

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 April 2013

Scott Fredrickson, P.E.
California Department of Transportation
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ, STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING PLA65 (03-33382) COON CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT, PLACER COUNTY

On 13 March 2013, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for construction dewatering at the above-referenced site. Additional information was received on 25 March 2013. The submittals contain all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order; therefore, the NOI is considered complete. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under State Water Resources Control Board General Order 2003-0003-DWQ-0040. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Lincoln Bypass of State Route 65 highway construction project involves the construction of 4 lanes on a new right-of-way (ROW) starting just south of Industrial Avenue and ending at Riosa Road in Placer County. Phase 2A of the project is approximately 5.3 miles in length and involves the construction of the southbound lanes from Nelson Lane to approximately 1 mile north of West Wise Road and includes the construction of a bridge crossing over Coon Creek, approximately 0.5-mile north of W. Wise Road, Placer County; Section 36, Township 13 North, Range 5 East of Mount Diablo B&M.

Bridge construction activities will include the installation of 4 piers, having 2 columns at each pier, for a total of 8 columns to support an approximately 600-foot span over Coon Creek. Dewatering is anticipated during the installation of 2 piers within sheet pile cofferdams located immediately adjacent to Coon Creek. Water from construction dewatering will be discharged into two trapezoidal drainage ditches within the Caltrans ROW along the newly constructed State Route 65 Lincoln Bypass.

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fourth Edition*, revised October 2011 (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, contains implementation plans and policies for protecting waters of the basin, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Pursuant to §13263(a) of the California Water Code (CWC), waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Dewatering will occur as groundwater seepage is encountered during the installation 2 piers and 4 columns per pier immediately adjacent to Coon Creek. Dewatering operations during pier installation is anticipated to take approximately 110 days. Four of the 110 days are anticipated for construction of the two pier footings where extracted water will contact with curing concrete. Approximately 30,000 gallons of water (i.e. groundwater and/or cofferdam water seepage, combined total) per day is anticipated during dewatering operations.

Two drainage ditches along the Caltrans ROW, bordering each side of the newly constructed State Route Lincoln Bypass, will be used for the discharge of groundwater. Each trapezoidal drainage ditch is approximately 1 mile long, is grass lined, and has gentle longitudinal slopes (away from Coon Creek), which will allow infiltration and evaporation to occur. The depth of discharge within each ditch is anticipated to vary between 1.5 feet to 4 feet. Gravel bag berms will be utilized and field adjusted to control water depth and overall percolative time within the ditches. The ditches are set back approximately 100 feet from Coon Creek, and the discharge piping will be located on the side of a break in surface grade that flows away from the creek.

Dewatering operations are anticipated to remove approximately 30,000 gallons per day over a 110 day period, totaling approximately 3.3 million gallons. An estimated volume of 825,000 gallons of groundwater seepage will be removed from each pier location. Dewatering that does not come in contact with curing concrete will be discharged directly to the nearby drainage ditches without pH monitoring or treatment.

Extracted water that comes into contact with freshly poured concrete during pier construction operations will be pumped to portable water storage tanks and treated, prior to being discharged to drainage ditches along the Caltrans ROW. The anticipated discharge to land of neutralized water over a four day period is 60,000 gallons.

Because uncured concrete is known to elevate pH levels and may mobilize metals in groundwater, neutralization agents will be added to the extracted water, as necessary, before discharge. For the two cofferdams that will be dewatered during pier placement, water pumped into the portable water storage tanks will be tested for pH levels after the concrete seal course has been set. Stored water will be neutralized, as necessary, to maintain a pH range between 6.5 and pH 8.4 before discharge. The addition of muriatic acid or an equivalent solution to the water tank(s) will be used to maintain the targeted pH range prior to dewatering and discharge.

A grab water sample of the dewatering discharge to each storage tank during pier construction inside the two cofferdams will be collected twice per shift (approximately every 4 hours) to ensure pH levels are within the limits listed above. If a grab sample is outside of the designated pH range dewatering will stop immediately, neutralizing agent will be added and mixed, and pH readings will be collected again to verify pH levels prior to restarting dewatering operations. Discharge sampling will follow Caltrans Dewatering Monitoring Plan (EA: 03-33382), and the Monitoring and Reporting Program, as part of the attached Order.

Caltrans proposes to use one ditch at a time for dewatering discharge. The primary drainage ditch selected (on the west side of State Route 65) will be regularly monitored for available freeboard and capacity during dewatering operations. If the primary drainage ditch approaches capacity during operations, a secondary drainage ditch (on the east side of State Route 65) will be utilized for discharge, infiltration, and evaporation.


The drainage ditches will be regularly monitored for available freeboard and capacity during dewatering operations. If the drainage ditches approach capacity, Caltrans will provide additional temporary water containment and will prevent dewatering discharge from overflowing into nearby surface water.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The General Order and this Notice of Applicability regulate construction dewatering from the Caltrans PLA65 Coon Creek Bridge project to nearby drainage ditches located along the Caltrans ROW of State Route 65.

1. Water generated during construction dewatering shall be disposed of as described in the Notice of Intent and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Construction dewatering discharge at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Notice of Intent or this Notice of Applicability is prohibited.
3. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.
4. Analytical results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program.
5. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the Notice of Applicability is officially terminated.
6. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including its monitoring and reporting requirements, 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 Notice of Applicability, please contact Scott Armstrong at (916) 464-4616 or by email at sarmstrong@waterboards.ca.gov.


for PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ

cc: Virginia Lineberry, Placer County Environmental Health Dept., Auburn