CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
NORTH COAST REGION

ORDER NO. R1-2015-0003
GENERAL NPDES NO. CAG0024902

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW THREAT DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS IN THE NORTH COAST REGION

The following Permittees are subject to waste discharge requirements (WDRs) set forth in this General Order upon authorization by a Notice of Applicability (NOA) from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board):

Table 1. Permittee Information

Permittees	This General Order applies to discharges from individuals, public agencies, private businesses, and other legal entities (hereafter Permittees) of clean or relatively pollutant-free wastewaters that pose little or no threat to the quality of waters of the United States.

Table 2. Discharge Description

Discharge Location	Receiving Water
Discharge locations will be authorized when each Permittee enrolls under this General Order. Eligible discharges are identified in section I.B. of this Order.	Surface Waters within the North Coast Region, including inland and ocean waters, and enclosed bays and estuaries

Table 3. Administrative Information

This General Order was adopted on:	**March 12, 2015**
This General Order shall become effective on:	**June 21, 2015**
This General Order shall expire on:	**June 20, 2020**
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region have classified these discharges as follows:	**Minor**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that in order to meet the provisions contained in division 7 of the California Water Code (commencing with section 13000) and regulations adopted thereunder and the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, the Permittee shall comply with the requirements in this General Order.

I, Matthias St. John, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this General Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the General Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on March 12, 2015.

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Matthias St. John, Executive Officer

15_0003_LowThreatGeneralOrder

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I. PURPOSE OF ORDER AND ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Purpose of Order and Definition of Low Threat Discharge

The purpose of this General Order is to regulate low threat discharges from a discrete point source to surface waters of the North Coast Region. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) includes an Action Plan for Low Threat Discharges that defines these discharges and identifies procedures for regulating low threat discharges to surface waters in the North Coast Region. According to the Basin Plan, a low threat discharge is generally defined as a planned, short-term and/or minimized volume discharge from a definable project that results in a point source discharge to surface waters and that is managed in a manner that does not threaten the quality or beneficial uses of water without additional dilution. These discharges meet the definition of a waste, and as such, are required to be permitted pursuant to the California Water Code. Low threat discharges can cause, or threaten to cause adverse effects of existing or potential beneficial uses of the receiving water if they are not properly managed through best management practices (BMPs) that remove pollutants and minimize the volume, rate, and duration of discharge. Management of the discharge may include a minimal level of treatment for removal of pollutants such as sediment or chlorine, or to increase dissolved oxygen, or decrease temperature.

Low threat point source discharges may be permitted to surface waters and may be exempted from the Basin Plan seasonal and year-round point source discharge prohibitions and the discharge flow limitation, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The discharge shall not adversely affect the beneficial uses of the receiving water or cause a condition of nuisance.

This condition requires that the discharge shall not cause or substantially contribute to adverse impacts on the receiving water, including, but not limited to, erosion, adverse impacts on aquatic life, or creation of undesirable conditions (e.g., algae, vectors, localized flooding, etc.).

2. The discharge shall comply with all applicable water quality objectives.

This condition requires that the discharge will not contain pollutants at levels that will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable regional, state or federal water quality criterion, such as those established by the U.S. EPA pursuant to CWA section 303 or the state pursuant to title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Division 4, Chapter 15 or the Regional Water Board in the Basin Plan. This condition also requires that the discharge not have acute or chronic toxicity.

3. Best practicable treatment or control of the discharge shall be implemented to assure that pollution and nuisance will not occur, and the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained.

This condition requires implementation of the best treatment practices feasible, with due consideration to cost and protection of water quality.

4. The discharge is necessary because no feasible alternative to the discharge (e.g., reuse, infiltration, discharge to sanitary sewer, etc.) is available.

This condition requires that the Permittee evaluate if there are alternatives to a discharge to surface waters, and document that evaluation.

5. The discharge is limited to the rate, volume and duration that remain after implementation of all reasonable alternatives for reuse, infiltration and discharge to sanitary sewer.

This condition provides for the use of multiple alternatives to minimize the discharge due to the Permittee's activity and promotes putting the discharge to a beneficial use, whenever possible.

6. The discharge is regulated by NPDES Permit/Waste Discharge Requirements.

This General Order provides a mechanism to provide NPDES coverage for low threat discharges to surface waters.

This General Order provides one of several possible permitting mechanisms for low threat discharges that meet conditions 1 through 5. Proposed low-threat discharges to storm drains that are regulated under a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit may be governed by the MS4 permit provided that the MS4 permittee has developed a programmatic or project-specific BMP plan that applies to non-storm water discharges and the BMP plan has been approved by the Regional Water Board (Phase 1 MS4 permittees) or the Executive Officer (Phase 2 MS4 permittees). On a case-by-case basis, it may be determined that proposed discharges to a permitted MS4 storm drain system may be more effectively regulated through enrollment under this General Order. In such cases, the Permittee would be required to submit an NOI for coverage under this General Order.

This General Order does not apply if there is no discharge to surface waters. If any alternative to discharge to surface water is feasible, contact the Regional Water Board, to determine if any other regulatory requirements apply for selected alternative.

B. Authorized Discharges

1. Eligible Discharges. Low threat discharges that may be authorized by this General Order are relatively pollutant-free discharges that pose little threat to water quality when treated with simple, low technology treatments and/or controlled with BMPs to eliminate or reduce pollutants and minimize volume, rate, and duration of the discharge. Some discharges may require treatment, such as settling out sediment or dechlorination to remove specific pollutants prior to discharge and/or best management practices (BMPs) to assure that the discharge does not create conditions of pollution or nuisance. Discharges to surface waters of the North Coast Region that meet the definition of "low threat," above, are eligible for coverage under the General Order and may include, but are not limited to, the following categories of discharges:

a. Construction dewatering of groundwater, captured storm water, or any non-storm water where sediment and naturally occurring parameters (e.g., naturally occurring metals or salts, temperature, pH, etc.) are the only pollutants of concern and these pollutants are in compliance with applicable water quality objectives;

b. Discharges resulting from maintenance, disinfection, cleaning, or flushing of water supply wells, pipelines, tanks, and reservoirs where chlorine, chlorine byproducts, and naturally occurring parameters (e.g., naturally occurring metals, temperature, pH, etc.) in the water supply are the only pollutants of concern[1];

c. Discharges resulting from well development, test pumping, maintenance, and purging of water supply or geothermal wells where sediment and naturally occurring parameters (e.g., naturally occurring metals or salts, temperature, pH, etc.) in area

[1] Discharges may be authorized under this General Order if they are not otherwise eligible for coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality Order 2014-0194-DWQ, General Permit No. CAG140001, *Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges to Surface Waters.*

ground water and chlorine and chlorine disinfection byproducts from well disinfection are the only pollutants of concern[1];

d. Hydrostatic testing, maintenance, repair, and disinfection of potable water supply pipelines, tanks, and reservoirs, where chlorine, chlorine byproducts, and naturally occurring parameters (e.g., naturally occurring metals, temperature, pH, etc.) in the water supply are the only pollutants of concern[1];

e. Hydrostatic testing of newly constructed pipelines, tanks, and reservoirs used for purposes other than potable water supplies, where chlorine, chlorine byproducts and naturally occurring parameters (e.g., naturally occurring metals, temperature, pH, etc.) in the water supply are the only pollutants of concern;

f. Subterranean seepage dewatering (dewatering of structures situated below ground level such as basements, roadways, etc.) where sediment and naturally occurring parameters (e.g., naturally occurring metals or salts, temperature, pH, etc.) in the area groundwater are the only pollutants of concern;

g. Discharges resulting from dewatering of uncontaminated dredge spoils, where sediment and naturally occurring parameters (e.g., naturally occurring metals or salts, temperature, pH, etc.) are the only pollutants of concern;

h. Discharges of seafood processing wash water to ocean waters;

i. Discharges of brine from small desalination facilities to ocean waters;

j. Discharges of treated bilge water from harbor pump-out facilities to ocean waters[2]; and

k. Other similar types of point source discharges that pose a low threat to water quality and beneficial uses, yet must be regulated under an NPDES permit. This could include discharges that result from fire hydrant testing or flushing air conditioning condensate if these discharges are discharged directly to a surface water body or to a storm drain system that is not regulated under an NPDES permit.

2. Authorized discharges are subject to all the requirements and provisions set forth in this General Order.

3. **Ineligible Discharges.** The following discharges shall not be eligible for coverage under this General Order:

a. Discharges from drinking water systems that are eligible for coverage under the State Water Board's Water Quality Order 2014-0194-DWQ, General Permit No. CAG140001, *Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges to Surface Waters*;

b. Discharges which, based on the judgment of the Executive Officer, do not meet the definition of "low threat" as contemplated by this General Order;

c. Discharges that are insufficiently characterized and thereby preclude a determination as to suitability for coverage under this General Order;

d. Discharges that would require extensive biological, physical or chemical treatment to meet effluent limitations or water quality objectives or criteria;

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[2] Discharges of treated bilge water may be eligible for coverage under this General Order provided that the harbor or marina is either certified as a Clean Marina under the Clean Marina CA program or other equivalent third party certification program, or can demonstrate that the treatment facilities adequately and reliably remove exotic species, human wastes, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants of concern.

e. Discharges that have the potential to cause acute or chronic toxicity to aquatic life in the receiving waters;

f. Discharges from groundwater cleanup projects, including but not limited to sites polluted by industrial activities, above ground or underground leaking tanks, and agricultural (e.g., farming) practices. Discharges of highly treated groundwater to surface waters following extraction and cleanup of groundwater polluted with petroleum hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds should apply for coverage under Order No. R1-2011-0028 or other applicable NPDES permits.

g. Discharges of groundwater which have been polluted by industrial activities, above ground or underground leaking tanks, or agricultural (e.g., farming) practices, even if the project and/or proponent has no connection with the pollution;

h. Discharges that contain chemical, physical or biological pollutants or properties that may adversely impact beneficial uses and/or exceed any applicable water quality objective or criteria (chemical pollutants of concern include, but are not limited to industrial chemicals, chlorine, chloramine, chlorinated hydrocarbons, or organic wastes, herbicides, pesticides, oil and grease, bacteria, radioactivity, nutrients and salinity; biological properties of concern include, but are not limited to bacteria, algae, or undesirable aquatic organisms (e.g., mosquito larvae or exotic species); and physical properties of concern include, but are not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and turbidity (sediment));

i. Discharges that have the potential to cause or contribute to the impairment of a receiving water that is listed as impaired on the CWA section 303(d) list;

j. Discharges that would create nuisance conditions, such as vector problems, erosion, sedimentation, or localized flooding that cannot be mitigated through the implementation of BMPs;

k. Discharges that could adversely affect a listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat;

l. Discharges to Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS);

m. Discharges that could have a significant impact on cultural resources, aesthetics, or air quality that cannot be mitigated;

n. Discharges that could alter the existing drainage pattern of the discharge site or surrounding area or result in downstream erosion;

o. Discharges that do not consist solely of the discharge of low threat water. For example, if a low threat discharge mixes with other discharges (e.g., storm water, domestic wastewater, or industrial process wastewater) prior to contacting receiving water, the other discharges must be covered under a separate and valid NPDES permit or WDRs, if required;

p. Discharges from industrial facilities that are subject to Effluent Limitations Guidelines promulgated by the U.S. EPA pursuant to CWA section 304(b), which limits the discharge of pollutants from these facilities;

q. Discharges that are not consistent with State and federal antidegradation policies; and

r. Discharges that result from releases from pipeline breaks or other spills.

4. Owners and operators of facilities that are deemed ineligible for coverage under this General Order may seek authorization from the Regional Water Board to discharge under an individual NPDES permit or a State or Regional Water Board general order.

5. This General Order does not authorize the discharge of any waste streams, including spills and other unintentional or non-routine discharge of pollutants, that are not part of the normal operations of the facility as described in the Notice of Intent (NOI), or any pollutants that are not ordinarily present in such waste streams. In instances where discharges include pollutants other than those authorized by this General Order, or where applicants encounter particularly difficult pollutant control situations, the owner/operator may be required to submit an application for an individual NPDES permit.

II. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Order Application

1. It is the responsibility of the Permittee to obtain coverage under this General Order prior to commencement of any discharge to surface waters. To apply for coverage under this General Order, which also serves as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, the applicant must submit the following:

a. A complete NOI, including all of the information required by the NOI, as detailed in Attachment B, to the Executive Officer.

b. A Best Management Practices and Pollution Prevention (BMP/PP) Plan as outlined in Attachment B-1. Applicants seeking permit coverage for a project with more than one proposed discharge point may request monitoring of representative discharge points in lieu of monitoring all discharge points, provided that the NOI and BMP/PP provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the selected discharge point appropriately represents the remaining discharge points. Flow must be measured at all discharge points.

c. The appropriate first annual fee as required by Title 23 of the CCR, Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1. The current fee schedule is available at the following website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees.

2. NOI Submittal Deadlines

a. Existing Permittees. As of the effective date of this Order, Permittees covered under Order No. R1-2009-0045 are automatically enrolled under this General Order, provided that the NOI submitted under Order No. R1-2009-0045 adequately characterizes the discharge and the discharge is compliant with all terms of this General Order. These Permittees shall comply with all requirements of this General Order beginning on the effective date. Permittees that are reenrolled shall comply with all provisions of this General Order.

b. New Permittees. Applicants who are seeking authorization to discharge under this General Order for the first time shall submit an NOI at least 90 days in advance of the proposed discharge start date to provide time for review of the NOI and submittal of additional information that may be necessary to complete the NOI. This time period may be waived by the Executive Officer.

B. General Order Coverage

1. Existing Permittees. The Executive Officer will provide a Notice of Applicability (NOA) letter to existing Permittees (those covered under Order No. R1-2009-0045) that coverage under the General Order will continue.

2. New Permittees

a. Following Regional Water Board staff review of a submitted NOI, the Permittee will receive one of the following from the Executive Officer:

i. A request for additional information.

ii. An NOA letter authorizing the discharges identified in the NOI and identifying the effective date of permit coverage.

iii. Written notice that the proposed discharge is ineligible for coverage under this General Order and whether or not the discharge is eligible for coverage under another general or individual order.

b. The Executive Officer will place a notice of enrollment on the Regional Water Board's website.

c. In no case may the discharge occur until the applicant receives an NOA letter confirming coverage under this General Order or another permit issued or adopted by the State or Regional Water Board.

3. All Permittees

a. Pursuant to NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.28 (b) (2), the Executive Officer has the authority to require a Permittee to comply with the conditions of this General Order. Such a Permittee shall be obligated to meet all discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, provisions, and monitoring and reporting requirements of this General Order.

b. Permittees who fail to submit an NOI and/or filing fee identified in section II.A of this General Order prior to initiating a discharge will be deemed out of compliance with this General Order and subject to all penalties allowable pursuant to applicable provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the California Water Code, including section 13385 thereof.

c. If multiple discharges (either by the same or different Permittees) are proposed into the same receiving water during a similar time period, the Executive Officer may condition the timing of the permit coverage for one or more discharges, if necessary, to reduce potential cumulative impacts.

d. Coverage under this General Order may be denied or revoked if it is determined that:

i. There are alternative means to the discharge;

ii. A discharge contains pollutants that may adversely affect the beneficial uses of the receiving water and/or exceed applicable water quality objectives or criteria;

iii. The discharge has the reasonable potential to adversely impact the beneficial uses of the receiving water and/or cause an exceedance of applicable water quality objectives or criteria; or

iv. The Permittee violates provisions of this General Order or the discharge is not consistent with information provided in the NOI.

e. The Regional Water Board may require any applicant requesting coverage under this General Order to apply for and obtain an individual NPDES permit in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.28(b)(3)(i). Circumstances where an individual NPDES permit may be required include, but are not limited to, where the applicant is not in compliance or is not expected to be in compliance with the terms and conditions of this

General Order, or where a total maximum daily load (TMDL) has been completed for a water body approved after the effective date of this General Order. Applicants proposing to discharge to a water body with an approved TMDL, or to a water body listed on the State's CWA section 303(d) list, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for coverage under this General Order or coverage under an individual permit.

f. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.28(b)(3)(iii), any Permittee may request to be excluded from coverage under a general NPDES permit by applying for an individual NPDES permit. This request must provide justification supporting the request for an individual NPDES permit and reasons why coverage under this General Order is not appropriate. Upon receipt of the request and application, the Executive Officer shall determine if an individual NPDES permit should be issued.

