

23 February 2022

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**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2016-0076-01 FOR LIMITED THREAT DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATER; PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY, AUBURN TUNNEL DEWATERING PROJECT, PLACER COUNTY**

Our office received a Notice of Intent on 3 November 2021 from Placer County Water Agency (hereinafter Discharger), for discharge of process water to surface water. Based on the application packet submitted by the Discharger, staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order), Tier 2. This project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order R5-2016-0076-073 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit CAG995002. Please reference your Limited Threat General Order number, **R5-2016-0076-073**, in your correspondence and submitted documents.

The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in the Limited Threat General Order and as specified in this NOA. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the entire contents of the Limited Threat General Order. To conserve resources, the Limited Threat General Order may be viewed on the [Central Valley Water Board's Adopted Orders Page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf) at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf). A copy of the Limited Threat General Order can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

**CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING**

The Limited Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP). Screening levels for CTR constituents and other constituents of concern are found in Attachment I of the Limited Threat General Order. Your water quality data demonstrated an exceedance of turbidity screening levels. However, the proposed treatment system addresses the water quality concern by reducing turbidity below the screening level; therefore, the Project qualifies for the Limited Threat General Order.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Auburn Tunnel is a three-mile tunnel located southeast of Sunset Lane and Bald Hill Road near the City of Auburn. The function of the Auburn Tunnel is to divert surface water from the North Fork of the American River into Auburn Ravine for agricultural use to western Placer County during the dry season, the tunnel conveys up to 27 million gallons per day (MGD) from April 15 through October 15. The Discharger intends to perform an inspection of the Auburn Tunnel in February 2022. In order to conduct an inspection of the tunnel, the Discharger plans to remove approximately 2 million gallons of remaining water prior to entering the tunnel. To maintain access, the Discharger intends to intermittently dewater the tunnel to complete the five-day inspection. Effluent from the tunnel's sump pump will be directed to a temporary sedimentation basin or settling tank, if necessary, to reduce turbidity prior to discharge to Auburn Ravine to ensure compliance with the turbidity receiving water limitations.

## **EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

Effluent limitations are specified in Section V. Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications of the Limited Threat General Order. Based on the information provided in the NOI, effluent limitations are only required for the parameter identified below:

- 1. pH (Section V.A.1.b.ii).** The pH of all limited threat discharges within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (except Goose Lake in Modoc County) shall at all times be within the range of 6.5 and 8.5 standard units (S.U.).

The Auburn Ravine is not listed under the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired water bodies. Therefore, no additional 303(d) based effluent limitations or monitoring requirements will be added to this Limited Threat Notice of Applicability.

## **RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS**

The Limited Threat General Order includes receiving surface water limitations in Section VIII.A. Based on the information provided in the NOI, only the following receiving surface water limitations are applicable to this discharge:

- Bacteria (VIII.A.2);
- Biostimulatory substances (VIII.A.3);
- Chemical constituents (VIII.A.4);
- Color (VIII.A.5);
- Dissolved oxygen (VIII.A.6.b);
- Floating material (VIII.A.7);
- Oil and grease (VIII.A.8);
- pH (VIII.A.9.a);
- Pesticides ((VIII.A.10);
- Radioactivity (VIII.A.11);
- Suspended sediments (VIII.A.12);
- Settleable substances (VIII.A.13);
- Suspended material (VIII.A.14);
- Taste and odors (VIII.A.15);
- Temperature (VIII.A.16.);
- Toxicity (VIII.A.17); and

- Turbidity (VIII.A.18.a).

**MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Monitoring and reporting requirements are contained in Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order. The Discharger is required to comply with the following specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the effluent and receiving water in accordance with Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order.

**Monitoring Locations** – The Discharger shall monitor the effluent and receiving water at the specified location as follows:

**Table 1. Monitoring Station Locations**

Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description
EFF-001	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to Auburn Ravine.
RSW-001	Auburn Ravine, approximately 15 feet upstream from the point of discharge.
RSW-002	Auburn Ravine, approximately 200 feet downstream from the point of discharge.

