

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. ___

CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SACRAMENTO COUNTY AIRPORT SYSTEM
SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL MODERNIZATION PROJECT
DEWATERING DISCHARGE TO LAND
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

1. Water Code Section 13260(a) requires that any person discharging wastes or proposing to discharge wastes within the region that could affect the quality of waters of the State shall file a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD).
2. Sacramento County Airport System (hereafter referred to as "Discharger"), submitted a RWD for the discharge of extracted groundwater to support construction of the Sacramento International Airport Terminal Modernization Project on 10 September 2007. On 25 January 2008, the Regional Water Board adopted Resolution No. R5-2008-0019, a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements for the project.
3. On 3 November 2008, the Discharger submitted an amended RWD because a technical study showed that the dewatering flow rate would be higher than stated in the original RWD.
4. The entire project site, including the dewatering discharge area, encompasses portions of Sections 24, 25, and 36, T10N, R3E and Sections 19, 30, and 31, T10N, R4E MDB&M, and is depicted on Attachment A, which forms part of this resolution by reference.
5. The dewatering discharge area ("designated disposal area") is owned by the Discharger, and consists of approximately 130 acres on Assessors Parcel Numbers 201-0280-060, 201-0280-063, and 201-0291-026. The net available discharge area is approximately 100 acres with implementation of setbacks and buffers need to protect sensitive plant and wildlife species. The designated disposal area is depicted on Attachment B, which forms part of this Order by reference.
6. Shallow groundwater will be extracted through a series of approximately sixty shallow wells around and within the dewatering area and discharged to the designated disposal area (Attachment B) for disposal by percolation and evaporation. Dewatering wells will be approximately 25 feet deep to provide dewatering to a depth of 20 feet below ground surface. Well permits will be obtained from the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department.
7. The expected dewatering discharge rates will vary between approximately 2.5 to 5 gallons per minute (gpm) per well, for an estimated total discharge of 250,000 gallons per day (gpd). Dewatering is expected to begin in mid-December 2008 and end by the fall of 2009.
8. Extracted groundwater will be conveyed approximately 1.4 miles by a temporary pipeline (primarily above-ground) to a closed top above ground storage tank with an approximate capacity of 20,000 gallons at the designated disposal area. From there, the water will be

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land applied using sprinkler irrigation methods at a hydraulic rate that does not exceed the evaporation and percolation ability of the soil. Extracted groundwater may also be used for dust control during construction and to supplement the existing landscape irrigation supply.

9. Ponds will not be used and no new containment berms will be constructed within the designated disposal area. The disposal area is low relative to the existing berms that separate it from a surrounding drainage ditch system. Management of discharge rates and schedules will be used to contain the water at all times. If necessary due to extreme precipitation conditions, temporary berms will be constructed as needed to prevent discharges outside of the designated disposal area.
10. The Discharger completed shallow aquifer testing and developed a groundwater model to estimate the number and spacing of dewatering wells and associated pumping rates to sustain the localized groundwater drawdown required to complete construction.
11. Based on limited groundwater monitoring data from two groundwater samples obtained in March and April 2007, shallow groundwater quality contains approximately 1,410 mg/L of dissolved solids, 350 mg/L of chloride, 290 mg/L of sulfate, and 850 mg/L of total hardness. The salinity may be due, in part, to agricultural land uses in the area.
12. Volatile organic compounds, petroleum hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and pesticides were not detected in the groundwater samples from the dewatering area. Semi-volatile organic compounds were not detected, with the exception of dioxins and furans, which were detected at concentrations below the laboratory reporting limit.
13. The RWD included a water balance that demonstrates adequate disposal capacity for up to 250,000 gpd on average using a reasonably conservative numerical model that considers extreme precipitation events and reasonable evaporation and percolation rates.
14. On 7 August 2007, the County of Sacramento approved a Final Environmental Impact Report for the Sacramento International Airport Master Plan. The FEIR included a discussion of construction dewatering discharges to land. The FEIR identified no potentially significant water quality impacts. No mitigation measures related to water quality were included in the FEIR. The Regional Water Board is a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and concurs with the FEIR's conclusions with respect to water quality impacts. Compliance with the conditions of this Resolution will prevent significant impacts to water quality.
15. Surface water drainage from the airport site is to the Sacramento River. The designated beneficial uses of the of the Sacramento River between the Colusa Basin Drain and the "I" Street Bridge are municipal and domestic supply; agricultural supply; water contact recreation; non-contact water recreation; warm and cold freshwater habitat; migration of aquatic organisms; spawning, reproduction, and/or early development; wildlife habitat, and navigation.

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16. The designated beneficial uses of the groundwater are municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, and industrial service supply.
17. The Regional Water Board may waive waste discharge requirements if the Regional Water Board determines that the waiver is consistent with any applicable state or regional water quality control plan and is in the public interest.
18. The Regional Water Board has determined that due to the fact that shallow groundwater will be extracted from, and discharged back into, the same aquifer with low to moderate potential for evapoconcentration in or near the same area from which it was extracted, the discharge poses little or no threat to water quality if the discharge is temporary and water is discharged under conditions that prevent discharge to surface water. The conditions of this waiver assure compliance with all applicable water quality control plans. Therefore, this waiver is in the public interest.
19. Section 13267(b) of the California Water Code provides that: *"In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports"*.
20. The reports required by attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. __ are necessary to ensure compliance with this Resolution. The Discharger owns and operates the facility that discharges the waste subject to this Order.
21. The Regional Water Board held a hearing on __ in Rancho Cordova, California and considered all evidence concerning this matter.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Sections 13263, 13267, and 13269 of the California Water Code, Resolution No. R5-2008-0019 is rescinded and the Regional Water Board waives waste discharge requirements for the Sacramento International Airport Terminal Modernization Project dewatering discharge, subject to the following conditions:

Discharge Prohibitions

1. Discharge of extracted groundwater to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Discharge of waste classified as "hazardous" as defined in 27 CCR Section 20164 is prohibited.
3. Bypass or overflow of extracted groundwater from the designated disposal area shown on Attachment B is prohibited.

Discharge Specifications:

1. The daily discharge flow shall not exceed 250,000 gallons per day as a 30-day average.
2. The volume of water applied to the designated discharge area on any single day shall not exceed the percolation capacity of the soil based on soil type, pre-discharge soil moisture conditions, and weather conditions.
3. Water used for dust control or landscape irrigation shall be applied using appropriate methods and rates to prevent runoff into storm drain systems and other surface water drainage courses.
4. The discharge shall not cause a condition of pollution or nuisance as defined by the California Water Code, Section 13050.
5. Objectionable odor originating at the discharge areas shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of those areas.
6. The Discharger shall operate all systems and equipment to optimize the quality of the discharge.
7. Storm water best management practices, as described in Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, shall be implemented around the discharge areas at all times.
8. This waiver expires on 5 February 2014. The Discharger must submit a RWD at least 120 days before the expiration date to obtain a new waiver if they wish to continue the discharge after the expiration date.

Provisions

1. Pursuant to Sections 13267 and 13269 of the California Water Code, the Discharger shall comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements prescribed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. _____. In so doing, the Discharger shall comply with the "Standard

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Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements", dated 1 March 1991, which are attached hereto and made part of this Order by reference.

2. This Order waiving waste discharge requirements is conditional and may be terminated at any time prior to 5 February 2014.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a true, full, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on ____.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

Attachments: Monitoring and Reporting Program
 A – Vicinity Map
 B – Site Plan
 Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements

ALO: 1/20/09