

## INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER NO.  
GRANITE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY  
CAPAY AGGREGATE PLANT  
YOLO COUNTY

Granite Construction Company owns and operates an off-channel aggregate mine and aggregate processing plant along the north bank of Cache Creek near Esparto. The Discharger mines sand and gravel from the historical channel of Cache Creek, and is permitted to process up to 2.52 million tons per year. The site is protected from the 100-year flood by the existing stream channel banks and a small constructed embankment at the southeastern end of the site.

The mining operation will lower the existing land surface by approximately 150 feet. Mining is performed both above and below the water table. The aggregate is screened to separate coarse and fine aggregates. Cobbles are either stockpiled for sale or crushed and combined with the screened material for further processing. After the material is further classified, the various products may be washed again.

Wash water generated on the dredge and at the processing plant is conveyed to three clarifiers, which use polymer flocculant. Clarified water from the dredging operation is returned to the dredge pond and the thickened fines sludge is conveyed to a previously mined pit called the "silt pond" or "settling pond" for permanent disposal. The clarified wash water from the processing plant is returned to the plant supply tank for recycling, and the fines sludge is pumped to the settling pond. The aggregate washing process generates up to 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd) of wash water, and up to 1,600 pounds of polymer flocculant is used per week.

As mining progresses across the site, any former pit may be used as a settling pond. As sludge is discharged to the pond, the pit fills with fines to the level prescribed in the Discharger's reclamation plan. Excess water in the settling pond may be recycled for use as wash water.

The Discharger submitted a water balance for the facility that demonstrated adequate capacity for proposed wash water flows. Because the mining operation will leave large depressions even after reclamation is complete, the facility's true wash water storage and disposal capacity is far greater than required to prevent off-site discharge. Therefore, imposing minimum freeboard requirements on the settling pond system should be sufficient to protect water quality, and no flow limitation is necessary.

The previous WDRs (Order No. 96-276) did not require groundwater monitoring, but the Discharger has been monitoring groundwater quality at the site since 1995 in accordance with the Yolo County Off-Channel Surface Mining Ordinance. Shallow groundwater occurs at approximately 135 to 148 feet MSL (approximately 50 to 60 feet below the pre-mining site grade). The groundwater flow direction is generally eastward (parallel to Cache Creek).

Although some analytical data for both background groundwater and wastewater were submitted with the RWD, the RWD did not include a statistical analysis to formally determine background groundwater concentrations. Based on a preliminary evaluation of pre-discharge and recent groundwater data provided in the RWD, it appears that mining activities and/or the

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discharge may have degraded shallow groundwater quality with iron and coliform organisms. However, the data are not conclusive.

Because aggregate wash water is discharged directly to groundwater exposed in the main excavation pit, it is appropriate to impose groundwater limitations. It is also appropriate to require that the Discharger perform routine monitoring of groundwater and water in the excavation pits and settling ponds allow ongoing evaluation of potential groundwater degradation.

This Order requires that the Discharger continue to monitoring groundwater quality in accordance with the Yolo County ordinance, and provide an evaluation of background groundwater quality and potential degradation. Once this evaluation is completed, an evaluation of beneficial use impacts and/or best practicable treatment and control measures can be required as appropriate to ensure compliance with State Board Resolution No. 68-16.

ALO:8/27/08