C. Termination of Coverage

1. Within 30 days following permanent termination of a discharge or discharges authorized under this General Order, the Permittee shall submit the Notice of Termination (NOT) of coverage under the General Order provided as Attachment G. Upon submission of the NOT, the Permittee shall no longer be authorized to discharge under this General Order. The Permittee is subject to the terms and conditions of this General Order and is responsible for submitting the annual fee associated with this General Order until the Permittee submits the NOT and receives notification of termination from Regional Water Board staff.

2. When the Regional Water Board issues an individual NPDES permit or WDRs with more specific requirements to a Permittee for a discharge that is otherwise covered by this General Order, the applicability of this General Order to that Permittee is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit or WDRs.

D. Permit Expiration

This General Order will expire 5 years after the effective date, as specified on the cover page of this General Order. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.6, if the permit is not reissued by the expiration date, the conditions of this General Order will continue in force and effect until a new General Order is issued.

III. FINDINGS

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board), finds:

A. Legal Authorities. This General Order serves as WDRs pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, division 7 of the Water Code (commencing with section 13260).This General Order is also issued pursuant to section 402 of the federal CWA and implementing regulations adopted by the U.S. EPA and chapter 5.5, division 7 of the Water Code (commencing with section 13370). It shall serve as an NPDES permit for low threat point source discharges to surface waters.

B. Background and Rationale for Requirements. The Regional Water Board developed the requirements in this General Order based on readily available information for similar discharges. The Fact Sheet (Attachment F), which contains background information and rationale for the requirements in this General Order, is hereby incorporated into and constitutes Findings for this General Order. Attachments A through E and G are also incorporated into this General Order.

C. Provisions and Requirements Implementing State Law. The provisions/requirements in subsections VII, VIII, and IX.C of this General Order are included to implement state law only. These provisions/requirements are not required or authorized under the federal CWA;

consequently, violations of these provisions/requirements are not subject to the enforcement remedies that are available for NPDES violations.

D. Notification of Interested Parties. The Regional Water Board has notified interested agencies and persons, including Permittees enrolled under Order No. R1-2009-0045 of its intent to prescribe WDRs for the discharges and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations. Details of the notification are provided in the Fact Sheet.

E. Consideration of Public Comment. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to adoption of this General Order. Details of the Public Hearing are provided in the Fact Sheet.

IV. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

A. The discharge of any wastes, other than those that meet the eligibility criteria in section I of this General Order are prohibited unless the Permittee obtains coverage under another general or individual order that regulates the discharge of such wastes.

B. The creation of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by section 13050 of the Water Code, is prohibited.

C. Any low threat discharge in excess of the flow rate, volume or duration described by the Permittee in its NOI, or as authorized by the Executive Officer, is prohibited.

D. Discharges containing pollutants which exceed applicable water quality objectives or criteria, or discharges which, wholly or in combination with other discharges, cause or contribute to exceedances of applicable water quality criteria or objectives established by the Basin Plan, Ocean Plan, or CWA for surface waters are prohibited and are precluded from coverage under this General Order. Applicable numeric water quality criteria and objectives are presented in Attachment C of this General Order.

E. The discharge of polluted groundwater to waters of the State is prohibited.

F. The discharge of detectable levels of petroleum, petroleum constituents, or volatile halogenated compounds from construction dewatering sites, treated bilge water, or other similar low-threat discharges is prohibited[3].

G. The discharge of domestic, agricultural, commercial and/or industrial process wastes is prohibited.

H. The discharge of an effluent with constituents in excess of waste load allocations identified in any TMDL applicable to the location of the discharge is prohibited.

I. The contact of low threat discharges with contaminated soil or groundwater is prohibited.

J. The discharge of elevated temperature wastes[4] to COLD interstate waters is prohibited.

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[3] For the purposes of this General Order, levels of detection are as follows:

Constituent	Units	Detection Limit
Petroleum Hydrocarbons	µg/L	50
Benzene	µg/L	0.5
Toluene	µg/L	0.5
Xylene	µg/L	0.5
Ethylbenzene	µg/L	0.5
Volatile Halogenated Compounds	µg/L	0.5

[4] Elevated temperature waste is defined in the Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California as "Liquid, solid, or gaseous material, including thermal

V. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

During the effective period of this General Order, the Permittee is authorized to discharge from the discharge point(s) specified in the NOI within the limits and subject to the conditions set forth in this General Order. This General Order authorizes the discharge resulting from project site processes, waste streams, and operations that have been clearly identified in the NOA.

A. Effluent Limitations

The discharge of pollutants shall be controlled and minimized through the implementation of treatment and BMPs identified in the NOI and BMP/PP Plan and shall not exceed the following effluent limitations:

1. Final Effluent Limitations – Applicable to Discharges to Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries

a. Total Residual Chlorine. (Applicable to any discharge of water that was chlorinated). The discharge shall not contain total residual chlorine in excess of the following concentrations:

i. 0.011 mg/L, as a 4-day average; and

ii. 0.019 mg/L, as a 1-hour average.

b. Total Suspended Solids. The discharge shall not exceed the following:

i. 10 mg/L, as a monthly average

ii. 15 mg/L, as a weekly average; and

iii. 30 mg/L, as a maximum daily.

c. Settleable Solids. Effluent shall not contain any measureable settleable solids, using a detection limit of 0.1 mL/L.

d. pH. For waters listed in Table C-4 of Attachment C (Table 3-1 from the Basin Plan), the pH water quality objectives in Table C-4 of Attachment C shall apply as effluent limitations. For waters not listed in Table C-4 of Attachment C and where pH objectives are not prescribed, the pH of the discharge shall be not less than 6.5 nor greater than 8.5.

e. Total Dissolved Solids. For waters listed in Table C-4 of Attachment C (Table 3-1 from the Basin Plan), the total dissolved solids water quality objectives in Table C-4 of Attachment C shall apply as effluent limitations.

2. Final Effluent Limitations for Discharges to Ocean Waters

a. The discharge shall not exceed the following:

Constituent	Units	Monthly (30-day average)	Weekly (7-day average)	Maximum
Grease and Oil	mg/L	25	40	75
Suspended Solids	mg/L	---	---	60
Settleable Solids	ml/L	1.0	1.5	3.0

waste discharged at a temperature higher than the natural temperature of the receiving water. Irrigation return water is not considered elevated temperature waste for the purpose of this plan."

Constituent	Units	Monthly (30-day average)	Weekly (7-day average)	Maximum
Turbidity	NTU	75	100	225
pH	pH units	between 6.0 and 9.0 at all times		

b. **Total Residual Chlorine.** (Applicable to any discharge of water that was chlorinated). The discharge shall not contain total residual chlorine in excess of 0.008 mg/L as a daily maximum.

3. Narrative Effluent Limitations

Effluent shall not contain substances that:

a. Float or become floatable upon discharge.

b. Form sediments that degrade aquatic life.

c. Accumulate to toxic levels in surface waters, sediments, or biota.

d. Significantly decrease the natural light to aquatic life.

VI. OTHER DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

A. Oil or oily materials, chemicals, refuse, or other materials that may cause pollution shall not be stored or deposited in areas where they may be picked up by the low threat discharge and discharged to surface waters. Any spill of such materials shall be contained, removed, and cleaned up immediately.

B. Discharges shall not cause the velocity and/or volume of discharge to modify the existing physical characteristics of a water body (hydromodification). Discharges shall be controlled at the lowest possible flow rate to minimize potential impacts on aquatic life and habitat and to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Discharge locations must be selected to avoid sensitive habitats. BMPs shall include adequate velocity dissipation devices, when necessary to prevent and minimize erosion, stream scouring, increases in turbidity, sedimentation and any other potential adverse impacts to water quality and beneficial uses of the receiving waters.

C. Low threat discharges shall not be located within 500 feet of the intake for a domestic drinking water supply. Discharges shall be conducted in a manner that avoids potential pollution to private and public water supply.

D. Only that volume, rate and duration of the discharge that remains after utilization of other reasonable alternatives shall be allowed to discharge to the receiving water.

VII. LAND DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

Land discharge is a means by which a Permittee enrolled under this General Order may reduce the volume and duration of discharge to surface waters. Such a discharge shall comply with the following land discharge specification:

A. Land discharges shall not cause the creation of pollution or nuisance conditions.

VIII. REUSE SPECIFICATIONS

The Regional Water Board encourages Permittees authorized under this General Order to place the discharge to beneficial reuse. Low threat discharges authorized under this General Order that are put to beneficial reuse are not required to obtain any other WDRs if the discharge is collected and reused for landscape irrigation or other uses in a manner that augments the existing supply, or if the

discharge is directly or indirectly discharged to storm water capture basin(s), low impact development features, or other groundwater recharge system(s). Any low threat discharge to a storm water treatment feature shall not undermine the treatment function(s) of the storm water treatment feature. The discharge shall comply with the following reuse specification:

A. Reuse of the discharge shall not cause the creation of pollution or nuisance conditions.

IX. RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

Receiving water limitations are based on water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan and Ocean Plan and are required to be addressed as part of this General Order. However, a receiving water condition not in conformance with the limitation is not necessarily a violation of this General Order. Compliance with receiving water limitations shall be measured at monitoring locations described in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) and NOA. The Regional Water Board may require an investigation to determine cause and culpability prior to asserting a violation has occurred.

A. Surface Water Limitations – Inland Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries

Receiving water limitations for discharges to inland waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries are based on water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan and are a required part of this General Order. Compliance with receiving water limitations shall be measured at the monitoring locations described in the MRP. Note: Table 3-1 of the Basin Plan is included in this General Order in Table C-4 of Attachment C. Authorized discharges shall not cause violations of the following receiving water limitations established for inland waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries of the North Coast Region.

1. Authorized discharges to receiving waters with water quality objectives for dissolved oxygen established in Tables 3-1 and 3-1a of the Basin Plan (Tables C-4 and C-4a of Attachment C) shall not cause the dissolved oxygen concentration of the receiving water to be depressed below the applicable concentration established in Table C-4. Authorized discharges to receiving waters that are not identified in Table C-4 shall not cause the dissolved oxygen concentration of the receiving water to be depressed below 7.0 mg/L at any time nor below 9.0 mg/L during critical spawning and egg incubation periods. In the event that the receiving waters have background dissolved oxygen concentrations that are below these levels, discharges shall not depress dissolved oxygen concentrations below existing background levels.

2. Authorized discharges shall not cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality objectives for specific waters of the North Coast Region that are established in Table 3-1 of the Basin Plan (Table C-4 of Attachment C) for specific conductance, total dissolved solids, hardness, and boron.

3. Unless more stringent water quality objectives for pH are established for a specific receiving water by Table 3-1 of the Basin Plan (Table C-4 of Attachment C), authorized discharges shall not cause the pH of receiving waters to be depressed below 6.5 nor raised above 8.5. Within this range, a discharge shall not cause the pH of the receiving waters to be changed at any time more than 0.5 units from that which occurs naturally.

4. Authorized discharges shall not cause the turbidity of receiving waters to be increased more than 20 percent above naturally occurring background levels.

5. Authorized discharges shall not cause receiving waters to contain suspended material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

6. Authorized discharges shall not cause receiving waters to contain floating materials, including solids, liquids, foams, and scum, in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

7. Authorized discharges shall not cause receiving waters to contain taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that impart undesirable tastes or odors to fish flesh or other edible products of aquatic origin, that cause nuisance, or that adversely affect beneficial uses.

8. Authorized discharges shall not cause coloration of receiving waters that causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses.

9. Authorized discharges shall not cause bottom deposits in receiving waters to the extent that such deposits cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

10. Authorized discharges shall not cause receiving waters to contain concentrations of biostimulatory substances that promote objectionable aquatic growth to the extent that such growth causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses.

11. Authorized discharges shall not cause receiving waters to contain toxic substances in concentrations that are toxic to, or that produce detrimental physiological responses in humans, plants, animals, or aquatic life.

12. Authorized discharges shall not cause alteration of natural temperature of receiving waters unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Regional Water Board that such alteration in temperature does not adversely affect beneficial uses. At no time or place shall discharges cause an increase of the receiving water by more than 5°F above natural receiving water temperature.[5] Authorized discharges to coastal and interstate waters and enclosed bays and estuaries must comply with receiving water objectives identified in the *Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California* (Thermal Plan).

13. Authorized discharges shall not cause an individual pesticide or combination of pesticides to be present in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses. Authorized discharges shall not cause bioaccumulation of pesticide, fungicide, wood treatment chemical, or other toxic pollutant concentrations in bottom sediments or aquatic life to levels that are harmful to human health.

14. Authorized discharges shall not cause receiving waters to contain concentrations of pesticides in excess of the limiting concentrations set forth in Table 3-2 of the Basin Plan or in excess of more stringent Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established for these pollutants in title 22, division 4, chapter 15, articles 4 and 5.5 of the CCR.

15. Authorized discharges shall not cause receiving waters to contain oils, greases, waxes, or other materials in concentrations that result in a visible film or coating on the surface of the water or on objects in the water, that cause nuisance, or that otherwise affect beneficial uses.

16. Authorized discharges shall not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standard for receiving waters adopted by the Regional Water Board or the State Water Board, as required by the federal CWA and regulations adopted thereunder. If more stringent

[5] For the Trinity River, the following temperature objectives shall apply in the receiving water:

Daily Average Not to Exceed	Period	River Reach
60^0F	July 1 – Sept. 14	Lewiston Dam to Douglas City Bridge
56^0F	Sept 15 – Oct. 1	Lewiston Dam to Douglas City Bridge
56^0F	Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	Lewiston Dam to confluence of North Fork Trinity River

applicable water quality standards are promulgated or approved pursuant to section 303 of the CWA, or amendments thereto, the Regional Water Board will revise and modify this General Order in accordance with such more stringent standards.

17. Authorized discharges shall not cause concentrations of chemical constituents to occur in excess of limits specified in Table 3-2 of the Basin Plan or in excess of more stringent MCLs established for these pollutants in title 22, division 4, chapter 15, articles 4 and 5.5 of the CCR.

18. Authorized discharges shall not cause receiving waters to contain radionuclides in concentrations which are deleterious to human, plant, animal or aquatic life, nor which result in the accumulation of radionuclides in the food web to an extent which presents a hazard to human, plant, animal, or indigenous aquatic life.

Waters designated for use as domestic or municipal (MUN) shall not contain concentrations of radionuclides in excess of the limits specified in title 22, division 4, chapter 15, article 5, section 64443 (Table 64442) of the CCR.

19. The discharge shall not cause bacteriological water quality to be degraded beyond natural background levels.

B. Surface Water Limitations – Ocean Waters

Receiving water limitations for discharges to ocean waters are based on water quality objectives contained in the Ocean Plan and are a required part of this General Order. Compliance with receiving water limitations shall be measured at the monitoring locations described in the MRP. Authorized discharges shall not cause violations of the following receiving water limitations established for ocean waters of the North Coast Region.

1. Bacterial Characteristics

a. Water Contact Standards. Within a zone bounded by the shoreline and a distance of 1,000 feet from the shoreline or the 30-foot depth contour, whichever is further from the shoreline, and in areas outside this zone designated for water contact recreation use by the Regional Water Board, but including all kelp beds, the following bacteriological objectives shall be maintained throughout the water column.

i. 30-Day Geometric Mean – The following standards are based on the geometric mean of the five most recent samples from each receiving water monitoring location:

(a) Total coliform density shall not exceed 1,000 per 100 mL;

(b) Fecal coliform density shall not exceed 200 per 100 mL; and

(c) Enterococcus density shall not exceed 35 per 100 mL.

ii. Single Sample maximum:

(a) Total coliform density shall not exceed 10,000 per 100 mL;

(b) Fecal coliform density shall not exceed 400 per 100 mL;

(c) Enterococcus density shall not exceed 104 per 100 mL; and

(d) Total coliform density shall not exceed 1,000 per 100 mL when the fecal coliform to total coliform ratio exceeds 0.1.

b. **Shellfish Harvesting Standards.** At all areas where shellfish may be harvested for human consumption, as determined by the Regional Water Board, the following bacteriological objectives shall be maintained throughout the water column:

i. The median total coliform density shall not exceed 70 organisms per 100 mL, and in not more than 10 percent of samples shall coliform density exceed 230 organisms per 100 mL.

