



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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16 February 2010

CERTIFIED MAIL

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Water Operations Manager
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1036 West Main Street
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT, POTABLE WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PROJECT, NEVADA COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 27 July 2009 from Nevada Irrigation District, (Discharger) for the Nevada Irrigation District, Potable Water System 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. R5-2008-0081-036 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-036 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

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 constituent) sampling. The Discharger 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 provides treated water to western portions of Nevada County and portions of Placer County through seven (7) individual water systems. The Discharger proposes to de-chlorinate potable water prior to discharges associated with routine maintenance of the potable water distribution system. Two primary areas of routine distribution maintenance and discharges will be from main line flushing from the fire hydrants and blow off valves. The average flow rate for the flushing of one fire hydrant is estimated at 375 gallons per minute for approximately 20 minutes. The blow off valve operation insures proper direction of flow for optimum flushing results. The flushing operation removes any sediment which has accumulated and provides fresh water to dead end areas of the distribution system.

The residual chlorine in the potable water will be de-chlorinated using the LPD-250 Diffusing Dechlorinator with Vita-D-Chlor (Ascorbic Acid aka Vitamin C) tablets as the dechlorination agent.

The Discharger has submitted a Pollution Prevention and Monitoring and Reporting Program (PPMRP) that has been approved by the Central Valley Water Board's Enforcement Unit. There are 690 points of discharge locations in the water distribution system with thirteen (13) different surface water locations. There will be at least one flushing conducted on an annual basis from five (5) of the Discharger's seven (7) individual water systems.

The project proposes to begin on 17 February 2010.

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.

Effluent and receiving water analytical monitoring shall be conducted and the results submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis unless specified otherwise. The Dischargers 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 due and payable 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. Late reporting and effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation [California Water Code Section 13385(h) and (i)]. If there is no discharge during a quarterly monitoring period, a report indicating that no discharge occurred must be submitted to avoid the monetary penalties.

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 Michael Negrete at (916) 464-4662 or mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov.



for Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

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

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