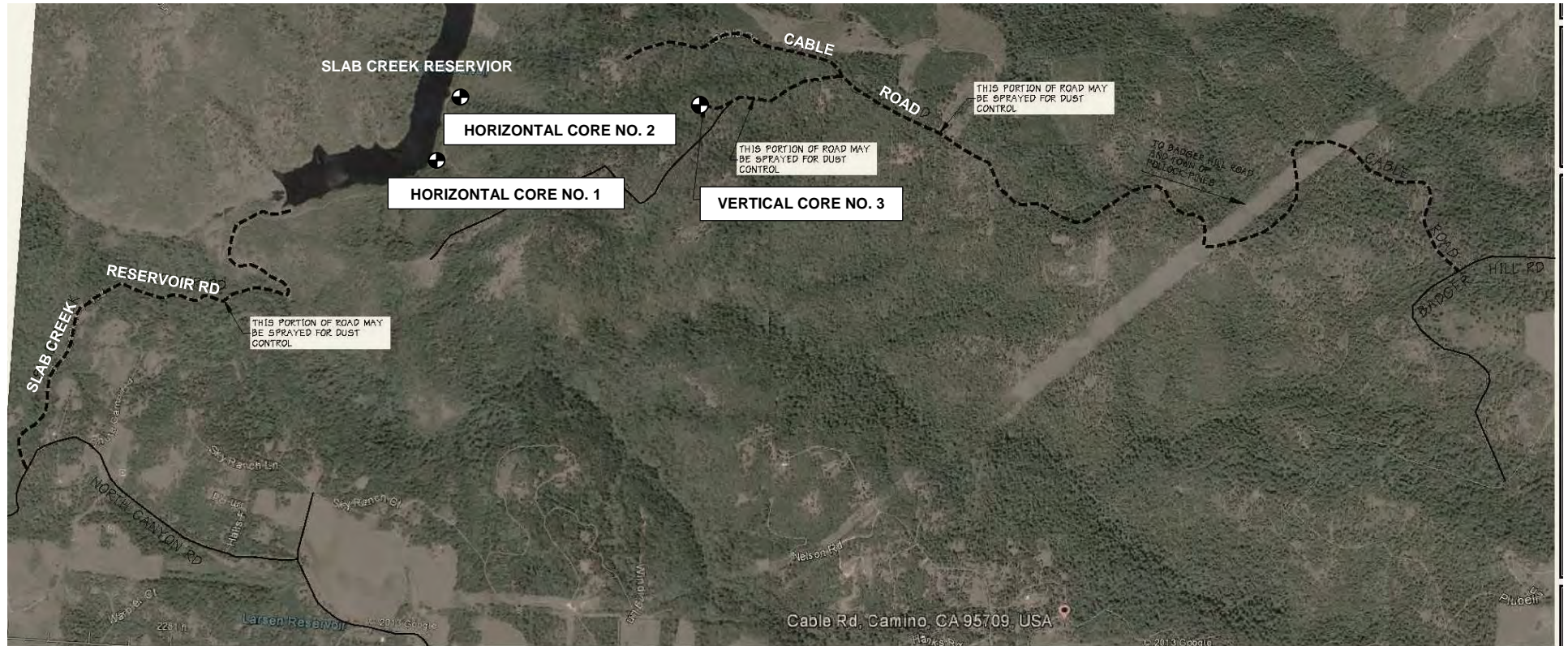
All questions regarding compliance and enforcement should be directed to Brendan Kenny at (916) 464-4635 or bkenny@waterboards.ca.gov. If you have any questions regarding this NOA, please contact Lani Andam at (916) 464-4723 or by email at landam@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original signed by Andrew Altevogt


PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Attachment A
Attachment B
Attachment C
Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality, Order 2003-0003-DWQ

cc w/o enc: WDR Program Manager, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento
County of Sacramento Environmental Management Department, Mather
El Dorado County Environmental Health Department, Placerville
Clint Schelbert, SMUD, Sacramento

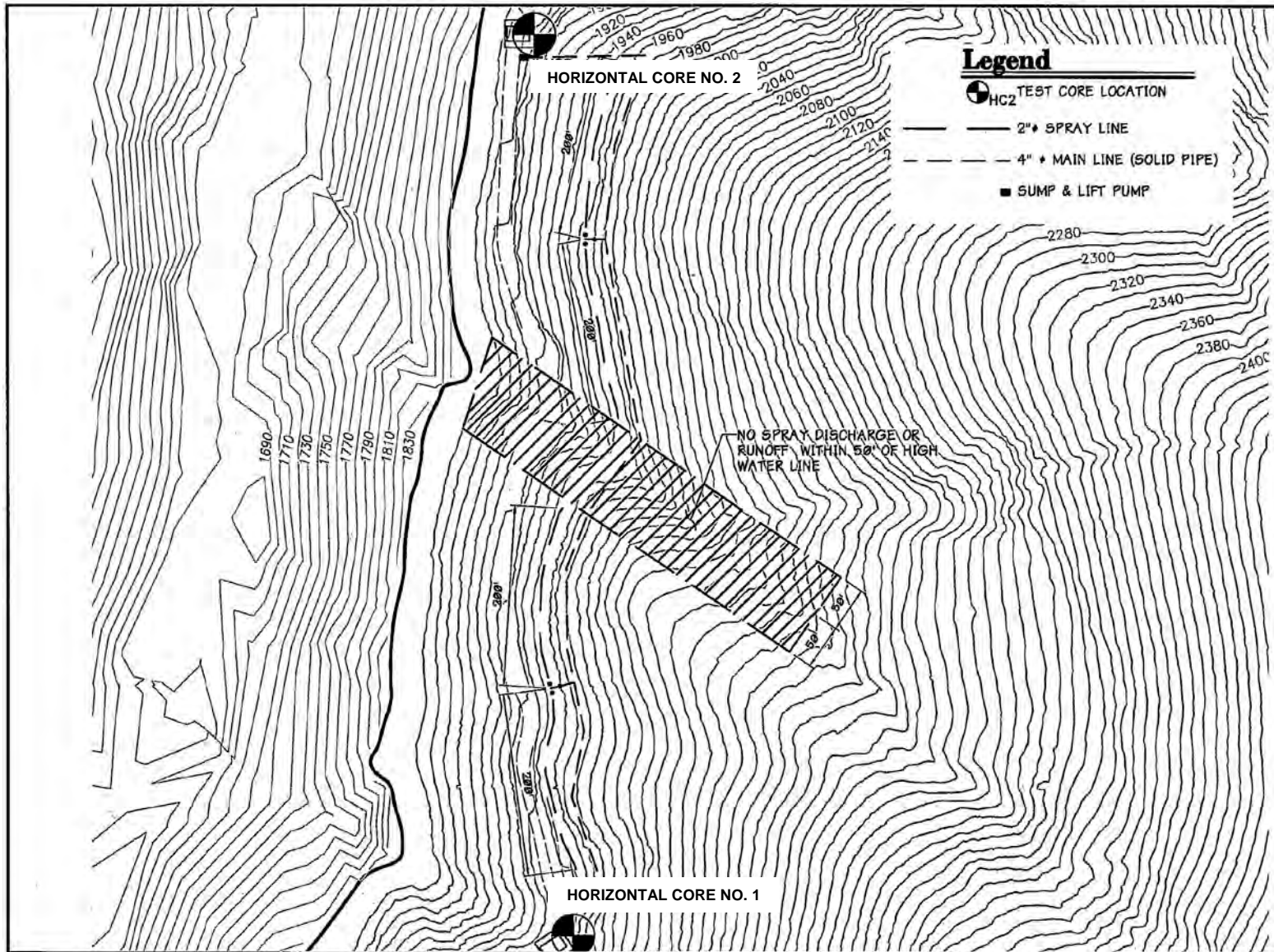


Approximate Scale
Not to Scale



Drawing Reference:
SMUD/Carlton Engineering, Inc.

PROJECT LOCATION SITE PLAN
SMUD – IOWA HILL CORE DRILLING PROJECT
CAMINO, CA

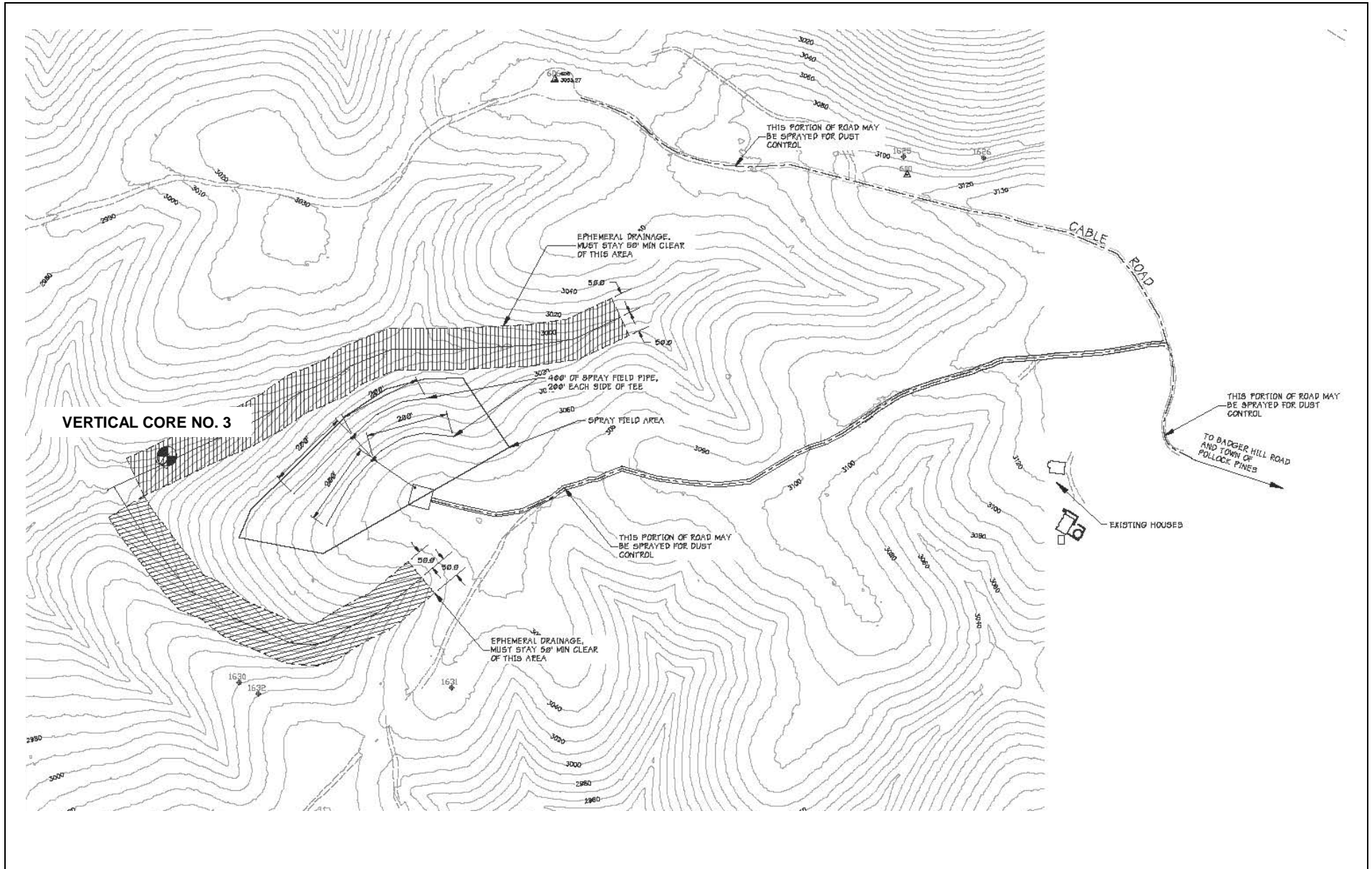


Approximate Scale
Not to Scale



Drawing Reference:
SMUD/Carlton Engineering, Inc.

CORE NO. 1 AND 2 SPRAY FIELD LOCATION PLAN
SMUD – IOWA HILL CORE DRILLING PROJECT
CAMINO, CA



Approximate Scale
Not to Scale



Drawing Reference:
SMUD/Carlton Engineering, Inc.

CORE NO. 3 SPRAY FIELD LOCATION PLAN
SMUD – IOWA HILL CORE DRILLING PROJECT
CAMINO, CA