



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Katherine Hart, Chair



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

18 October 2011

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Lawrence A. Clark
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; CITY OF CERES, WASTEWATER HEADWORKS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT; STANISLAUS COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 14 September 2011 from the City of Ceres and Clark Brothers, Inc. (Dischargers) for the Wastewater Headworks Construction 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. R5-2008-0081-101 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-101 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 Dischargers.

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).

California Environmental Protection Agency

Screening levels for CTR constituents are found in Attachment B of the Low Threat General Order. Review of your water quality data in comparison to the CTR screening values showed no reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedence of water quality objectives of the receiving water.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Dischargers propose to discharge groundwater into surface waters associated with dewatering activities from the construction of a new wastewater headworks structure, open trenching for new sanitary sewer pipelines connections, demolition of existing pump stations, construction of a new influent pump station, new air gap booster pump system, and miscellaneous improvements. Additionally, the Dischargers will place a new concrete slab thirty feet below ground level that will connect to the East Service Road at the existing City of Ceres Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). All excavated soils will be stockpiled to the west of the WWTP headworks area.

Eleven dewatering wells have been constructed and the total maximum flow from the wells will be approximately 0.5 million gallons per day for a period of three months. The Dischargers will treat the groundwater as necessary to meet the Effluent and Receiving Water Limitations contained in the Low Threat General Order. The discharge will enter into the existing storm water pond that has the capacity to discharge into Turlock's Irrigation District's (TID) reinforced concrete irrigation pipeline that supplies water to TID's agricultural customers.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

All Dischargers must notify Central Valley Water Board staff: 1) 24 hours before the start of each new discharge, 2) as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and 3) when the discharge ceases.

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. To terminate coverage under the Low Threat General Order, the Dischargers must submit written notification to the Central Valley Water Board that the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order has ceased and is no longer necessary. If a timely written request is not received, then the Dischargers will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

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 may be subject to an MMP of \$3,000 for each period of 30 days late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly monitoring period, the Dischargers must still submit a quarterly

City of Ceres, Wastewater Headworks Construction
report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

COMMUNICATION

All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Victor Vasquez of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Compliance and Enforcement Unit. Mr. Vasquez can be reached at (916) 464-4623 or vvasquez@waterboards.ca.gov.

Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and written notification for termination of coverage under this Order, shall be directed to Mike Negrete of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Permitting Unit. Mr. Negrete can be reached at (916) 464-4662 or mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Kenneth D. Landau for
Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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

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