**Effluent Monitoring** – When discharging to surface water, the Discharger shall monitor the effluent at EFF-001 in accordance with Table C-3 of the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA. The applicable monitoring requirements are as follows in Table 2:

**Table 2. Effluent Monitoring**

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency
Total Flow	MGD	Estimate	1/Day
Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °Celsius (°C)	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Day
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Day
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	1/Day
Temperature	°Fahrenheit (°F)	Grab	1/Day
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	1/Day

**Table 2 Notes**

1. **For all parameters.** A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.
2. **For all parameters.** Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.

**Receiving Water Monitoring** - When discharging to surface water, the Discharger shall monitor the receiving water at RSW-001 and RSW-002, in accordance with Table C-5 of the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA. The applicable monitoring requirements are as follows in Table 3:

**Table 3. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements**

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	1/Day
Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Day
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Day
Temperature	°F	Grab	1/Day
Turbidity	Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)	Grab	1/Day

**Table 3 Notes**

3. **For all parameters.** A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.
4. **For all parameters.** Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.

In conducting the receiving water sampling, a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions throughout the reach bounded by RSW-001 and RSW-002. Attention shall be given to the presence or absence of:

- a. Floating or suspended matter
- b. Discoloration
- c. Bottom deposits
- d. Aquatic life
- e. Visible films, sheens, or coatings
- f. Fungi, slimes, or objectionable growths
- g. Potential nuisance conditions

Notes on receiving water conditions shall be summarized in the Monitoring Report.

**Monitoring Report Submittals** - Monitoring in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order shall begin upon initiation of discharge. Monitoring Reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis, beginning with the **First Quarter 2022**. This report shall be submitted on **1 May 2022**. All Monitoring Reports shall specify the dates during the monitoring period the discharge did or did not occur. If monitoring samples were not obtained within 24 hours of initiation of the discharge, the Discharger must document the reasons in the corresponding Monitoring

Report. If discharge has not begun there is no need to monitor. However, a certified Monitoring Report must be submitted stating that there has been no discharge. Table 4, below, summarizes the Monitoring Report due dates required under the Limited Threat General Order. Quarterly Monitoring Reports must be submitted until your coverage is formally terminated in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge during the reporting quarter.

**Table 4. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule**

<b>Monitoring Period for All Sampling Frequencies</b>	<b>Quarterly Report Due Date</b>
First Quarter (1 January through 31 March)	1 May
Second Quarter (1 April through 30 June)	1 August
Third Quarter (1 July through 30 September)	1 November
Fourth Quarter (1 October through 31 December)	1 February of the following year

### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff within 24 hours of having knowledge of 1) the start of each new discharge, 2) noncompliance, and 3) when the discharge ceases. The Central Valley Water Board shall be notified immediately if any effluent limit violation is observed during implementation of the project.

Discharge of material other than what is described in the application is prohibited. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual invoice you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing when the discharge regulated by the Limited Threat General Order is no longer necessary by submitting the Request for Termination of Coverage (Attachment E). If a timely written request is not received, the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

Failure to comply with the Limited 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. In addition, late Monitoring Reports may be subject to MMPs or discretionary penalties of up to \$1,000 per day late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly certified Monitoring Report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

### **COMMUNICATION**

We have transitioned to a paperless office; therefore, please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf). All documents, including Monitoring Reports, written notifications, and documents submitted to comply with this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order, should be submitted to the NPDES Compliance and Enforcement Unit, Attention: Paul Wadding at

[centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov) and [paul.wadding@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:paul.wadding@waterboards.ca.gov).  
Mr. Wadding may also be reached by phone at (916) 464-4826.

**Please include the following information in the email:**

- Attention: NPDES Compliance Unit
- Discharger: Placer County Water Agency
- Facility: Auburn Tunnel Dewatering Project
- County: Placer County
- CIWQS place ID: 778064

Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger must be transferred to a DVD, or flash drive and mailed to our office, attention "ECM Mailroom-NPDES". Please include the attached Monitoring Report Transmittal Form as the first page of each Monitoring Report.

