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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
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10 November 2010

Mr. Gerald Wells
Hart Creek Estates Mutual Water Company
300 H Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2008-0182-004, APPROVING WAIVER OF REPORTS OF WASTE DISCHARGE AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF DISCHARGE WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION, HART CREEK ESTATES MUTUAL WATER COMPANY, KERN COUNTY

The Hart Creek Estates Mutual Water Company (Discharger) operates a residential water supply system and is proposing to periodically flush the system and the associated drinking water storage tanks with potable water to remove sediment that has accumulated within the system and storage tanks.

The proposed discharge meets the conditions of Resolution No. R5-2008-0182 *Approving Waiver of Reports of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Discharge within the Central Valley Region* (hereafter General Waiver). The discharge is hereby regulated by General Waiver No. R5-2008-0182.

PROJECT LOCATION

The water supply system serves about 50 residences in the Hart Creek Estates area, which is approximately five miles northwest of the City of Tehachapi, in eastern Kern County. The storage tanks and discharge point are on Assessors Parcel No. 505-070-23. This portion of Kern County is within the Tulare Lake Basin.

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition*, revised January 2004 (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve water quality objectives for all waters of the Basin.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Groundwater from two domestic wells (Wells #3 and #12) set into bedrock is pumped via a 4-inch PVC pipe line into two steel storage tanks and used to supply water to the Hart Creek Estates by gravity. Sediment builds up in the PVC pipeline and must be occasionally removed.

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The Discharger proposes to flush the pipeline on a quarterly basis using its own water and to discharge the resulting 800 to 1,600 gallons of potable water per event into a 6,000 gallon soil-lined sump.

Analytical data provided by the Discharger indicates iron concentrations in samples from wells #3 and #12 have ranged from about 300 to 1,300 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) or parts per billion, respectively. Manganese concentrations in wells #3 and #12 have ranged from about 50 to 77 $\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively. Iron and manganese concentrations in well #3 appear to be at their respective Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 300 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and 50 $\mu\text{g/L}$, while iron and manganese concentrations in well #12 exceed the MCLs for iron and manganese. However, the proposed discharge is not anticipated to degrade underlying groundwater because:

1. The concentrations of iron and manganese are naturally occurring in the bedrock aquifer from which the water is drawn;
2. The limited quantity (800 to 1600 gallons) and frequency (once every three months) of the discharge;
3. The Discharger is not adding mass to the aquifer, as the discharge will not add either constituent at levels greater than they currently exist; and
4. Well #12 provides only about half of the community's water flow (30 gallons per minute (gpm) for well #12 and 58 gpm for well #3) and the resulting iron and manganese concentrations in the discharge would be diluted.

Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Waiver and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

If you have any questions regarding this NOA or associated fees, please contact Jeff Pyle at (559) 445-5145 or by email at jpyle@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Clay Rodgers:

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosure: General Waiver No. R5-2008-0182

cc: Kern County Environmental Health Services
Kern County Planning and Community Development Department