



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Katherine Hart, Chair



Arnold
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Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

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Mr. Dave Underwood
Water Supply Facilities Operations and
Administration Manager
Sacramento County Water Agency
3847 Branch Center Road, Trailer #1
Sacramento, CA 95827

CERTIFIED MAIL
7010 0290 0000 8536 2533

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; SACRAMENTO COUNTY WATER AGENCY; SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 25 May 2010 from the Sacramento County Water Agency (Discharger) for the Sacramento County Water Agency Maintenance Project. Based on the information in the NOI, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters (Low Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Low Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0081-066 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-066 in all future correspondence and documents.

The Low Threat General Order (enclosed) may also be viewed at the following web address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Low Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Discharger.

CALIFORNIA TOXIC RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Low Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxic Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxic Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP).

Section 5.3 of the SIP allows "exceptions from meeting the Priority Pollutant criteria/objectives if determined to be necessary to implement control measures..." The Discharger qualified for the SIP exception in Section 5.3 and is not required to conduct Priority Pollutant (CTR

California Environmental Protection Agency

constituent) sampling. Dischargers authorized to discharge under this Low Threat General Order who have been granted an exception to the priority pollutant criteria and objectives in the SIP, must provide certification by a qualified biologist that the beneficial uses of the receiving water have been restored upon completion of the discharge.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Discharger proposes to discharge water associated with the maintenance of their potable water supply system that supplies drinking water to residential and commercial users in Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova and portions of the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County into surface waters. The Discharger has 79 groundwater wells, 12 groundwater treatment plants, 22 treated water storage tanks, 31 pressure filters, 54 hydropneumatic tanks, 720 miles of distribution piping, 7,300 fire hydrants and 1,700 blow-off valves.

Discharges associated with groundwater wells include well flushing, rehabilitation and well development. Well flushing is performed to remove stagnate water and sediments that accumulate within the well casing during relatively long periods of inactivity (for example, non-operation during winter months). Well rehabilitation is conducted to remove encrustations of well screens and to clean out gravel packs. During rehabilitation, acids and filters are used, as necessary, for particle removal. Well development typically occurs after the construction of a new well. During development, water and fine materials are air-lifted out of the well casing and placed in a settling tank. The well is then pumped to remove sediment from the filter pack and casing. During pumping, the initial highly turbid water is discharged to land.

Discharges will also include hydrostatic-test water after testing new and/or existing components of the groundwater treatment facility. Other sources of discharge include the repair, maintenance, and flushing of the potable-water and fire-suppression distribution systems, and the cleaning of tanks. Water from cleaning operations will be dechlorinated and pH adjusted, as necessary, prior to being discharged to the local storm drain. The discharge of backwash water to surface water is not permitted under this Low Threat General Order. The discharger plans to discharge backwash water to the local sanitary sewer.

The Pollution Prevention and Monitoring Reporting Plan notes the multiple discharge points that are either tributary to the American River or the Sacramento River.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

All Dischargers must notify Central Valley Water Board staff 24 hours before the start of each new discharge, as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and when the discharge ceases. This is a water supply project with numerous discharge points. Therefore, the Discharger was required to submit a Pollution Prevention and Monitoring and Reporting Program (PPMRP) with the NOI. The PPMRP submitted by the Discharger complies with Attachment H and with Sections I, IX, and X of Attachment E of the Low Threat General Order, and is hereby approved.

Effluent and receiving water analytical monitoring shall be conducted as described in the approved PPMRP and the results submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis unless specified otherwise. The Discharger must submit quarterly reports, as described in Attachment E, Section X, even if there is no discharge or receiving water flow during the

reporting quarter, until the Discharger formally requests that coverage under this Order be terminated.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until the discharge is terminated. The Discharger must notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing if the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order is no longer necessary, so we may terminate applicability of this Low Threat General Order and avoid additional and unnecessary billing.

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the Low Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation. Late reports are subject to an MMP of \$3,000 per each period of 30 days late. If you have no discharge during a quarterly monitoring period, you must still submit a report indicating that no discharge occurred, or you may be subject to MMPs.

All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Spencer Joplin at (916) 464-4660 or sjoplin@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and requests for termination of coverage under this Order, may be directed to Mike Negrete at (916) 464-4662 or mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov.

Frederick I. Moss

PCM
Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosure: General Order No. R5-2008-0081 (Discharger only)

cc: Mr. Dave Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco
Mr. Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento
Mr. Dave Zuccaro, Sacramento County Water Agency