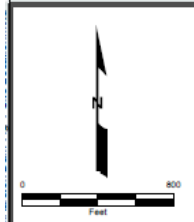
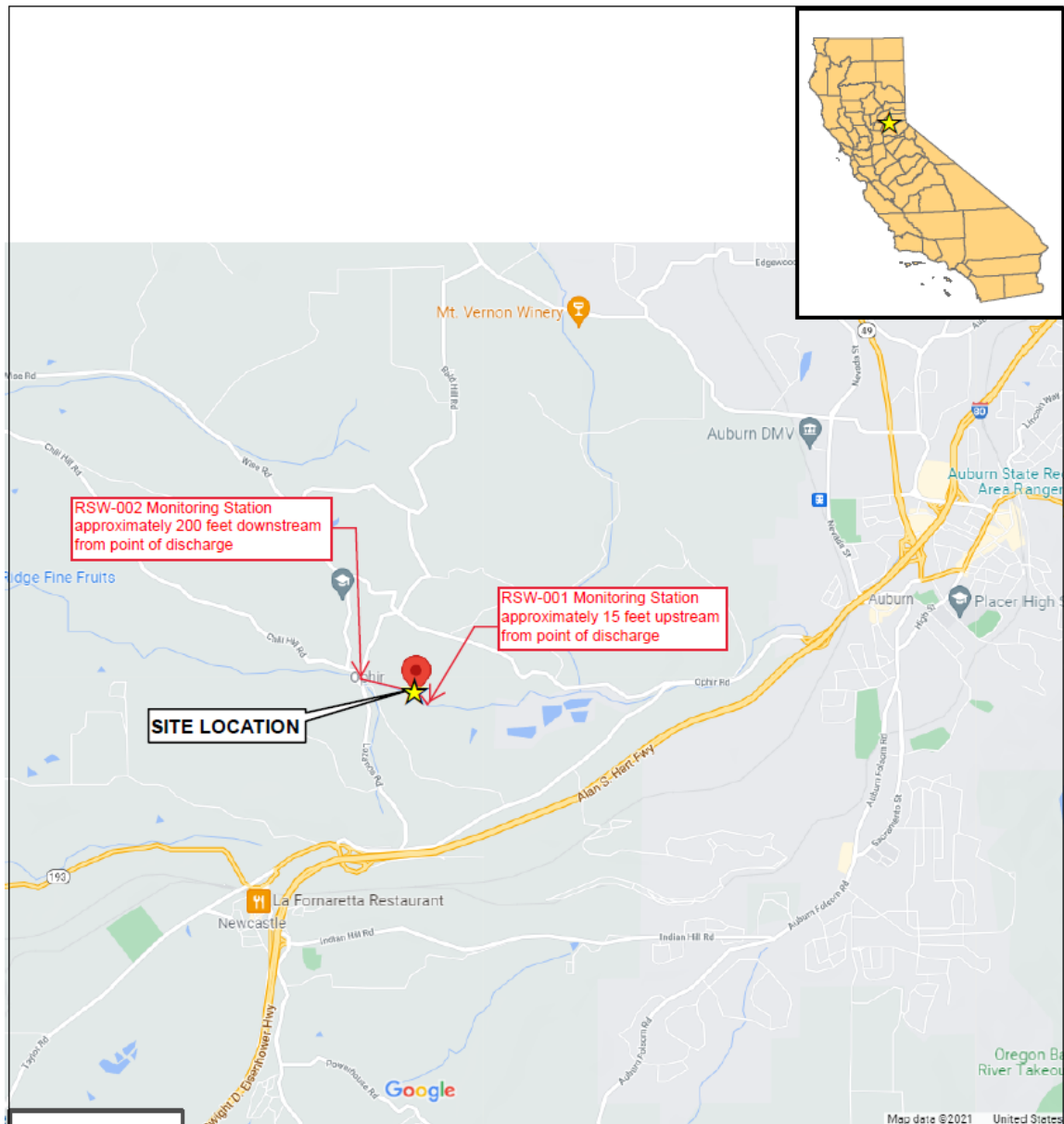
Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Links to the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the [Petitions Home Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)) or will be provided upon request.


Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer

Enclosures (3): Attachment A - Project Location Map  
General Order R5-2016-0076-01 (Discharger only)  
Monitoring Report Transmittal Form (Discharger only)

cc: Peter Kozelka, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)  
Elizabeth Sablad, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)  
Prasad Gullapalli, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)  
Afrooz Farsimadan, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board,  
Sacramento (email only)

**ATTACHMENT A – PROJECT LOCATION MAP**



	TITLE:	<b>SITE LOCATION MAP</b>	DATE:	11/16/21
	LOCATION:	PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY AUBURN TUNNEL DEWATERING SAMPLING PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA		FIGURE: