

January 11, 2023

GL1544902199

**Joshua Palmer, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Sacramento NPDES Permitting Section  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #260  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

**COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT CA0085332 FOR MALAKOFF DIGGINS STATE HISTORIC PARK IN NEVADA COUNTY**

Dear Mr. Palmer:

On behalf and with the consent of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Golder Associates Inc. (Golder) has prepared this comment letter following review of the Tentative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) CA0085332, Order R5-2023-XXXX for the Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park (MDSHP). The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) provided the Tentative NPDES permit to DPR in an electronic mail on December 12, 2022. DPR appreciates the opportunity to review the Tentative NPDES permit and RWQCB's time and attention in revising this permit and ongoing availability and willingness to discuss this project. DPR's comments on the Tentative NPDES permit are described below:

Section V.A.14 – Receiving Water Limitation for Temperature. DPR requests that a sentence be added to this section to state: *“An increase in temperature of more than 5 degrees Fahrenheit will not be considered out of compliance if the temperature at EFF-001 is lower than the temperature at RSW-001”*.

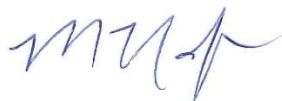
Section VI.C.1 - Re-opener Provisions. The current administrative draft has removed many of the re-opener provisions present in Order No. R5-2017-0086. Please consider including re-opener provisions for iron, manganese, copper, nickel, mercury, zinc, and pH to allow for modified effluent limitations in the event a Total Maximum Daily Load is adopted for any of those constituents that includes waste load allocations for MDSHP. Please consider including a re-opener provision to allow for site-specific hardness in development of effluent limitations.”

Section VI.C.3.a - Salinity Evaluation and Minimization Plan. We note for the record that the salinity evaluation and minimization plan should account for the potential need for a compliance approach using treatment and / or amendments. Treatment or use of soil amendments may potentially increase electrical conductivity. Trade-offs may be necessary between treatment or amendments to reduce pollutant concentrations and nominal increases in long term average conductivity to achieve effluent limitations. Since the requirement is a BMP and the electrical conductivity thresholds are expressed as triggers, not effluent limits, no changes to the draft order are requested on this item.”

Again, DPR very much appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on the Tentative NPDES permit to the RWQCB.

Sincerely,

**Golder Associates Inc.**



Mark Naugle  
*Director, Chemical Engineer*



Kevin Kimball  
*Senior Consultant, Environmental Scientist*

CC: RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov  
Armando Martinez, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Gary Leach, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Cyndie Walck, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Leigh Patterson, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Nathan Shasha, California Department of Parks and Recreation

Golder Associates\154490218, MDSHP SW Monitoring and Reporting - Project Files\5 Technical Work\Order and TSO\Tentative Order TSO  
Dec 12, 2022\DPR Comments