2. Physical Characteristics

a. Floating particulates and grease and oil shall not be visible.

b. The discharge of waste shall not cause aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the ocean surface.

c. Natural light shall not be significantly reduced at any point outside the initial dilution zone as the result of the discharge of waste.

d. The rate of deposition of inert solids and the characteristics of inert solids in ocean sediments shall not be changed such that benthic communities are degraded.

3. Chemical Characteristics

a. The dissolved oxygen concentration shall not at any time be depressed more than 10 percent from that which occurs naturally as a result of the discharge of oxygen demanding waste material.

b. The pH shall not be changed at any time more than 0.2 unites from that which occurs naturally.

c. The dissolved sulfide concentration of waters in and near sediments shall not be significantly increased above that present under natural conditions.

d. The concentration of substances set forth in Chapter II, Table 1 of the Ocean Plan in marine sediments shall not be increased to levels that would degrade indigenous biota.

e. The concentration of organic materials in marine sediments shall not be increased to levels that would degrade marine life.

f. Nutrient levels shall not cause objectionable aquatic growths or degrade indigenous biota.

g. Discharges shall not cause exceedances of water quality objectives for ocean waters of the State established in Chapter II, Table 1 of the Ocean Plan.

h. Discharge of radioactive waste shall not degrade marine life.

4. Biological Characteristics

a. Marine communities, including vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant species, shall not be degraded.

b. The natural taste, odor, and color of fish, shellfish, and other marine resources used for human consumption shall not be altered.

c. The concentration of organic materials in fish, shellfish, or other marine resources used for human consumption shall not bioaccumulate to levels that are harmful to human health.

5. General Standards

a. The discharge shall not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standard for the receiving waters adopted by the Regional Water Board or the State Water Board as required by the CWA and regulations adopted thereunder.

b. Waste management systems that discharge to the ocean must be designed and operated in a manner that will maintain the indigenous marine life and a healthy and diverse marine community.

c. The discharge shall be essentially free of:

i. Material that is floatable or will become floatable upon discharge.

ii. Settleable material or substances that may form sediments that will degrade benthic communities or other aquatic life.

iii. Substances that will accumulate to toxic levels in marine waters, sediments, or biota.

iv. Substances that significantly decrease natural light to benthic communities and other marine life.

v. Material that results in aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the ocean surface.

d. Waste effluent shall be discharged in a manner that provides sufficient initial dilution to minimize the concentrations of substances not removed in the treatment.

e. Location of waste discharges must be determined after a detailed assessment of the oceanographic characteristics and current patterns to assure that:

i. Pathogenic organisms and viruses are not present in areas where shellfish are harvested for human consumption or in areas used for swimming or other body contact sports.

ii. Natural water quality conditions are not altered in areas designated as being of special biological significance.

iii. Maximum protection is provided to the marine environment.

iv. The discharge does not adversely affect recreational beneficial uses such as surfing and beach walking.

C. Groundwater Limitations

Receiving water limitations for groundwater are based on water quality objectives in the Basin Plan.

1. Low threat discharges shall not cause exceedances of applicable water quality objectives or create adverse impacts to beneficial uses of groundwater.

2. Low threat discharges shall not cause or substantially contribute to a statistically significant degradation of groundwater.

3. Low threat discharges shall not cause groundwater to contain taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

X. PROVISIONS

A. Standard Provisions

1. **Federal Standard Provisions.** All Permittees shall comply with all Standard Provisions included in Attachment D.

2. **Regional Water Board Standard Provisions.** All Permittees shall comply with the following provisions.

   a. Failure to comply with provisions or requirements of this General Order, or violation of other applicable laws or regulations governing discharges from the Permittee's Facility, may subject the Permittee to administrative or civil liabilities, criminal penalties, and/or other enforcement remedies to assure compliance. Additionally, certain violations may subject the Permittee to civil or criminal enforcement from appropriate local, state, or federal law enforcement entities.

   b. In the event that a Permittee does not comply or will be unable to comply for any reason, with any prohibition, final effluent limitation, discharge specification, receiving water limitation, or other provision of this General Order that may result in a significant threat to human health or the environment or that results in an unauthorized discharge to a drainage channel or a surface water, or if there is evidence that the discharge has adversely impacted any beneficial use of the receiving water, that Permittee shall notify Regional Water Board staff within 24 hours of having knowledge of such noncompliance. Spill notification and reporting shall be conducted in accordance with section V.E of Attachment D and V.A.3 of the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

B. Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Requirements

All Permittees shall comply with the MRP, and future revisions thereto, in Attachment E.

C. Special Provisions

1. **Reopener Provisions**

   a. **Standard Revisions.** If applicable water quality standards are promulgated or approved pursuant to section 303 of the CWA, or amendments thereto, the Regional Water Board may reopen this General Order and make modifications in accordance with such revised standards.

   b. **303(d)-Listed Pollutants.** If a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is adopted and is applicable to a discharge(s) authorized by this General Order, this General Order may be reopened to incorporate the requirements of the TMDL. TMDLs for bacteria, nitrogen, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, sediment, and temperature are currently applicable and/or under development for various watersheds within the North Coast Region. The Permittees shall refer to Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan to determine whether there are any applicable TMDLs for the receiving water. In addition, the Regional Water Board may include additional provisions necessary for Permittees to comply with applicable TMDLs and/or consider revising this General Order to make it consistent with any Regional Water Board decisions arising from various petitions for re-hearing and litigation concerning the SIP, 303(d) list, and TMDL program.

   c. **Total Chlorine Residual.** If a statewide policy for total residual chlorine is adopted during the term of this General Order, this General Order may be reopened and modified to maintain consistency with the statewide policy.

2. Special Studies, Technical Reports and Additional Monitoring Requirements – Not Applicable

3. Best Management Practices and Pollution Prevention

a. Best Management Practices and Pollution Prevention (BMP/PP) Plan

i. Permittees enrolled under this General Order shall develop and implement a BMP/PP Plan to identify and implement site-specific BMPs and pollution prevention measures to reduce or prevent the discharge of wastes and pollutants to waters of the North Coast Region. The BMP/PP Plan shall include, at a minimum, the elements identified in Attachment B-1 and shall be submitted with the NOI.

ii. When low threat discharges will continue for more than 1 year, the Permittee shall conduct a compliance evaluation before the end of each year (including the first year) to determine the effectiveness of the BMP/PP Plan in reducing and preventing the discharge of wastes and pollutants. The compliance evaluation shall include:

(a) A review of all visual observation records, inspection records, and sampling and analysis results of BMPs and PP measures implemented.

(b) A review of visual inspections of all potential pollutant sources for evidence of, or the potential for, the discharge or pollutants.

(c) A review and evaluation of all BMPs and PP measures to determine whether the BMPs and PP measures are adequate, properly implemented and maintained, and determination of what additional BMPs and PP measures are necessary.

Following the compliance evaluation, the BMP/PP Plan shall be revised, as appropriate, and submitted to the Regional Water Board with documentation of the results of the compliance evaluation. Revisions to the BMP/PP Plan shall be implemented within 90 days following completion of the compliance evaluation.

iii. The BMPs and PP measures identified in the BMP/PP shall be implemented prior to and during any discharge.

iv. The Permittee shall modify BMPs and PP measures as necessary to maintain compliance with the requirements of this Order. If monitoring results or other available information demonstrates that the discharge is not in compliance, the Permittee shall validate the effectiveness of any new or revised BMPs and PP measures to achieve the requirements of this Order. All non-compliance and corresponding corrective actions to address non-compliance shall be reported to the Regional Water Board, as required by section X.A.2.b of this Order and section V.A.3 of the MRP.

v. The Permittee shall make available a documented log of all BMPs and PP measures implemented for its discharges to State and Regional Water Board staff upon request. The Permittee shall modify its BMP/PP Plan as necessary to maintain compliance with this General Order.

b. Mitigation Measures

Permittees enrolled under this General Order are required to implement BMPs and PP measures in accordance with a BMP/PP Plan submitted with each Permittee's NOI. In order to assure that BMPs and PP measures do not cause adverse environmental

impacts, each Permittee shall implement the following mitigation measures, as applicable:

i. Discharge volumes and flow rates and pollutants shall be minimized to reduce impacts on beneficial uses of the receiving water.

ii. BMPs and PP measures shall be implemented for periods of time corresponding with the period of discharge. BMPs that are no longer needed shall be removed once a discharge is completed.

iii. BMPs and PP measures shall be sized properly for the discharge that is enrolled under this General Order.

iv. BMPs and PP measures shall be monitored to assure that they are working correctly.

v. BMPs and PP measures that could result in stagnant water shall be inspected regularly to assure that the treatment devices are not clogged, pooling water, or causing odors or other nuisance conditions such as vectors. If deficiencies are identified, the Permittee shall contact the appropriate Regional Water Board staff person and appropriate corrective measures shall be implemented immediately to correct any deficiencies.

vi. BMPs and PP measures shall be carefully sited and/or camouflaged so they are not unsightly.

vii. During the installation of any BMPs and PP measures that require earth movement, moisture shall be used to reduce the transfer or particulates and dust into the air.

viii. Prior to installing BMPs and PP measures that involve substantial earth movement, the Permittee shall consult with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, including, but not limited to the county the project is located in, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service, and implement any mitigation measures identified by the agencies to avoid impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species; wildlife migration; and/or use of native wildlife nursery areas. If appropriate, to avoid conflicts with any of these plans, the timing and/or location of the BMPs and PP measures must be adjusted to reduce any potential conflict. If such adjustments cannot be made, the BMPs and PP measures would need to be changed to avoid any adverse impacts.

ix. During construction of any structural BMPs that requires earth movement, the Permittee shall minimize off-site sediment runoff or deposition under general construction storm water WDRs and/or through the construction program of the applicable municipal separate storm water system WDR. Both of these permits require that erosion impacts minimize or eliminate impacts on the receiving water.

x. BMPs shall be consistent with the requirements of any existing Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. If appropriate, to avoid conflicts with any of these plans, the timing and/or location of the BMPs must be adjusted to reduce any potential conflict. If such adjustments cannot be made, the BMPs would need to be changed to avoid any adverse impacts.

xi. BMPs that require substantial earth movement shall not be installed in riparian or federally protected wetland areas.

xii. If BMPs installation involves excavation activities, a cultural resources investigation shall be conducted before any substantial disturbance of land that has not been disturbed previously. The cultural resources investigation will include, at a minimum, a records search for previously identified cultural resources and previously conducted cultural resources investigations of the project parcel and vicinity. This record search will include, at a minimum, contacting the appropriate information center of the California Historical Resources Information System, operated under the auspices of the California Office of Historic Preservation. In coordination with the information center or a qualified archaeologist, a determination shall be made regarding whether previously identified cultural resources will be affected by the proposed project and if previously conducted investigations were performed to satisfy the requirements of CEQA. If not, a cultural resources survey shall be conducted. The purpose of this investigation will be to identify resources before they are affected by a proposed project and avoid the impact. If the impact is unavoidable, mitigation will be determined on a case-by-case basis, as warranted.

xiii. Hazardous materials stored and used at the site of a low threat discharge shall be properly stored and handled to assure that hazardous materials are not discharged.

xiv. BMPs shall be implemented in a manner that does not cause the alteration of the existing drainage pattern.

xv. BMPs that involve discharges to a local sanitary sewer system shall obtain proper permission and permitting from the owner/operator of the sanitary sewer system.

xvi. BMPs that involve a storm drain system to be retrofitted or reconfigured shall obtain permission and any necessary permitting from the municipality that owns the storm water system.

xvii. Solid or liquid wastes generated during implementation of a BMP shall be disposed of properly.

xviii. BMPs that involve dredge or fill shall not be constructed until permit coverage has been received under any other applicable permit (e.g., CWA 401 and 404 permits, WDRs, or waiver of WDRs).

4. Construction, Operation and Maintenance Specifications

a. This General Order (Attachment D, Standard Provision I.D) requires that the Permittee at all times properly operates and maintains all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with this General Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes adequate quality control and appropriate quality assurance procedures.

b. Treatment systems and BMPs shall be constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that assures compliance with all requirements of this General Order.

5. Other Special Provisions

a. Storm Water

i. **Industrial Storm Water**. If applicable, authorized Permittees shall seek coverage under and comply with the requirements of State Water Board Order No. 97-03-DWQ, NPDES General Permit No. CAS000001 – Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities Excluding Construction Activities prior to July 1, 2015 or State Water Board Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ after June 30, 2015. If the Industrial General Storm Water Permit is reissued, authorized Permittees shall seek coverage under and comply with the requirements of the most recent version of the permit.

ii. **Construction Storm Water**. If applicable, authorized Permittees shall seek coverage under and comply with the requirements of State Water Board Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ as amended by Order Nos. 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ, NPDES General Permit No. CAS000002 – Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Construction Activity (2009). If the Construction General Storm Water Permit is reissued, authorized Permittees shall seek coverage under and comply with the requirements of the most recent version of the permit.

XI. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Compliance with the effluent limitations contained in section V of this General Order will be determined as specified below.

A. General

Compliance with effluent limitations in section IV.B of this Order and water quality objectives/criteria in Attachment C shall be determined using sample reporting protocols defined in the MRP and Attachment B of this General Order. For purposes of reporting and administrative enforcement by the Regional and State Water Boards, the Permittee shall be deemed out of compliance with effluent limitations if the concentration of the pollutant in the monitoring sample is greater than the effluent limitation and greater than or equal to the reporting level (RL).

B. Multiple Sample Data

When determining compliance with an effluent limitation in section IV.B of this Order or water quality objectives/criteria in Attachment C, and more than one sample result is available, the Permittee shall compute the arithmetic mean unless the data set contains one or more reported determinations of "Detected, but Not Quantified" (DNQ) or "Not Detected" (ND). In those cases, the Permittee shall compute the median in place of the arithmetic mean in accordance with the following procedure.

1. The data set shall be ranked from low to high, ranking the reported ND determinations lowest, DNQ determinations next, followed by quantified values (if any). The order of the individual ND or DNQ determinations is unimportant.

2. The median value of the data set shall be determined. If the data set has an odd number of data points, then the median is the middle value. If the data set has an even number of data points, then the median is the average of the two values around the middle unless one or both of the points are ND or DNQ, in which case the median value shall be the lower of the two data points where DNQ is lower than a value and ND is lower than DNQ.

C. Maximum Daily Effluent Limitation (MDEL)

If a daily average concentration (or when applicable, the median determined by subsection B, above, for multiple sample data of a daily discharge) exceeds the MDEL for a given parameter, the Permittee will be considered out of compliance for that parameter for that 1 day only within the reporting period.

D. Instantaneous Minimum Effluent Limitation

If the analytical result of a single grab sample is lower than the instantaneous minimum effluent limitation for a parameter, the Permittee will be considered out of compliance for that parameter for that single sample. Non-compliance for each sample will be considered separately (e.g., the results of two grab samples taken within a calendar day that both are lower than the instantaneous minimum effluent limitation would result in two instances of non-compliance with the instantaneous minimum effluent limitation).

If the Permittee monitors pH continuously, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. section 401.17, the Permittee shall be in compliance with the pH limitation specified herein provided that both of the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the total time during which the pH values are outside the required range of pH values shall not exceed 7 hours and 26 minutes in any calendar month; and (2) no individual excursion from the range of pH values shall exceed 60 minutes.

E. Instantaneous Maximum Effluent Limitation

If the analytical result of a single grab sample is higher than the instantaneous maximum effluent limitation for a parameter, the Permittee will be considered out of compliance for that parameter for that single sample. Non-compliance for each sample will be considered separately (e.g., the results of two grab samples taken within a calendar day that both exceed the instantaneous maximum effluent limitation would result in two instances of non-compliance with the instantaneous maximum effluent limitation).

If the Permittee monitors pH continuously, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. section 401.17, the Permittee shall be in compliance with the pH limitation specified herein provided that both of the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the total time during which the pH values are outside the required range of pH values shall not exceed 7 hours and 26 minutes in any calendar month; and (2) no individual excursion from the range of pH values shall exceed 60 minutes.

