



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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8 July 2009

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***NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY: WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2003-0003-DWQ-0008,  
CONTRA COSTA CANAL INTAKE ROCK SLOUGH FISH SCREEN PROJECT  
DEWATERING DISCHARGE TO LAND, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY***

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) on 24 June 2009 from the Contra Costa Water District (Discharger) for the discharge of extracted groundwater during the Contra Costa Canal Intake Rock Slough Fish Screen (RSFS) Project. The RWD is for regulatory coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (Order).

Based on the information provided in the RWD and amendments thereto, the proposed land discharge of extracted groundwater satisfies the general and specific conditions of the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ for the category of small/temporary dewatering projects. Therefore, this serves as formal notice that the Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ is applicable to the sites and discharge described below. You are hereby assigned General Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ-0008 for this discharge.

A copy of the General Order is enclosed. You can also find the General Order on the State Water Board's website at

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/wqo03.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/wqo03.shtml)

You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire General Order. The discharge must be managed in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order and with the information submitted in the RWD.

### **DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

As part of the Contra Costa Pumping Plant Mitigation Program, Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation propose to design and build the RSFS Project. The project will mitigate for fishery impacts resulting from operations of the Contra Costa Canal Pumping Plant No. 1. The fish screen structure is 390 feet long and includes plans for the

following: log boom, fish screens, steel blocking panels, two trash rakes, a precast concrete operating deck, baffle guides, adjustable baffles, differential water level probe, a check or control structure, and open water and wetland habitat mitigation.

Three coffer dams are needed for the RSFS Project. Two of these dams will be located within a connecting waterway called Rock Slough to isolate the work area from the Delta. Another coffer dam is needed downstream of the fish screen within the unlined canal to isolate the work area from the unlined portion of the Contra Costa Canal. Dewatering will be required to keep the work area dry while the screen is being installed as well as during the earth work that is necessary to construct the new water conveyance levees and to remove existing levees. The anticipated rate of dewatering will be 3.5 million gallons per day (MGD) during initial drawdown.

During normal construction dewatering operations, the rate of dewatering is estimated to range from 0.5 – 1.5 MGD. Dewatering will occur for the duration of the RSFS Project which is expected to be completed by 30 November 2010.

Extracted groundwater will be conveyed by temporary pipelines to the designated disposal areas. In total, there are over 500 acres available for discharge of dewatered groundwater. The groundwater will be disposed of primarily using flood irrigation techniques and the discharge rate will be managed such that no runoff occurs. Due to the fact that shallow groundwater will be extracted from, and discharged back into, the same aquifer with little potential for evapoconcentration and in or near the same area from which it was extracted, the discharge poses little or no threat to water quality if the water is discharged under conditions that prevent discharge to surface water.

#### **MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

The Discharger shall comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements prescribed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2003-0003-DWQ.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Dischargers shall comply with the Prohibitions, Discharge Specifications, Provisions, and Standard Provisions of Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ.

Please review this Notice of Applicability carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the proposed project and dewatering discharge. If the discharge violates the terms or conditions, the Central Valley Water Board may take enforcement action, including the assessment of an administrative civil liability. If the method of waste disposal changes from that described in the RWD, you must submit a new RWD.

Contra Costa Water District will generate the waste subject to the terms and conditions of Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ and will maintain exclusive control over the discharge. The US Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources are named as co-dischargers because these entities are the lead Federal and State agencies for this project. As such, Contra Costa Water District is primarily responsible for compliance with Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ.

Failure to comply with the requirements in the Order could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of wastes other than those described in the RWD is prohibited.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing using the standard Notice of Termination form that accompanies Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ, once the discharge regulated by this Order ceases so that we may terminate coverage and avoid unnecessary billing.

All monitoring reports, submittals, discharge notifications, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement should be directed to Guy Childs at (916) 464-4648 or [gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov). Questions regarding the permit should be directed to Robin Merod at (916) 464-4697 or [rmerod@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rmerod@waterboards.ca.gov).

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality, Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ

cc w/o enc.:

Gordon Innes, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento  
Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova  
Betty Graham, Department of Health Services, Richmond  
Sherman Quinlan, Contra Costa Environmental Health Department, Concord

ram:7/8/09