

INFORMATION SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2015-XXXX
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
FOLSOM DAM AUXILIARY SPILLWAY PROJECT
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

The Folsom Dam and Reservoir is located downstream of the confluence of the North and South Forks of the American River, near the City of Folsom. The Folsom Dam is a concrete gravity dam, 340 feet high and 1,400 feet in length. The Auxiliary Spillway Project is part of the Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Project, which is also referred to as the Joint Federal Project (JFP). The JFP is intended to provide increased flood protection and mitigate dam safety issues that may occur in the event of a Probable Maximum Flood event.

A key construction element of the JFP is the excavation of the Approach Channel to the main spillway, which will require the excavation of approximately 400,000 cubic yards of material, including bedrock. Up to 150,000 cubic yards of this material is classified as dredged material, removed from below the mean high water mark. Pre-dredge analyses of sediments in the project area have been performed in order to determine the anticipated sediment quality during dredging. In addition, fine grained material resulting from the blasting operations in the bedrock will be sampled and compared to the background sample analysis performed on sediments at the proposed placement area. Material that meets the discharge criteria outlined in this order will be authorized for placement.

The removal, transport, and placement of dredge sediments are the primary components of the dredging process. These actions may be divided into two distinct components common to all dredging operations: 1) the excavation and removal of sediments from water bodies (i.e., dredging), and 2) the placement and/or reuse of these dredged materials in another location (i.e., placement). These actions involve separate regulatory considerations. Both actions have the potential to produce waste as defined in California Water Code Section 13050(d). Dredging could cause sediment containing metals and other constituents to be discharged to waters of the state. The placement and/or reuse of dredged material on land may be a discharge of waste and has the potential to degrade both surface and ground water.

This dredging WDR Order directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to dredge and place dredged material as described in the Report of Waste Discharge, and to follow the Monitoring and Reporting Program accompanying this Order.