F. Total Residual Chlorine

Handheld chlorine measuring devices that are U.S. EPA-approved are appropriate to measure residual chlorine in the field for compliance determination. The method detection limit (MDL) of a handheld chlorine meter used to determine compliance with the total chlorine residual effluent limitations is 0.1 mg/L or lower. A discharge monitoring result with a total residual chlorine concentration greater than or equal to 0.1 mg/L shall be deemed out of compliance with a chlorine effluent limitation. The Discharger may elect to prove a chlorine residual exceedance is a false positive by documenting residual dechlorinating agent is present because it is chemically improbable to have chlorine present in the presence of sodium bisulfite. If the Regional Water Board staff finds convincing evidence that the chlorine residual exceedance is false positive, such exceedance is not a violation of this Order's total chlorine residual limit.

ATTACHMENT A – DEFINITIONS

Acute Toxicity: is a measurement of the toxic effect of a short-term exposure to an effluent as measured directly by an acute toxicity test. In aquatic toxicity tests, an effect observed in 96-hours or less is typically considered acute.

Areas of Special Biological Significance: are those areas designated by the State Water Board as ocean areas requiring protection of species or biological communities to the extent that alteration of natural water quality is undesirable. All Areas of Special Biological Significance are also classified as a subset of State Water Quality Protection Areas (see definition below).

Arithmetic Mean (μ): also called the average, is the sum of measured values divided by the number of samples. For ambient water concentrations, the arithmetic mean is calculated as follows:

Arithmetic mean = $\mu = \Sigma x / n$ where: Σx is the sum of the measured ambient water concentrations, and n is the number of samples.

Authorized Discharge: is any discharge that is authorized pursuant to this National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and meets the conditions set forth in this General Order.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): mean schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of surface waters. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, and solids or waste disposal.

Chronic Toxicity: is a measurement of the toxic effect of a long-term exposure to an effluent as measured directly by a chronic toxicity test. The measurement of a chronic effect can be reduced growth, reduced reproduction, or lethality.

Community Water System: is a public water system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year.

Degrade: Degradation shall be determined by comparison of the waste field and reference site(s) for characteristic species diversity, population density, contamination, growth anomalies, debility, or supplanting of normal species by undesirable plan and animal species. Degradation occurs if there are significant differences in any of three major biotic groups, namely, demersal fish, benthic invertebrates, or attached algae. Other groups may be evaluated where benthic species are not affected, or are not the only ones affected. Significant Difference is defined as a statistically significant difference in the means of two distributions of sampling results at the 95 percent confidence level.

Detected, but Not Quantified (DNQ): means sample results less than the RL, but greater than or equal to the laboratory's MDL.

Drinking Water System: is a system regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water or a local county department of health, with the primary purpose of conveying, treating, storing and distributing safe drinking water to at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or regularly serves at least 25 year around residents of the area served by the system.

Drinking Water System Discharges: are releases of flows from drinking water intakes, transmission, storage, pumping, treatment and distribution systems including flows due to : (1) system failures and pressure releases, (2) system development, testing and maintenance that is performed to comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the California Health and Safety Code, and State Water Board Division of Drinking Water permit requirements.

Elevated Temperature Waste: For purposes of the Thermal Plan, is liquid, solid, or gaseous material including thermal waste discharged at a temperature higher than the natural temperature of the receiving water. Irrigation return water is not considered elevated temperature waste.

Emergency Discharge: is a discharge due to a sudden unexpected occurrence involving a clear and imminent danger demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services, including the provision of drinking water supplies in accordance with applicable drinking water statutes and regulations.

Enclosed Bays: are indentations along the coast that enclose an area of oceanic water within distinct headlands or harbor works. Enclosed bays include all bays where the narrowest distance between the headlands or outermost harbor works is less than 75 percent of the greatest dimension of the enclosed portion of the bay. Enclosed bays include, but are not limited to, Humboldt Bay, Bodega Harbor, Tomales Bay, Drake's Estero, San Francisco Bay, Morro Bay, Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor, Upper and Lower Newport Bay, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay. Enclosed bays do not include inland surface waters or ocean waters.

Estuaries and Coastal Lagoons: are waters, including coastal lagoons, located at the mouths of streams that serve as areas of mixing for fresh and ocean waters. Coastal lagoons and mouths of streams that are temporarily separated from the ocean by sandbars shall be considered estuaries. Estuarine waters shall be considered to extend from a bay or the open ocean to a point upstream where there is no significant mixing of fresh water and seawater. Estuarine waters include, but are not limited to, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, as defined in Water Code section 12220, Suisun Bay, Carquinez Strait downstream to the Carquinez Bridge, and appropriate areas of the Smith, Mad, Eel, Noyo, Russian, Klamath, San Diego, and Otay rivers. Estuaries do not include inland surface waters or ocean waters.

Initial Dilution: is the process that results in the rapid and irreversible turbulent mixing of wastewater with ocean water around the point of discharge.

For a submerged buoyant discharge, characteristic of most municipal and industrial wastes that are released from the submarine outfalls, the momentum of the discharge and its initial buoyancy act together to produce turbulent mixing. Initial dilution in this case is completed when the diluting wastewater ceases to rise in the water column and first begins to spread horizontally.

For shallow water submerged discharges, surface discharges, and non-buoyant discharges, characteristic of cooling water wastes and some individual discharges, turbulent mixing results primarily from the momentum of discharge. Initial dilution, in these cases, is considered to be completed when the momentum induced velocity of the discharge ceases to produce significant mixing of the waste, or the diluting plume reaches a fixed distance from the discharge to be specified by the Regional Board, whichever results in the lower estimate for initial dilution.

Inland Surface Waters: are all surface waters of the State that do not include the ocean, enclosed bays, or estuaries.

Instantaneous Maximum Effluent Limitation: is the highest allowable value for any single grab sample or aliquot (i.e., each grab sample or aliquot is independently compared to the instantaneous maximum limitation).

Instantaneous Minimum Effluent Limitation: is the lowest allowable value for any single grab sample or aliquot (i.e., each grab sample or aliquot is independently compared to the instantaneous minimum limitation).

Interstate Waters; All rivers, lakes, artificial impoundments, and other waters that flow across or form a part of the boundary with other states or Mexico.

Kelp Beds: for purposes of the bacteriological standards of the Ocean Plan, are significant aggregations of marine algae of the genera Macrocystis and Nereocystis. Kelp beds include the total foliage canopy of Macrocystis and Nereocystis plants throughout the water column.

Material: is (a) In common usage: (1) the substance or substances of which a thing is made or composed (2) substantial; (b) For purposes of the Ocean Plan relating to waste disposal, dredging and the disposal of dredged material and fill, material means matter of any kind or description which is subject to regulation as waste, or any material dredged from the navigable waters of the United States.

Maximum Daily Effluent Limitation (MDEL): is the highest allowable daily discharge of a pollutant, over a calendar day (or 24-hour period). For pollutants with limitations expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the daily discharge is calculated as the arithmetic mean measurement of the pollutant over the day.

Median: is the middle measurement in a set of data. The median of a set of data is found by first arranging the measurements in order of magnitude (either increasing or decreasing order). If the number of measurements (n) is odd, then the median = $X_{(n+1)/2}$. If n is even, then the median = $(X_{n/2} + X_{(n/2)+1})/2$ (i.e., the midpoint between the $n/2$ and $n/2+1$).

Method Detection Limit (MDL): is the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99 percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero, as defined in title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 136, Attachment B, revised as of July 3, 1999.

Minimum Level (ML): is the concentration at which the entire analytical system must give a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point. The ML is the concentration in a sample that is equivalent to the concentration of the lowest calibration standard analyzed by a specific analytical procedure, assuming that all the method specified sample weights, volumes, and processing steps have been followed.

Natural Light: is used in the Ocean Plan to address concerns about reduction of natural light. The Ocean Plan states that the reduction of natural light may be determined by the Regional Water Board by measurement of light transmissivity or total irradiance, or both, according to the monitoring needs of the Regional Water Board.

Not Detected (ND): means those sample results less than the laboratory's MDL.

Non-community Water System: is a water system that is not a community water system. A community water system is a water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or regularly serves at least 25 year around residents of the area served by the system.

Non - transient Water System: is a water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year. Non-transient water systems are regulated by the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water.

Notice of Applicability (NOA): is a written notification issued by the NPDES permitting authority authorizing discharge under the terms and conditions of a general order.

Notice of Intent (NOI): is a written application submitted to the NPDES permitting authority seeking authorization to discharge under a general order.

Numeric Action Level (NAL): is a numeric threshold that triggers the need for implementing additional effective BMPs and/or treatment measures to reduce the amount of a pollutant or pollutants in a discharge. Exceedances of a NAL are not a violation of the permit, provided that additional effective BMPs and/or treatment measures are implemented.

Ocean Waters: are the territorial marine waters of the State as defined by California law to the extent these waters are outside of enclosed bays, estuaries, and coastal lagoons. If a discharge outside the

territorial waters of the state could affect the quality of the waters of the state, the discharge may be regulated to assure no violation of the Ocean Plan will occur in ocean waters.

Pollutant Minimization Program (PMP): is a means to assure that waste minimization and pollution prevention actions are developed and implemented, including, but are not limited to, product substitution, waste stream recycling, alternative waste management methods, and education of the public and businesses. The goal of the PMP shall be to reduce all potential sources of a priority pollutant(s) through pollutant minimization (control) strategies, including pollution prevention measures as appropriate, to maintain the effluent concentration at or below the water quality-based effluent limitation. Pollution prevention measures may be particularly appropriate for persistent bioaccumulative priority pollutants where there is evidence that beneficial uses are being impacted. The Regional Water Board may consider cost effectiveness when establishing the requirements of a PMP. The completion and implementation of a Pollution Prevention Plan, if required pursuant to Water Code section 13263.3(d), shall be considered to fulfill the PMP requirements.

Pollution Prevention: is any action that causes a net reduction in the use or generation of a hazardous substance or other pollutant that is discharged into water and includes, but is not limited to, input change, operational improvement, production process change, and product reformulation (as defined in Water Code section 13263.3). Pollution prevention does not include actions that merely shift a pollutant in wastewater from one environmental medium to another environmental medium, unless clear environmental benefits of such an approach are identified to the satisfaction of the State or Regional Water Board.

Reporting Level (RL): is the ML (and its associated analytical method) used for reporting and compliance determination. The MLs included in this General Order correspond to approved analytical methods for reporting a sample result that are selected by the Regional Water Board either from Appendix 4 of the SIP in accordance with section 2.4.2 of the SIP or established in accordance with section 2.4.3 of the SIP. The ML is based on the proper application of method-based analytical procedures for sample preparation and the absence of any matrix interferences. Other factors may be applied to the ML depending on the specific sample preparation steps employed. For example, the treatment typically applied in cases where there are matrix-effects is to dilute the sample or sample aliquot by a factor of ten. In such cases, this additional factor must be applied to the ML in the computation of the RL.

Shellfish: are organisms identified by the California Department of Public Health as shellfish for public health purposes (i.e., mussels, clams and oysters).

Solids: means sand, silt, or other debris collected from facility intake or source waters and accumulated waste material from aquaculture raceways and their quiescent zones, offline settling basins, full-flow settling basins, ponds, or other areas of accumulation.

State Water Quality Protection Areas (SWQPAs): are non-terrestrial marine or estuarine areas designated to protect marine species or biological communities from an undesirable alteration in natural water quality. All Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) that were previously designated by the State Water Board in Resolution Nos. 74-28, 74-32, and 75-61 are now also classified as a subset of State Water Quality Protection Areas and require special protections afforded by the Ocean Plan.

Waste: is used in the Ocean Plan, to include a Permittee's total discharge, of whatever origin, i.e., gross, not net, discharge.

Water Recycling: is the treatment of wastewater to render it suitable for reuse, the transportation of treated wastewater to the place of use, and the actual use of treated wastewater for a direct beneficial use or controlled use that would not otherwise occur.

ATTACHMENT B – NOTICE OF INTENT

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
NORTH COAST REGION

NOTICE OF INTENT

TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF
ORDER NO. R1-2015-0003
GENERAL NPDES NO. CAG0024902
FOR
LOW THREAT DISCHARGES
TO SURFACE WATERS IN THE NORTH COAST REGION

I. OWNER/OPERATOR

Name:		Owner/Operator Type (Check one):	
Mailing Address:		☐ City ☐ County ☐ State	☐ Federal ☐ Special District ☐ Private
City:	State:	ZIP:	Phone:
Contact Person:		☐ Owner ☐ Operator	☐ Owner/Operator ☐ Contractor
Email:		Fax:	

II. FACILITY/SITE INFORMATION

Name:		County:	
Street Address:		Contact Person:	
City:	State:	ZIP:	Phone:
Email:		Fax:	

III. BILLING ADDRESS

Send to: ☐ Owner/Operator ☐ Facility ☐ Other (Enter information at right)	Name:			
	Mailing Address:			
	City:	State:	ZIP:	Phone:

IV. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

If a professional engineer has evaluated the existing or proposed discharge and/or treatment system for compliance with this General Order, identify.			
Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	Phone:
Signature:		Certificate No.:	Date:

V. DISCHARGE INFORMATION

Provide a brief narrative description of the project generating the low threat discharge, including the purpose or reason for the project:

Source of discharge(s) (check all that apply). Attach a diagram of discharge water flow from the proposed project.

☐ Construction dewatering
☐ Dredge spoils dewatering
☐ Subterranean seepage dewatering
☐ Geothermal well testing
☐ Well installation, development, test pumping and purging
☐ Maintenance of water supply wells, pipelines, tanks, etc.
☐ Hydrostatic testing of water supply vessels, pipelines, tanks, etc.
☐ Disinfection of water supply pipelines, tanks, reservoirs, etc.
☐ Seafood processing wash water discharge to ocean waters
☐ Desalination brine discharge to ocean waters
☐ Treated bilge water from harbor pump-out facility to ocean waters[1]
☐ Other (describe below)(Examples: Cooling tower water, condensate water)

Fully describe and quantify vessels, pipelines, structures, and processes with which the water has contact prior to discharge to allow characterization regarding possible additives or pollutants, including chemical (e.g., chlorine or petroleum, trihalomethanes, naturally occuring metals), thermal, or physical (e.g., suspended or settleable solids) pollutants.

Describe the points of discharge and the upstream and downstream receiving water locations to allow an understanding of potential physical impacts such as bank erosion, stream scouring, and impacts on aquatic life.

V. DISCHARGE INFORMATION (continued)

Field Parameters of Proposed Discharge (below):		**Date of Field Parameter Test:**	
Temperature _____	Dissolved Oxygen _____	Specific Conductance _____	pH _____
Proposed Start Date:		Stop Date (estimate):	
Discharge (Flow) Rate (MGD):		Estimated Total Volume:	

Will the discharge rate exceed one-percent of the receiving water flow? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, provide an estimate of the discharge rate. This may be expressed as a range. _____

Identify the type of discharge. ☐ Continuous ☐ Intermittent ☐ Seasonal

If the discharge is intermittent, identify the approximate duration and frequency of the intermittent discharges.

If the discharge is seasonal, identify the months in which discharges occur.

Table Notes:

1. Discharges of treated bilge water may be eligible for coverage under this General Order provided that the harbor or marina is either certified as a Clean Marina under the Clean Marina CA program or other equivalent third party certification program, or can demonstrate that the treatment facilities remove exotic species, human wastes, hydrocarbons and other pollutants of concern.

VI. IDENTIFICATION OF KNOWN GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION SITES (Groundwater Projects)

If the proposed discharge involves the discharge of groundwater, the applicant must contact Regional Water Board Cleanups Unit staff to identify whether there are known groundwater contamination sites wthin ½ mile of the proposed project.

☐ Not applicable. The proposed project does not involve the discharge of groundwater.

☐ Applicable. The proposed project does involve the disharge of groundwater. If this box is checked , include (1) an attachment that identifies names and addresses of groundwater contamination site(s) within ½ mile, known pollutants, and contact name(s) at Regional Water Board and (2) demonstrate that the groundwater proposed for discharge is unaffected by the contaminated site and pumping activites will not have the inadvertent effet of capturing groundwater pollutants.

VII. POLLUTANTS/PARAMETERS OF CONCERN/DISCHARGE SAMPLING

Provide a written description characterizing the discharge and potential pollutants of concern. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Are additives or other chemicals added to the water to be discharged? ☐ Yes (describe and quantify) ☐ No

☐ If yes, provide a list of all additives and/or chemicals (including Material Safety Data Sheets) added to the water to be discharged and the concentration and purpose of such additives and/or chemicals in the discharge.

☐ Discharges to inland surface waters, enclosed bays and estuaries must submit:

1) The analytical results of a representative sample of the proposed effluent for pollutants listed in Attachment C, Tables C-1 and C-2 of this General Order[1];
2) The analytical results of a representative sample of the proposed effluent for 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD_5), total suspended solids, settleable solids, total coliform[2], grease and oil, total residual chlorine, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, hardness, turbidity, nitrate, and total dissolved solids[3]; and
3) The analytical results of the upstream receiving water for pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, hardness, turbidity, and total dissolved solids.

☐ Discharges to ocean waters must submit:

1) The analytical results of a representative sample of the proposed effluent for total coliform, oil and grease, total suspended solids, settleable solids, turbidity, and pH[2]; and
2) The analytical results of a representative sample of the proposed effluent for the pollutants in Attachment C, Table C-5 of this General Order.

Is the receiving water identified as an impaired water body under the current CWA 303(d) list[4]? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ If yes, list the pollutants causing the impairment and the applicable Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and provide the results of analysis of the proposed effluent for pollutants causing the impairment.

☐ Provide the analytical report from the laboratory.

Table Notes:

1. Applicants with low volume discharges may seek an exception to the sampling requirements contained in Attachment C by describing why specific pollutants or categories of pollutants are not expected to be in the discharge and submitting justification that the existing or proposed discharge will have no significant adverse impact on water quality.
2. For discharges to the Russian River, monitoring for *E Coli* is also required.
3. For discharges from construction sites, bilge water facilities, hydrostatic testing, dredge spoils dewatering or other similar discharges where petroleum products and associated pollutants may be present, the NOI must also include analytical results for petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile halogenated compounds, ethylbenzene, benzene, toluene, and xylene, unless the NOI provides sufficient information to demonstrate that the discharge will not contain or come in contact with petroleum products.
4. The list of impaired surface waters can be found under the CWA Section 303(d) list at the web site: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/303d/.

VIII. EVALUATION OF DISPOSAL/REUSE OPTIONS

Provide an evalution of disposal options or means for eliminating the need for discharge and justification for selecting a surface water disposal alternative. If no alternative disposal options are viable, explain why (attach additional sheet as necessary). If alternative disposal options will be combined with surface water disposal, explain details.		
Is discharge to the local municipal wastewater treatment plant a viable option? If no, include a written statement that describes why discharge to a sanitary sewer is not viable, and a written statement from the sewer authority, if the sewer authority cannot accept the discharge.	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is land disposal or reuse a viable option?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is reuse (e.g., dust control, etc.) a viable option?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is it possible to eliminate or reduce the discharge volume through some other means such as conservation or engineering measures? Describe additional measures evaluated.	☐ Yes	☐ No

IX. DISCHARGE LOCATION(S)[1] AND DISCHARGE POINT(S) DESCRIPTION(S)

Street (including address, if any):
City/County:
Nearest Cross Street(s):
Township/Range/Section T_____, R_____, Section_____, MDB&M
Attach a map of at least 1:24000 (1" = 2000') showing the discharge site (e.g., USGS 7.5' topographic map). The map should show the treatment system, flow path, discharge point, and surface waters. Wells and residences wtihin 1,500 feet shall be identified.
Table Notes: 1. Attach additional pages to provide information for multiple discharge points.

X. RECEIVING WATER INFORMATION

Will the proposed project discharge to: ☐ Storm drain system – Enter owner's name: _____ ☐ Directly to waters of the State or U.S. (e.g., creek, river, lake, ocean) ☐ Indirectly to waters of the U.S.		
Name of receiving water body:		
Fresh water, estuarine, or marine:	Tributary to:	
Estimated Receiving Water Flow (mgd or cfs):	Minimum:	Average:
Is receiving water flow continuous or intermittent? (describe):		
Are receiving water conditions at time of discharge anticipated to change from what is described in this NOI? ☐ Yes (describe) ☐ No		
Are any potable water intakes located within 500 feet of the discharge? ☐ Yes ☐ No		

X. RECEIVING WATER INFORMATION (continued)

Are any other point source discharges located nearby? ☐ Yes (describe) ☐ No
Describe bank conditions (e.g., presence or absence of vegetation and vegetation type, bank stability, etc.):
Describe instream conditions (e.g., substrate type, presence or absence of pools, etc.):
Describe visual evidence or knowledge of aquatic species present:
Physical water quality characteristics of receiving water: Date of evaluation:_____ pH:_____ Temperature:_____ Turbidity:_____ Dissolved Oxygen:_____ Specific Conductivity:_____

XI. TREATMENT SYSTEM

Identify type of treatment system:	☐ None	☐ Dechlorination	☐ Settling/Filtration	☐ Other (Identify)
☐ If none, describe why a treatment system is not necessary:				
☐ Provide narrative and schematic descriptions of the existing or proposed treatment system and process.				

XII. MANAGEMENT/POLLUTION PREVENTION PLANS/ALTERNATIVE MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAMS

☐ All applicants shall submit a Best Mangement Practices/Pollution Prevention (BMP/PP) Plan that addresses the appropriate elements identified in Attachment B-1.
☐ Applicants have the option to propose modifications to the monitoring and reporting program requirements in Attachment E for consideration by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. If an alternative monitoring and reporting program is proposed, it shall be included with the NOI and shall describe proposed effluent and receiving water sampling locations, monitoring parameters and sampling methods, and frequency of monitoring, and provide rationale for the alternative monitoring and reporting program.

XIII. MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

☐	Attach a map(s) that shows the topography of the area extending at least one mile beyond site boundaries, site boundaries, identification of the receiving water and proposed discharge points, and the route of the discharge to the receiving water. The map should also identify the location of any known groundwater cleanup sites within ½ mile of the proposed project site[1], if the project involves the discharge of groundwater.
☐	Attach a site drawing that identifies locations of BMPs and treatment systems and site runoff collection and conveyance sytems (e.g., storm drains, ditches, etc.) through which the proposed discharge would travel.
☐	Attach representative photographs of the discharge point and the receiving water in the vicinity of the discharge point to document pre-project conditions.

XIV. FEE REQUIREMENTS

☐	A check payable to the State Water Resources Control Board must be submitted with this NOI. Information concerning the applicable fees can be found at www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/. Applicants should contact the Regional Water Board for the current fee.

XV. ABILITY TO COMPLY

Do you believe the discharge may have acute or chronic toxicity, chemical or organic constituents, sediment, total suspended solids, BOD_5, bacteria, pesticides, oil and grease, radioactivity, salinity or temperature that may violate receiving water objectives of this permit or adversely impact beneficial uses of the receiving water? ☐ Yes ☐ No			
If your answer is no, please provide an explanation of ability to comply considering the receiving water quality, discharge water quality, and the pollutant loading to the receiving water.			
If your answer is yes, contact the Regional Water Board to discuss other discharge and/or permitting alternatives.			
Professional Engineer:			
Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	Phone:

XVI. AGENCY CONSULTATIONS/NOTIFICATIONS (If necessary)

Agency	Contact/Phone Number	Mitigations Required or Concerns
☐ Local Flood Control		
☐ Dept. of Fish and Wildlife		
☐ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		
☐ Municipal Storm Water Agency/Permittee		
☐		

XVII. SIGNATURE

I hereby certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this Notice of Intent and all attachments, and that, based on my inquiry of those persons immediately responsible for obtaining the information contained in the Notice of Intent, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment.

By signing this NOI, I agree to comply with the monitoring and reporting program and stop the discharge if there is any violation, or threatened violation, of the General Order.

Signature of Contractor/Operator:		Signature of Property Owner:	
Print or Type Name:		Print or Type Name:	
Title:	Date:	Title:	Date:

ATTACHMENT B-1 – BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES/POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN

All Permittees shall submit a Best Management Practices/Pollution Prevention (BMP/PP) Plan with the Notice of Intent (NOI). The BMP/PP Plan shall be consistent with the general guidance contained in U.S. EPA's *Guidance Manual for Developing Best Management Practices* (EPA 833-B-93-004) and with the California Stormwater Quality Association's *Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook for Commercial and Industrial Properties* (June 2003, or subsequent editions).

In its determination of suitability for authorization/coverage under the General Order, the Executive Officer will assess the BMP/PP Plan for its consideration of site-specific conditions and its effectiveness at pollution prevention, control, and treatment, as well as its effectiveness at preventing erosion, hydromodification, stream scouring, nuisance conditions, and other potential adverse impacts to the receiving waters. The BMP/PP Plan must include sufficient detail to allow the Executive Officer to assess whether or not all reasonable measures will be implemented to assure that the discharge poses a low threat to water quality.

At a minimum, the Permittee shall implement BMPs for all planned discharges to achieve the following performance measures:

1. Prevent aquatic toxicity using dechlorination chemical additions, implementing equivalent proven dechlorination methods, or assuring that the chlorine in the discharge dissipates naturally prior to discharge;
2. Prevent riparian erosion and hydromodification by implementing flow dissipation, erosion control, and hydromodification prevention measure; and
3. Minimize sediment discharge, turbidity, and color impacts by implementing sediment, turbidity, erosion, and color control measures.

The purpose of the BMP/PP Plan is to evaluate potential sources of pollutants from the discharge and at the project site and to identify controls that will be implemented to effectively prevent pollutant discharges to surface and ground waters. The BMP/PP Plan shall include the following elements, as applicable:

A. **Characterization of Discharges**. The BMP/PP Plan shall include a narrative assessment of all activities conducted at the site; potential pollutant sources associated with each activity; the number of discharge points, and the nature of the pollutants that could be discharged, including pollutants that could occur at the point of discharge due to stream bank erosion and stream scouring.

If the Permittee is seeking enrollment of discharges from multiple discharge points, the Permittee may request monitoring of representative discharge points in lieu of monitoring all discharge points, provided that the Permittee provides sufficient information to demonstrate that the quality of wastewater discharged at the discharge points is the same and that the selected discharge point appropriately represents the other discharge points in terms of the pollutant characterization of the discharge, the flow rate range, and receiving water characteristics.

B. **Site Map** and drawing as specified in Section XIII of NOI.

C. **Identification of BMPs**. The BMP/PP Plan shall include a narrative description of BMPs to be implemented at the site to control the discharge of pollutants and minimize impacts to water quality. The BMP/PP Plan shall also identify applicable mitigation measures from section X.C.3.b of the General Order to assure that the BMPs do not cause environmental impacts. Permittees shall consider:

1. Preventative BMPs - measures to reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants and waste and undesirable nuisance conditions. The Permittee shall include measures to prevent or

reduce the generation of pollutants and minimize the volume, rate of discharge and duration of discharge from the proposed discharge source and to prevent the discharge of other pollutants associated with any construction activity at the site associated with the proposed discharge.

2. The Permittee shall demonstrate that the discharge will be conducted in a manner that will prevent the creation of nuisance conditions, including, but not limited to creation of mosquito breeding habitat, flooding, nuisance algae conditions, odors, etc. For proposed discharges to dry stream beds the demonstration shall include a plan to assure that water soaks into the ground in a short period of time to preclude the creation of mosquito breeding habitat.

3. Control BMPs - measures to control or manage pollutants and waste after they are generated and before they come into contact with receiving water. The Plan shall include, if necessary, measures to retain soil and sediment on the site and to permanently stabilize any disturbed soils.

4. Treatment BMPs - measures to remove pollutants and waste from water prior to discharge (see section III.A.1 of the Fact Sheet for a discussion of wastewater treatment systems, which will not preclude coverage under the General Order), and

5. Response BMPs - measures to respond to leaks, spills, and other releases with containment, control, and cleanup measures to prevent or minimize the potential for the discharge of pollutants and to minimize the adverse effects of such discharges.

D. BMP Measures for Low Threat Discharge Control

1. Discharge-Specific BMPs. The BMP/PP shall include the following discharge-specific BMPs, if applicable.

a. Treated Drinking Water Discharges. All treated drinking water shall be dechlorinated. Filter bags or rolls, or equivalent, shall be used to remove any sand, silt or debris from entering the surface water or storm drain system. See section D.3, below, for additional information regarding BMPs for dechlorinating the discharge.

b. Chlorinated Water Discharges. All chlorinated water shall be dechlorinated at the point of discharge directly into a surface water or the point of discharge into any storm water conveyance system. Filter bags or rolls, or equivalent, shall be used to remove any sand, silt or debris from entering the surface water or storm drain system. See section D.3, below, for additional information regarding BMPs for dechlorinating the discharge.

c. Distribution and Storage Tank Drainage Discharges. All discharges from distribution system draining for cleaning and maintenance shall be dechlorinated, pH adjusted as appropriate, and filtered to remove sediment, prior to discharging to surface waters or storm drains.

d. Dewatering and Other Sediment-Bearing Discharges. For discharges from construction dewatering, development and test pumping of water supply wells, geothermal well testing, subterranean seepage dewatering, and dewatering of dredge spoils, multi-baffled settling tanks, or equivalent physical treatment, shall be used if necessary to remove large particles and to reduce turbidity to assure compliance with Receiving Water Limitation IX.A.4 of this General Order. When these discharges are to waterbodies that are impaired for sediment, physical treatment and BMPs shall be implemented to achieve a numeric action level for turbidity of 20 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). If the turbidity threshold of 20 NTU is not achieved, the

Permittee shall implement additional effective BMPs and treatment measures such as filtration.

2. Sediment, Salt, Minerals, and Erosion Control

Indicate in the BMP/PP Plan the sediment controls that will be used to stabilize the site, as needed, to assure that sediment is not discharged. Sediment, salt, mineral, and erosion control practices shall be used to protect soil surfaces at discharge points and receiving waters.

a. Sediment, Salt, and Mineral Control. Sediment, salt, and mineral control practices shall be used to filter and trap sediment particles, salts and minerals to prevent them from reaching storm drains or receiving waters. The following practices may be used to control sedimentation, salt and minerals buildup in receiving waters:

i. Filter barriers, such as fiber rolls/logs, silt fencing, straw bales or waddles, gravel inlet filters/bags may be placed in a flow pathway and around storm drain inlets;

ii. Plastic sheets may be used to line a trench and flow pathway to prevent water contact with soil;

iii. Check dams may be constructed to dissipate flow energy and minimize the potential for discharges to dislodge soil;

iv. Discharge to a vegetated filter strip or swale, if available in close proximity to the discharge and that has sufficient capacity for the discharge;

v. Discharge to an open vegetated field or turf to remove sand and/or silt or larger particles prior to surface water discharge;

vi. Discharge to retention structures, such as ponds, trenches, sediment traps, and settling basins for settling solids;

vii. Stabilization of access points using crushed rock or mulch; and

viii. Good housekeeping, such as frequent sweeping.

b. Erosion Controls. Erosion control practices shall be used to protect soil surfaces at discharge points and receiving waters. Erosion control practices shall be used to prevent resuspension of ambient sediment within a receiving water, and shoreline erosion and streambed scour. Such controls shall minimize the energy of discharges by managing flow velocities and volumes, and shall be appropriately designed so that the discharge does not exceed the hydraulic capacity of the receiving water at the point of discharge and areas downstream of the discharge point. The following measures may be used to control erosion:

i. Vegetated filter strips or swales to slow water velocity;

ii. Stabilized conveyance systems;

iii. Energy dissipation (structures designed to prevent erosion and slow water velocity associated with conveyance systems)

iv. Construct check dams to slow down the flow;

v. Diverting flows around disturbed areas or other pollutant sources using stabilized conveyances;

vi. Flow controls to minimize discharge rate and to prevent erosion and flooding;

vii. Install flow diffusers at discharge point;

viii. Fashion discharge flow path with as little slope as possible; and

ix. Decrease discharge flow rates and duration.

3. **Dechlorination.** The following types of dechlorination methods, or equivalent, shall be utilized as appropriate to achieve a handheld meter reading of non-detect for total chlorine residual, with a meter method detection level of 0.10 mg/L or less, or a detectable concentration of a dechlorination agent:

   a. **Dechlorinating Diffuser.** The dechlorinating diffuser connects directly to a discharge nozzle (e.g., to a fire hydrant or fire hose using a standard 2 ½ inch to 4 ½ inch National Pipe Thread coupling) and contains a chamber that houses dechlorination agent. Some diffusers feature a siphon for dechlorinating agent tablets or a solution to dechlorinate the water.

   b. **Dechlorination Mats.** These mats are used to facilitate effective contact between the flow and dechlorinating agent during dechlorination. For dechlorination of discharges from trenches during main breaks, the tablets are placed inside synthetic mesh fabric pockets sewn together in a grid or line. The dechlorinating mats are laid across the flow path or over the storm water conveyance system.

      As the discharged water flows over and around the tablets, dechlorinating agent is released, which removes the chlorine.

   c. **Broadcast Dechlorination.** Dechlorination granules are spread over an area, such as pavement, where chlorinated water is flowing toward a storm water conveyance system inlet.

   d. **Chemical Injection Metering Pump.** A dechlorination agent is injected into a discharge pipe, such as a tank drain, to dechlorinate the water before being discharged.

      Addition of dechlorination chemicals must be managed to assure the dechlorination agent does not adversely affect or impact beneficial uses of the receiving waters.

   e. **Natural Dissipation.** Demonstration that there is adequate distance and attenuation of chlorine to assure complete chlorine removal prior to discharge.

4. **Management of Discharge Categories Where Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Associated Pollutants May be Present.** This General Order prohibits the discharge of detectable levels of petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile halogenated compounds, benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylene from discharge categories where these pollutants of concern are present. In order to qualify for enrollment under this General Order, construction dewatering, treated bilge water, dredge spoils dewatering, hydrostatic testing, condensate, and other similar discharges, must include BMPs to ensure that these pollutants are not discharged. BMPs include, but are not limited to, elimination of petroleum hydrocarbons, segregation of flow to prevent introduction of pollutants, and utilization of absorbents, filters and other low technology methods to remove pollutants.

5. **Management of Additives.** A Permittee that applies additives or other chemicals must implement BMP measures to eliminate or reduce concentrations in its discharges to the extent feasible, including but not limited to the following

   a. Recordkeeping of where, when, and how much additive is used to treat water that has the potential to be discharged to a surface water.

b. Implementation of BMPs that eliminate planned discharges and minimize emergency discharges to surface water bodies from occurring within 48 hours of applying additives.

c. Implementation of BMPs to eliminate or reduce, to the extent feasible, the use of additives by using less toxic agents or other methods in place of the additives.

6. Additional BMPs. Indicate in the BMP/PP Plan what additional measures will be used to treat the discharge and prevent pollutants from impacting water quality and the environment. BMP options may include, but are not limited to:

a. BMPs to remove pollutants from first flush water (e.g., alternate disposal method for first flush water that may have residual chlorine or volatile organic constituents (VOCs) from drilling, welding debris, etc.);

b. Ponds, trenches, or basins for cooling;

c. Timing of discharge to eliminate or minimize impacts to receiving waters.

E. Quality Assurance/Quality Control Protocol.

The BMP/PP Plan shall include a quality assurance and quality control protocol to assure that BMPs, monitoring, and reporting are effective, valid and in compliance with this General Order.

F. Equipment and Supplies

The BMP/PP Plan shall identify procedures to assure that equipment and sampling meters are inspected, maintained, and calibrated per manufacturer instructions and specifications.

G. Training

The BMP/PP Plan shall identify procedures to assure that the Permittee's staff and/or contractors are properly trained for project operation, project site inspections and maintenance, and monitoring and reporting, and for the proper use and maintenance, and comprehension of permit compliance needs. The Permittee shall train all personnel responsible for project operation to assure the quality assurance and quality control protocol identified in section E, above, is properly implemented.

ATTACHMENT C – WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR NORTH COAST REGION

A. **Proposed Discharges to Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries.** Permittees seeking authorization to discharge to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries under this General Order shall sample and analyze the effluent for the constituents contained in Tables C-1, C-2, and C-3. The results of the analyses shall be compared to the corresponding screening level and shall be submitted as part of the Notice of Intent (NOI).

Table C-1. Water Quality Criteria and Screening Levels for Priority Pollutants for Discharges to Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries

Priority Pollutant[1]	Units	Minimum ML[2]	Most Stringent Objective/Criterion	Applicable Objective/Criteria[3]		
				Human Health	Chronic Aquatic Life	Acute Aquatic Life
Antimony, Total Recoverable	µg/L	5.0	6	6	--	--
Arsenic, Total Recoverable	µg/L	2.0	10	10	150	340
Beryllium, Total Recoverable	µg/L	1.0	4	4	--	--
Cadmium, Total Recoverable	µg/L	1.5	See Table C-2 for hardness-based objectives			
Chromium (VI)	µg/L	10	11	100	11	16
Copper, Total Recoverable	µg/L	2.0	See Table C-2 for hardness-based objectives			
Lead, Total Recoverable	µg/L	0.5	See Table C-2 for hardness-based objectives			
Mercury, Total Recoverable	µg/L	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.77	1.4
Nickel, Total Recoverable	µg/L	5.0	See Table C-2 for hardness-based objectives			
Selenium, Total Recoverable	µg/L	1.0	5.0	20	5.0	20
Silver, Total Recoverable	µg/L	0.1	See Table C-2 for hardness-based objectives			
Thallium, Total Recoverable	µg/L	1.0	1.7	1.7	40	1,400
Zinc, Total Recoverable	µg/L	10	See Table C-2 for hardness-based objectives			
Cyanide, Total (as CN)	µg/L	3.0	5.2	150	5.2	22
Asbestos	MFL	1.5	7	7	--	--
2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)	µg/L	1.3×10^{-8}	1.3E-08	1.3E-08	0.00001	0.01
Acrolein	µg/L	2.0	320	320	--	--
Acrylonitrile	µg/L	2.0	0.059	0.059	--	7,550
Benzene	µg/L	0.5	1	1	--	--
Bromoform	µg/L	0.5	4.3	4.3	--	--
Carbon Tetrachloride	µg/L	0.5	0.25	0.25	--	--
Chlorobenzene	µg/L	0.5	70	70	--	--
Chlorodibromomethane	µg/L	0.5	0.401	0.401	--	--
Chloroethane	µg/L	0.5	--	--	--	--
2-Chloroethylvinyl Ether	µg/L	1.0	--	--	--	--
Chloroform	µg/L	0.5	80	80	1,240	--
Dichlorobromomethane	µg/L	0.5	0.56	0.56	--	--

Priority Pollutant[1]	Units	Minimum ML[2]	Most Stringent Objective/Criterion	Applicable Objective/Criteria[3]		
				Human Health	Chronic Aquatic Life	Acute Aquatic Life
1,1-Dichloroethane	µg/L	0.5	5	5	--	--
1,2-Dichloroethane	µg/L	0.5	0.38	0.38	20,000	--
1,1-Dichloroethylene	µg/L	0.5	0.057	0.057	--	--
1,2-Dichloropropane	µg/L	0.5	0.52	0.52	5,700	--
1,3-Dichloropropylene	µg/L	0.5	0.5	0.5	244	6,060
Ethylbenzene	µg/L	0.5	300	300	--	--
Methyl Bromide	µg/L	1.0	48	48	--	11,000
Methyl Chloride	µg/L	0.5	--	--	--	--
Methylene Chloride	µg/L	0.5	4.7	4.7	--	--
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	µg/L	0.5	0.17	0.17	2,400	--
Tetrachloroethylene	µg/L	0.5	0.8	0.8	840	--
Toluene	µg/L	0.5	150	150	--	--
1,2-Trans-Dichloroethylene	µg/L	0.5	10	10	--	--
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	µg/L	0.5	200	200	--	18,000
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	µg/L	0.5	0.60	0.60	9,400	--
Trichloroethylene	µg/L	0.5	2.7	2.7	--	45,000
Vinyl Chloride	µg/L	0.5	0.5	0.5	--	--
2-Chlorophenol	µg/L	2.0	120	120	--	--
2,4-Dichlorophenol	µg/L	1.0	93	93	--	--
2,4-Dimethylphenol	µg/L	1.0	540	540	--	--
2-Methyl-4,6-Dinitrophenol	µg/L	5.0	13.4	13.4	--	230
2,4-Dinitrophenol	µg/L	5.0	70	70	--	230
2-Nitrophenol	µg/L	10	--	--	--	--
4-Nitrophenol	µg/L	5.0	--	--	--	--
3-Methyl-4-Chlorophenol	µg/L	1.0	--	--	--	--
Pentachlorophenol	µg/L	1.0	0.28	0.28	23	30
Phenol	µg/L	1.0	21,000	21,000	--	--
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	µg/L	10	2.1	2.1	--	--
Acenaphthene	µg/L	0.5	1,200	1,200	--	--
Acenaphthylene	µg/L	0.2	--	--	--	--
Anthracene	µg/L	2.0	9,600	9,600	--	--
Benzidine	µg/L	5.0	0.00012	0.00012	--	2,500
Benzo(a)Anthracene	µg/L	5.0	0.0044	0.0044	--	--
Benzo(a)Pyrene	µg/L	2.0	0.0044	0.0044	--	--
Benzo(b)Fluoranthene	µg/L	10	0.0044	0.0044	--	--
Benzo(ghi)Perylene	µg/L	0.1	--	--	--	--
Benzo(k)Fluoranthene	µg/L	2.0	0.0044	0.0044	--	--
Bis(2-Chloroethoxy) Methane	µg/L	5.0	--	--	--	--
Bis(2-Chloroethyl) Ether	µg/L	1.0	0.031	0.031	122	238,000

Priority Pollutant[1]	Units	Minimum ML[2]	Most Stringent Objective/Criterion	Applicable Objective/Criteria[3]		
				Human Health	Chronic Aquatic Life	Acute Aquatic Life
Bis(2-Chloroisopropyl) Ether	µg/L	2.0	1,400	1,400	--	--
Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate	µg/L	5.0	1.8	1.8	--	--
4-Bromophenyl Phenyl Ether	µg/L	5.0	--	--	--	--
Butylbenzyl Phthalate	µg/L	10	3,000	3,000	--	--
2-Chloronaphthalene	µg/L	10	1,700	1,700	--	--
4-Chlorophenyl Phenyl Ether	µg/L	5.0	--	--	--	--
Chrysene	µg/L	5.0	0.0044	0.0044	--	--
Dibenzo(a,h)Anthracene	µg/L	0.1	0.0044	0.0044	--	--
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	µg/L	0.5	600	600	763	--
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	µg/L	0.5	400	400	763	--
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	µg/L	0.5	5	5	763	--
3,3-Dichlorobenzidine	µg/L	5.0	0.04	0.04	--	--
Diethyl Phthalate	µg/L	2.0	23,000	23,000	--	--
Dimethyl Phthalate	µg/L	2.0	313,000	313,000	--	--
Di-n-Butyl Phthalate	µg/L	10	2,700	2,700	--	--
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	µg/L	5.0	0.11	0.11	230	330
2,6-Dinitrotoluene	µg/L	5.0	--	--	--	--
Di-n-Octyl Phthalate	µg/L	10	--	--	--	--
1,2-Diphenylhydrazine	µg/L	1.0	0.040	0.040	--	270
Fluoranthene	µg/L	0.05	300	300	--	--
Fluorene	µg/L	0.1	1,300	1,300	--	--
Hexachlorobenzene	µg/L	1.0	0.00075	0.00075	--	250
Hexachlorobutadiene	µg/L	1.0	0.44	0.44	9.3	90
Hexachlorocyclo-pentadiene	µg/L	5.0	50	50	--	--
Hexachloroethane	µg/L	1.0	1.9	1.9	540	980
Indeno(1,2,3-cd) Pyrene	µg/L	0.05	0.0044	0.0044	--	--
Isophorone	µg/L	1.0	8.4	8.4	--	117,000
Naphthalene	µg/L	0.2	--	--	--	--
Nitrobenzene	µg/L	1.0	17	17	--	27,000
N-Nitrosodimethylamine	µg/L	5.0	0.00069	0.00069	--	--
N-Nitrosodi-n-Propylamine	µg/L	5.0	0.005	0.005	--	5,850
N-Nitrosodiphenylamine	µg/L	1.0	5.0	5.0	--	5,850
Phenanthrene	µg/L	0.05	--	--	--	--
Pyrene	µg/L	0.05	960	960	--	--
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	µg/L	1.0	5	5	250	50
Aldrin	µg/L	0.005	0.00013	0.00013	--	3
alpha-BHC	µg/L	0.01	0.0039	0.0039	--	--
beta-BHC	µg/L	0.005	0.014	0.014	--	--
gamma-BHC	µg/L	0.02	0.019	0.019	0.08	0.95
delta-BHC	µg/L	0.005	--	--	--	--
Chlordane	µg/L	0.1	0.00057	0.00057	0.0043	2.4

Priority Pollutant[1]	Units	Minimum ML[2]	Most Stringent Objective/Criterion	Applicable Objective/Criteria[3]		
				Human Health	Chronic Aquatic Life	Acute Aquatic Life
4,4-DDT	µg/L	0.01	0.00059	0.00059	0.001	1.1
4,4-DDE	µg/L	0.05	0.00059	0.00059	--	--
4,4-DDD	µg/L	0.05	0.00083	0.00083	--	--
Dieldrin	µg/L	0.01	0.00014	0.00014	0.056	0.24
alpha-Endosulfan	µg/L	0.02	0.056	42	0.056	0.22
beta-Endosulfan	µg/L	0.01	0.056	110	0.056	0.22
Endosulfan Sulfate	µg/L	0.05	110	110	--	--
Endrin	µg/L	0.01	0.036	0.76	0.036	0.086
Endrin Aldehyde	µg/L	0.01	0.76	0.76	--	--
Heptachlor	µg/L	0.01	0.00021	0.00021	0.0038	0.52
Heptachlor Epoxide	µg/L	0.01	0.00010	0.00010	0.0038	0.52
PCBs sum[4]	µg/L	0.05	0.00017	0.00017	0.014	--
Toxaphene	µg/L	0.05	0.0002	0.00073	0.0002	0.73

Table Notes:
1. Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136 and in accordance with the General Monitoring Provisions contained in section I of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E).
2. ML = Minimum Levels are established in Attachment 4 of the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (State Implementation Policy or SIP) and are based on the analytical method used. **The Reporting Level for each pollutant shall be less than or equal to the ML described in this table.** See Attachment A for definitions of ML and RL.
3. Dashes (--) indicate that no criteria are available.
4. This objective applies to the sum of PCB Aroclors 1242, 1254, 1221, 1232, 1248, 1280, and 1016.

Table C-2. Water Quality Criteria and Screening Levels for Hardness-dependent Metals for Discharges to Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries

Receiving Water Hardness (mg/L $CaCO_3$)	Most Stringent CTR Water Quality Criterion (µg/L)[1]						
	Cadmium	Chromium^{+3}	Copper	Lead	Nickel	Silver	Zinc
1 - 10	0.07	4.8	0.18	0.01	1.1	0.01	2.4
11 – 20	0.44	34	1.4	0.19	8.1	0.09	18
21 – 30	0.72	58	2.5	0.44	14	0.28	32
31 – 40	0.98	79	3.4	0.72	19	0.54	44
41 – 50	1.2	100	4.4	1.0	25	0.88	56
51 – 60	1.5	120	5.2	1.4	30	1.3	68
61 – 70	1.7	140	6.1	1.7	34	1.7	79
71 – 80	1.9	160	7.0	2.1	39	2.3	90
81 – 90	2.1	170	7.8	2.4	44	2.8	100
91 – 100	2.3	190	8.6	2.8	48	3.5	110
101 – 110	2.5	210	9.4	3.2	53	4.1	120
111 – 120	2.7	230	10	3.6	57	4.9	130
121 – 130	2.9	240	11	4.1	61	5.6	140
131 – 140	3.0	260	12	4.5	66	6.5	150
141 – 150	3.2	270	13	4.9	70	7.3	160
151 – 160	3.4	290	13	5.4	74	8.2	170
161 – 170	3.6	310	14	5.8	78	9.2	180
171 – 180	3.8	320	15	6.3	82	10	190

Receiving Water Hardness (mg/L $CaCO_3$)	Most Stringent CTR Water Quality Criterion (µg/L)[1]						
	Cadmium	Chromium^{+3}	Copper	Lead	Nickel	Silver	Zinc
181 – 190	3.9	340	15	6.8	86	11	200
191 – 200	4.1	350	16	7.3	90	12	210
201 - 210	4.3	370	17	7.7	94	13	220
211 – 220	4.4	380	18	8.2	98	15	230
221 – 230	4.6	400	18	8.7	100	16	230
231 – 240	4.8	410	19	9.2	110	17	240
241 – 250	4.9	430	20	9.7	110	18	250
251 – 260	5.1	440	20	10	110	20	260
261 – 270	5.2	450	21	11	120	21	270
271 – 280	5.4	470	22	11	120	23	280
281 – 290	5.5	480	23	12	130	24	290
291 – 300	5.7	500	23	12	130	25	300
301 – 310	5.8	510	24	13	130	27	300
311 – 320	6.0	520	25	13	140	29	310
321 – 330	6.2	540	25	14	140	30	320
331 – 340	6.3	550	26	15	140	32	330
341 – 350	6.5	570	27	15	150	33	340
351 – 360	6.6	580	27	16	150	35	350
361 – 370	6.7	590	28	16	150	37	360
371 – 380	6.9	610	29	17	160	39	360
381 – 390	7.0	620	29	17	160	41	370
391 – 400	7.2	630	30	18	170	42	380
> 400	7.3	650	31	19	170	44	390

Table Notes:
1. Water quality criteria are expressed as total recoverable metal and are rounded to two significant figures.

Table C-3. Water Quality Criteria and Screening Levels for Other Pollutants of Concern for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries

Pollutant	CAS No.	Units	ML	Title 22 Primary MCL
Aluminum	7429905	mg/L	0.5	1.0
Nitrate (as N)	---	mg/L	2	10
Fluoride	7782414	mg/L	1.0	2.0

B. Proposed Discharges to Inland Surface Waters Enclosed Bays and Estuaries. In accordance with Receiving Water Limitations IX.A.1, IX.A.2, and IX.A.3 of this General Order, Permittees seeking authorization to discharge to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries under this General Order shall not cause exceedances of the following water quality objectives in the downstream receiving water. pH and total dissolved solids limits in the following table shall apply as effluent limitations.

Table C-4. Specific Water Quality Objectives for North Coast Region (from Basin Plan Table 3-1)

Water Body[1]	Specific Conductance (micromhos) @ 77 F.		Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)		Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)			Hydrogen Ion (pH)		Hardness (mg/L)	Boron (mg/L)	
	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]	Min	90% Lower Limit[2]	50% Lower Limit[3]	Max	Min	50% Upper Limit[3]	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]
Lost River HA												
Clear Lake Reservoir and Upper Lost River	300	200	--	--	5.0	--	8.0	9.0	7.0	60	0.5	0.1
Lower Lost River	1,000	700	--	--	5.0	--	--	9.0	7.0	--	0.5	0.1
Other Streams	250	150	--	--	7.0	--	8.0	8.4	7.0	50	0.2	0.1
Tule Lake	1,300	900	--	--	5.0	--	--	9.0	7.0	400	--	--
Lower Klamath Lake	1,150	850	--	--	5.0	--	--	9.0	7.0	400	--	--
Groundwater[4]	1,100	500	--	--	--	--	--	8.5	7.0	250	0.3	0.2
Butte Valley HA												
Streams	150	100	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	30	0.1	0.0
Meiss Lake	2,000	1,300	--	--	7.0	--	8.0	9.0	7.5	100	0.3	0.1
Groundwater[4]	800	400	--	--		--	--	8.5	6.5	120	0.2	0.1
Shasta Valley HA												
Shasta River	800	600	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	220	1.0	0.5
Other Streams	700	400	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	200	0.5	0.1
Lake Shastina	300	250	--	--	6.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	120	0.4	0.2
Groundwater[4]	800	500	--	--	--	--	--	8.5	7.0	180	1.0	0.3
Scott River HA												
Scott River	350	250	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	100	0.4	0.1
Other Strams	400	275	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	120	0.2	0.1
Groundwater[4]	500	250	--	--	--	--	--	8.0	7.0	120	0.1	0.1
Salmon River HA												
All Streams	150	125	--	--	9.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	60	0.1	0.0
Middle Klamath River HA												
Klamath River above Iron Gate Dam including Iron Gate & Copco Reservoirs	425	275	--	--	7.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	60	0.3	0.2
Klamath River below Iron Gate Dam	350	275	--	--	8.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	80	0.5	0.2
Other Streams	300	150	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	60	0.1	0.0
Groundwater[4]	750	600	--	--	--	--	--	8.5	7.5	200	0.3	0.1
Applegate River HA												
All Streams	250	175	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	60	--	--
Upper Trinity River HA												
Trinity River[5]	200	175	--	--	7.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	80	0.1	0.0
Other Streams	200	150	--	--	7.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	60	0.0	0.0

Water Body[1]	Specific Conductance (micromhos) @ 77 F.		Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)		Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)			Hydrogen Ion (pH)		Hardness (mg/L)	Boron (mg/L)	
	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]	Min	90% Lower Limit[2]	50% Lower Limit[3]	Max	Min	50% Upper Limit[3]	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]
Claire Engle Lake and Lewiston Reservoir	200	150	--	--	7.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	60	0.0	0.0
Hayfork Creek												
Hayfork Creek	400	275	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	150	0.2	0.1
Other Streams	300	250	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	125	0.0	0.0
Ewing Reservoir	250	200	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.0	6.5	150	0.1	0.0
Groundwater[4]	350	225	--	--	--	--	--	8.5	7.0	100	0.2	0.1
S.F. Trinity River HA												
S.F. Trinity River	275	200	--	--	7.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	100	0.2	0.0
Other Streams	250	175	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	7.0	100	0.0	0.0
Lower Trinity River HA												
Trinity River	275	200	--	--	8.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	100	0.2	0.0
Other Streams	250	200	--	--	9.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	100	0.1	0.0
Groundwater[4]	200	150	--	--		--	--	8.5	7.0	75	0.1	0.1
Lower Klamath River HA												
Klamath River	300[6]	200[6]	--	--	[13]	--	[13]	8.5	7.0	75[6]	0.5[6]	0.2[6]
Other Streams	200[6]	125[6]	--	--	8.0	--	10.0	8.5	6.5	25[6]	0.1[6]	0.0[6]
Groundwater[4]	300	225	--	--	--	--	--	8.5	6.5	100	0.1	0.0
Illinois River HA												
All Streams	200	125	--	--	8.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	75	0.1	0.0
Winchuck River HU												
All Streams	200[6]	125[6]	--	--	8.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	50[6]	0.0[6]	0.0[6]
Smith River HU												
Smith River-Main Forks	200	125	--	--	8.0	--	11.0	8.5	7.0	60	0.1	0.1
Other Streams	150[6]	125[6]	--	--	7.0	--	10.0	8.5	7.0	60[6]	0.1[6]	0.0[6]
Smith River Plain HSA												
Smith River	200[6]	150[6]	--	--	8.0	--	11.0	8.5	7.0	60[6]	0.1[6]	0.0[6]
Other Streams	150[6]	125[6]	--	--	7.0	--	10.0	8.5	6.5	60[6]	0.1[6]	0.0[6]
Lakes Earl & Talawa	--	--	--	--	7.0	--	9.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Groundwater[4]	350	100	--	--	--	--	--	8.5	6.5	75	1.0	0.0
Crescent City Harbor	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Redwook Creek HU												
Redwood Creek	220[6]	125[6]	115[6]	75[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Mad River HU												
Mad River	300[6]	150[6]	160[6]	90[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Eureka Plain HU												
Humboldt Bay	--	--	--	--	6.0	6.2	7.0	8.5	[7]	--	--	--
Eel River HU												
Eel River	375[6]	225[6]	275[6]	140[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Van Duzen River	375	175	200	100	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
South Fork Eel River	250	200	200	120	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Middle Fork Eel River	450	200	230	130	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Outlet Creek	400	200	230	125	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Cape Mendocino HU												
Bear River	390[6]	225[6]	240[6]	150[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--

Water Body[1]	Specific Conductance (micromhos) @ 77 F.		Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)		Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)			Hydrogen Ion (pH)		Hardness (mg/L)	Boron (mg/L)	
	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]	Min	90% Lower Limit[2]	50% Lower Limit[3]	Max	Min	50% Upper Limit[3]	90% Upper Limit[2]	50% Upper Limit[3]
Mattole River	300[6]	170[6]	170[6]	105[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Mendocino Coast HU												
Ten Mile River	--	--	--	--	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Noyo River	185[6]	150[6]	120[6]	105[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Jug Handle Creek	--	--	--	--	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Big River	300[6]	195[6]	190[6]	130[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Albion River	--	--	--	--	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Navarro River	285[6]	250[6]	170[6]	150[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Garcia River	--	--	--	--	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Gualala River	--	--	--	--	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Russian River HU												
(upstream)[8]	320	250	170	150	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
(downstream)[9]	375[6]	285[6]	200[6]	170[6]	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Laguna de Santa Rosa	--	--	--	--	7.0	7.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	--	--	--
Bodega Bay	--	--	--	--	6.0	6.2	7.0	8.5	7	--	--	--
Coastal Waters[10]	--	--	--	--	11	11	11	12	12	--	--	--

Table Notes:

1. Water bodies are grouped by hydrologic unit (HU), hydrologic area (HA), or hydrologic subarea (HAS).
2. 90% upper and lower limits represent the 90 percentile values for a calendar year. 90% or more of the values must be less than or equal to an upper limit and greater than or equal to a lower limit.
3. 50% upper and lower limits represent the 50 percentile values of the monthly means for a calendar year. 50% or more of the monthly means must be less than or equal to an upper limit and greater than or equal to a lower limit.
4. Value may vary depending on the aquifer being sampled. This value is the result of sampling over time, and as pumped, from more than one aquifer.
5.

Daily Average Not to Exceed	Period	River Reach
60°F	July 1–Sept. 14	Lewiston Dam to Douglas City Bridge
56°F	Sept. 15–Oct. 1	Lewiston Dam to Douglas City Bridge
56°F	Oct. 1–Dec. 31	Lewiston Dam to confluence of North Fork Trinity River

6. Does not apply to estuarine areas.
7. pH shall not be depressed below natural background levels.
8. Russian River (upstream) refers to the mainstem river upstream of its confluence with Laguna de Santa Rosa.
9. Russian River (downstream) refers to the mainstem river downstream of its confluence with Laguna de Santa Rosa.
10. The State's Ocean Plan applies to all North Coast Region coastal waters.
11. Dissolved oxygen concentrations shall not at any time be depressed more than 10 percent from that which occurs naturally.
12. pH shall not be changed at any time more than 0.2 units from that which occurs naturally.
13. The Site-Specific Objectives (SSOs) for dissolved oxygen (DO) have been recalculated for the mainstem Klamath River and are as presented separately in Table C-4a.

-- No water body specific objective available.

Table C-4a. Site-Specific Objectives (SSOs) for Dissolved Oxygen for the Mainstem Klamath River[1]

Location[2]	Percent DO Saturation Based on Natural Receiving Water Temperatures[3]	Time Period
Stateline to the Scott River	90%	October 1 through March 31
	85%	April 1 through September 30
Scott River to Hoopa	90%	Year round
Downstream of Hoopa-California boundary to Turwar	85%	June 1 through August 31
	90%	September 1 through May 31

Location[2]	Percent DO Saturation Based on Natural Receiving Water Temperatures[3]	Time Period
Upper and Middle Estuary	80%	August 1 through August 31
	85%	September 1 through October 31 and June 1 through July 31
	90%	November 1 through May 31
Lower Estuary	For the protection of estuarine habitat (EST), the dissolved oxygen content of the lower estuary shall not be depressed to levels adversely affecting beneficial uses as a result of controllable water quality factors.	

Table Notes:

1. States may establish site specific objectives equal to natural background (U.S. EPA, 1986. Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, EPA 440/5-86-033; U.S. EPA Memo from Tudor T. Davies, Director of Office of Science and Technology, U.S. EPA Washington, D.C. dated November 5, 1997). For aquatic life uses, where the natural background condition for a specific parameter is documented, by definition that condition is sufficient to support the level of aquatic life expected to occur naturally at the site absent any interference by humans (Davies, 1997). These DO objectives are derived from the T1BSR run of the Klamath TMDL model and described in Tetra Tech, December 23, 2009 *Modeling Scenarios: Klamath River Model for TMDL Development*. They represent natural DO background conditions due only to non-anthropogenic sources and a natural flow regime.
2. These objectives apply to the maximum extent allowed by law. To the extent that the State lacks jurisdiction, the Site-Specific Dissolved Oxygen Objectives for the Mainstem Klamath River are extended as a recommendation to the applicable regulatory authority.
3. Corresponding DO concentrations are calculated as daily minima, based on site-specific barometric pressure, site-specific salinity, and natural receiving water temperatures as estimated by the T1BSR run of the Klamath TMDL model and described in Tetra Tech, December 23, 2009. Modeling Scenarios: Klamath River Model for TMDL Development. The estimates of natural receiving water temperatures used in these calculations may be updated as new data or method(s) become available. After opportunity for public comment, any update or improvements to the estimate of natural receiving water temperature must be reviewed and approved by the Executive Officer before being used for this purpose.

C. **Proposed Discharges to Ocean Waters**. Permittees seeking authorization to discharge to ocean waters under this General Order shall sample and analyze the effluent for the constituents contained in Table C-5. The results of the analyses shall be compared to the corresponding screening level and shall be submitted as part of the NOI.

Table C-5. Water Quality Criteria and Screening Levels for the Ocean Plan Table 1 Pollutants

Table 1 Pollutant	CAS No.	ML[1] (µg/L)	WQ Criterion[2] (µg/L)
Arsenic	7440382	1.0	8.0
Cadmium	7440439	0.2	1.0
Chromium $^{+6}$	18540299	5.0	2.0
Copper	7440508	0.5	3.0
Lead	7439921	0.5	2.0
Mercury	7439976	0.2	0.04
Nickel	7440020	1.0	5.0
Selenium	7782492	1.0	15
Silver	7440224	0.2	0.7
Zinc	7440666	1.0	20
Cyanide	57125	5.0	1.0
Ammonia	--	200	600
Non-Chlorinated Phenolics	--	10	30
Chlorinated Phenolics	--	1	1.0
Endosulfans[3]	--	0.01	0.009
Endrin	72208	0.01	0.002
HCH[4]	58899	0.02	0.004
Acrolein	107028	2.0	220
Antimony	7440360	0.5	1,200
Bis (2-chloroethoxy) methane	111911	5.0	4.4

Table 1 Pollutant	CAS No.	ML[1] (µg/L)	WQ Criterion[2] (µg/L)
Bis (2-chloroisopropyl) ether	39638329	2.0	1,200
Chlorobenzene	108907	0.5	570
Chromium (trivalent)	7440473	--	190,000
Di-n-butyl phthalate	84742	10	3,500
Dichlorobenzenes[5]	--	0.5	5,100
Diethyl phthalate	84662	2.0	33,000
Dimethyl phthalate	131113	2.0	820,000
4,6-dinitro-2-methylphenol	534521	5.0	220
2,4-dinitrophenol	51285	5.0	4.0
Ethylbenzene	100414	0.5	4,100
Fluoranthene	206440	0.05	15
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	77474	5.0	58
Nitrobenzene	98953	1.0	4.9
Thallium	7440280	1.0	2.0
Toluene	108883	0.5	85,000
1,1,1-trichloroethane	71556	0.5	540,000
Tributyltin	688733		0.0014
Acrylonitrile	107131	2.0	0.10
Aldrin	309002	0.005	0.000022
Benzene	71432	0.5	5.9
Benzidine	92875	5.0	0.000069
Beryllium	7440417	0.5	0.033
Bis (2-chloroethyl) ether	111444	1.0	0.045
Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	117817	5.0	3.5
Carbon tetrachloride	56235	0.5	0.90
Chlordane[6]	57749	0.1	0.000023
Chlorodibromomethane	124481	0.5	8.6
Chloroform	67663	0.5	130
DDT[7]	50293	0.01	0.00017
1,4-dichlorobenzene	106467	1.0	18
3,3-dichlorobenzidine	91941	5.0	0.0081
1,2-dichloroethane	107062	0.5	28
1,1-dichloroethylene	75354	0.5	0.9
Dichlorobromomethane	75274	0.5	6.2
Dichloromethane	75092	0.5	450
1,3-dichloropropene	542756	0.5	8.9
Dieldrin	60571	0.01	0.00004
2,4-dinitrotoluene	121142	5.0	2.6
1,2-diphenylhydrazine	122667	1.0	0.16
Halomethanes[8]	--	--	130
Heptachlor	76448	0.01	0.00005
Heptachlor epoxide	1024573	0.01	0.00002
Hexachlorobezene	118741	1.0	0.00021
Hexachlorobutadiene	87683	1.0	14
Hexachloroethane	67721	1.0	2.5
Isophorone	78591	1.0	730
N-nitrosodimethylamine	62759	5.0	7.3
N-nitrosodi-N-propylamine	621647	5.0	0.38
N-nitrosodiphenylamine	86306	1.0	2.5
PAHs[9]	--	--	0.0088
PCBs[10]	--	--	0.000019

Table 1 Pollutant	CAS No.	ML[1] (µg/L)	WQ Criterion[2] (µg/L)
TCDD equivalents[11]	--	--	0.0000000039
1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane	79345	0.5	2.3
Tetrachloroethylene	127184	0.5	2.0
Toxaphene	8001352	0.5	0.00021
Trichloroethylene	79016	0.5	27
1,1,2-trichloroethane	79005	0.5	9.4
2,4,6-trichlorophenol	88062	0.05	0.29
Vinyl chloride	75014	0.5	36

Table Notes:

1. ML = Minimum Level, established by the *Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California* (Ocean Plan). The ML is the concentration in a sample that is equivalent to the concentration in the lowest calibration standard analyzed for a specific analytical procedure, assuming that all method specified sample weights, volumes, and processing steps have been followed. The Reporting Level for each pollutant shall be less than or equal to the ML described in this table.
2. The listed water quality criterion is the most stringent criterion of those established by the Ocean Plan. Dashes (--) indicate that no criteria are available.
3. Endosulfans shall mean the sum of endosulfan-alpha and –beta and endosulfan sulfate.
4. HCH shall mean the sum of the alpha, beta, gamma (lindane), and delta isomers of hexachlorocyclohexane.
5. Dichlorobenzenes shall mean the sum of 1,2- and 1,3-dichlorobenzene.
6. Chlordane shall mean the sum of chlordane-alpha, chlordane-gamma, chlordane-alpha, chlordene-gamma, nonachlor-alpha, nonachlor-gamma, and oxychlordane.
7. DDT shall mean the sum of 4,4'-DDT, 2,4'-DDT, 4,4'-DDE, 2,4'-DDE, 4,4'-DDD, and 2,4'-DDD.
8. Halomethanes shall mean the sum of bromoform, bromomethane (methyl bromide), and chloromethane (methyl chloride).
9. PAHs shall mean the sum of acenaphthylene, anthracene, 1,2-benzanthracene, 3,4-benzofluoranthene, benzo[k]fluoranthene, 1,12-benzoperylene, benzo[a]pyrene, chrysene, dibenzo[ah]anthracene, fluorene, indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene, phenanthrene and pyrene.
10. PCBs shall mean the sum of chlorinated biphenyls whose analytical characteristics resemble those of Aroclor-1016, Aroclor-1221, Aroclor-1232, Aroclor-1242, Aroclor-1248, Aroclor-1254 and Aroclor-1260.
11. TCDD Equivalents shall mean the sum of the concentrations of chlorinated dibenzodioxins (2,3,7,8-CDDs) and chlorinated dibenzofurans (2,3,7,8-CDFs) multiplied by their respective toxicity factors, as shown in the table below.

Isomer Group	Toxicity Equivalence Factor
2,3,7,8-tetra CDD	1.0
2,3,7,8-penta CDD	0.5
2,3,7,8-hexa CDDs	0.1
2,3,7,8-hepta CDD	0.01
octa CDD	0.001
2,3,7,8 tetra CDF	0.1
1,2,3,7,8 penta CDF	0.05
2,3,4,7,8 penta CDF	0.5
2,3,7,8 hexa CDFs	0.1
2,3,7,8 hepta CDFs	0.01
octa CDF	0.001

ATTACHMENT D – STANDARD PROVISIONS

I. STANDARD PROVISIONS – PERMIT COMPLIANCE

A. Duty to Comply

1. The Permittee must comply with all of the conditions of this General Order. Any noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the California Water Code and is grounds for enforcement action, for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit renewal application. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(a).)

B. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for a Permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this General Order. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(c).)

C. Duty to Mitigate

The Permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge use or disposal in violation of this General Order that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(d).)

D. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The Permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this General Order. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems that are installed by a Permittee only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this General Order. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(e).)

E. Property Rights

1. This General Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(g).)

2. The issuance of this General Order does not authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of state or local law or regulations. (40 C.F.R. § 122.5(c).)

F. Inspection and Entry

The Permittee shall allow the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, U.S. EPA, and/or their authorized representatives (including an authorized contractor acting as their representative), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents, as may be required by law, to (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(i); Wat. Code, § 13383):

1. Enter upon the Permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept under the conditions of this General Order (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(i)(1));

2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this General Order (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(i)(2));

3. Inspect and photograph, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this General Order (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(i)(3)); and

4. Sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring General Order compliance or as otherwise authorized by the CWA or the Water Code, any substances or parameters at any location. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(i)(4).)

II. STANDARD PROVISIONS – PERMIT ACTION

A. General

Enrollment under this General Order may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the Permittee for modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Order condition. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(f).)

B. Duty to Reapply

If the Permittee chooses to continue a discharge regulated by this General Order after the expiration date of this General Order and after the Regional Water Board has reissued this General Order, the Permittee must apply for and obtain new permit coverage as required by the new Order. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(b).)

C. Transfers

This General Order is not transferable to any person except after notice to the Regional Water Board. The Regional Water Board may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the General Order or Notice of Applicability to change the name of the Permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the CWA and the Water Code. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(3); § 122.61.)

III. STANDARD PROVISIONS – MONITORING

A. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(1).)

B. Monitoring results must be conducted according to test procedures under 40 C.F.R. part 136. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(4); § 122.44(i)(1)(iv).)

IV. STANDARD PROVISIONS – RECORDS

A. Except for records of monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this General Order, and records of all data used to complete the application and the NOI for this General Order, for a period of at least three (3) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Executive Officer at any time. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(2).)

B. Records of monitoring information shall include:

1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(3)(i));

2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(3)(ii));

3. The date(s) analyses were performed (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(3)(iii));

4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(3)(iv)); and

5. The results of such analyses. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(3)(vi).)

C. Claims of confidentiality for the following information will be denied (40 C.F.R. § 122.7(b)):

1. The name and address of any permit applicant or Permittee (40 C.F.R. § 122.7(b)(1)); and

2. Permit applications and attachments, permits and effluent data. (40 C.F.R. § 122.7(b)(2).)

V. STANDARD PROVISIONS – REPORTING

A. Duty to Provide Information

The Permittee shall furnish to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA within a reasonable time, any information which the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating enrollment under this General Order or to determine compliance with this General Order. Upon request, the Permittee shall also furnish to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA copies of records required to be kept by this General Order. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(h); Wat. Code, § 13267.)

B. Signatory and Certification Requirements

1. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, and/or U.S. EPA shall be signed and certified in accordance with Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.2 through V.B.7 below. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(k).)

2. For a corporation, a responsible corporate officer shall sign all permit applications s. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means: (i) A president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy- or decision-making functions for the corporation, or (ii) the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, provided, the manager is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the regulated facility including having the explicit or implicit duty of making major capital investment recommendations, and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long term environmental compliance with environmental laws and regulations; the manager can assure that the necessary systems are established or actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit application requirements; and where authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures. (40 C.F.R. § 122.22(a)(1).)

3. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, a general partner or the proprietor shall sign all permit applications. (40 C.F.R. § 122.22(a)(2).)

4. For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency, a principal executive officer or ranking elected official shall sign all permit applications. For purposes of this provision, a principal executive officer of a federal agency includes: (i) the chief executive officer of the agency, or (ii) a senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency (e.g., Regional Administrators of U.S. EPA). (40 C.F.R. § 122.22(a)(3).).

5. All reports required by this General Order and other information requested by the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA shall be signed by a person described in Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.2, V.B.3, or V.B.4 above, as applicable, or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described in Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.2, V.B.3, or V.B.4 above (40 C.F.R. § 122.22(b)(1));

b. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.) (40 C.F.R. § 122.22(b)(2)); and

c. The written authorization is submitted to the Regional Water Board and State Water Board. (40 C.F.R. § 122.22(b)(3).)

6. If an authorization under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B above is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.5 above must be submitted to the Regional Water Board and State Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications, to be signed by an authorized representative. (40 C.F.R. § 122.22(c).)

7. Any person signing a document under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.2 through V.B.5 above shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations." (40 C.F.R. § 122.22(d).)

C. Monitoring Reports

1. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E) in this General Order. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(4).)

2. If the Permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this General Order using test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R. part 136, or another method required for an industry-specific waste stream under 40 C.F.R. subchapters N or O, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR or sludge reporting form specified by the Regional Water Board. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(4)(ii).)

D. Twenty-Four Hour Reporting

1. The Permittee shall report any noncompliance that may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the Permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within five (5) days of the time the Permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to

reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(6)(i).)

2. The Regional Water Board may waive the above-required written report under this provision on a case-by-case basis if an oral report has been received within 24 hours. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(6)(iii).)

E. Anticipated Noncompliance

The Permittee shall give advance notice to the Regional Water Board or State Water Board of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity that may result in noncompliance with this General Order's requirements. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(2).)

F. Other Noncompliance

The Permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.C, V.D, and V.E above at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Standard Provision – Reporting V.E above. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(7).)

G. Other Information

When the Permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Regional Water Board**,** State Water Board, or U.S. EPA, the Permittee shall promptly submit such facts or information. (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(8).)

VI. STANDARD PROVISIONS – ENFORCEMENT

The Regional Water Board is authorized to enforce the terms of this permit under several provisions of the Water Code, including, but not limited to, sections 13385, 13386, and 13387.

ATTACHMENT E – MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

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ATTACHMENT E – MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MRP)

The Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R. § 122.48) requires that all NPDES permits specify monitoring and reporting requirements. Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 also authorize the Regional Water Board to require technical and monitoring reports. This MRP establishes monitoring and reporting requirements that implement federal and California regulations.

Permittees regulated under General NPDES Permit No. CAG0024902 shall be subject to the following monitoring and reporting requirements unless such requirements are modified or waived by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. The Executive Officer may modify the monitoring and reporting program for a specific Permittee to reduce monitoring frequency and/or eliminate a monitoring parameter if it can be demonstrated that any reduction in monitoring requirements will not compromise water quality. In addition, the Executive Officer may stipulate conditions and requirements in addition to those established by the MRP for all authorized discharges, including monitoring and reporting requirements, for each specific discharge to assess compliance with requirements of the General Order and/or characterize the discharge and/or receiving water quality. Any deviations from this standard MRP that are proposed by the Executive Officer will be identified in the NOA letter from the Executive Officer to the Permittee.

I. GENERAL MONITORING PROVISIONS

A. Representative Monitoring Provision. Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. All samples shall be taken at the monitoring locations specified in Table E-1, below, and further described in the Permittee's Notice of Intent (NOI) and Executive Officer's Notice of Authorization (NOA), and, unless otherwise specified, before the monitored flow joins or is diluted by any other waste stream, body of water, or substance. Monitoring locations shall not be changed without notification to and the approval of the Regional Water Board.

Effluent samples shall be taken downstream of the last addition of wastes to the treatment or discharge works where a representative sample may be obtained prior to mixing with the receiving waters. Samples shall be collected at such point and in such manner to assure a representative sample of the discharge.

B. Supplemental Monitoring Provision. If the Permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this General Order, using test procedures approved by 40 C.F.R. part 136 or as specified in this General Order, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the monthly and annual discharge monitoring reports.

C. Data Quality Assurance Provision. Laboratories analyzing monitoring samples shall be certified by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Division of Drinking Water (DDW; formerly the Department of Public Health), in accordance with the provision of Water Code section 13176, and must include quality assurance/quality control data with their reports.

D. Instrumentation and Calibration Provision. All monitoring instruments and devices used by the Permittee to fulfill the prescribed monitoring program shall be properly installed, calibrated, operated, and maintained to assure that the accuracy of the measurements is consistent with the accepted capability of that type of device. This General Order allows the Permittee to utilize field equipment for monitoring dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, turbidity, and specific conductance, provided that standard operating procedures (SOPs) identifying proper installation, calibration, operation and maintenance of equipment, including quality assurance/quality control procedures are developed and maintained at the project site. The QA/QC procedures must conform to U.S. EPA guidelines and/or to procedures approved by the Regional Water Board.

E. Minimum Levels (ML) and Reporting Levels (RL) Provision. Reasonable potential priority pollutant monitoring analyses shall be conducted using commercially available and reasonably achievable detection limits that are lower than the applicable water quality criteria. If more than one analytical test method is listed for a given parameter, the Permittee must select from the listed Standard Methods and corresponding MLs. If no ML value is below these levels, the lowest ML shall be selected as the RL. Required MLs for priority pollutants in accordance with Order No. R1-2015-0003 are included in Attachment C. Applicable MLs for all priority pollutants can be referenced in Appendix 4 of the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (State Implementation Policy or SIP) or Appendix II of the *Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California, California Ocean Plan* (Ocean Plan).

II. MONITORING LOCATIONS

The Permittee shall establish the following monitoring locations to demonstrate compliance with the effluent limitations, discharge specifications, and other requirements in this General Order:

Table E-1. Monitoring Station Locations

Discharge Point Name	Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description
001	EFF-001[1]	Wastewater to be discharged, following treatment and before contact with receiving water and before dilution by any other water or waste.
002	EFF-002	If more than one discharge point is authorized under the General Order, compliance monitoring locations shall be named EFF-002, EFF-003, etc., and shall be located to allow collection of wastewater to be discharged, following treatment and before contact with receiving water and before dilution by any other water or waste.
--	RSW-001	Receiving water immediately upstream of the point of discharge at a location unaffected by the discharge to allow collection of water samples or observation of conditions that are representative of upstream, background conditions within the receiving water. Applicable to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries.
--	RSW-002	Receiving water at an appropriate monitoring location approved by the Executive Officer, downstream of the point of discharge, that represents downstream water quality after mixing of the discharge and receiving water. This monitoring location must be located within 25 feet of the discharge outfall unless otherwise approved by the Regional Water Board. Applicable to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries.

Table Notes:
1. Permittees enrolled under this General Order for more than one discharge point must comply with effluent limitations and monitoring requirements at each discharge point. If the Permittee is seeking enrollment of discharges from multiple discharge points, the Permittee may request monitoring of representative discharge points in lieu of monitoring all discharge points, provided that the Permittee provides sufficient information to demonstrate that the quality of wastewater discharged at the discharge points is the same and that the selected discharge point appropriately represents the other discharge points in terms of the pollutant characterization of the discharge, the flow rate range, and receiving water characteristics.

III. DISCHARGE CONSTITUENT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. Monitoring Locations EFF-001, EFF-002, etc.

1. The Permittee shall monitor the effluent at Monitoring Location EFF-001 (EFF-002, etc. if there is more than one discharge point) as follows. If more than one analytical test method is listed for a given parameter, the Permittee must select from the listed Standard Methods

and corresponding Minimum Level. Where indicated in Table E-2, parameters shall be monitored in accordance with the frequencies listed in Table E-3.

Table E-2. Discharge Monitoring Requirements

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method and (Minimum Level, units), respectively
Flow[1]	GPD or MGD[2]	Meter or Estimate	Daily[3]	---
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Settleable Solids	mL/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Grease and Oil	mg/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Petroleum Hydrocarbons[6]	µg/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Volatile Halogenated Compounds[6]	µg/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Ethylbenzene[6]	µg/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Benzene[6]	µg/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Toluene[6]	µg/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Xylene[6]	µg/L	Grab	Monthly[4]	Standard Methods[5]
Total Coliform Bacteria[7]	MPN/100 ml	Grab	See Table E-3	Standard Methods
pH	pH units	Field Sample[8]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[5]
Temperature	°C or °F	Field Sample[8,9]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[5]
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Field Sample[8,9]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[5]
Turbidity	NTU	Grab or Field Sample[8]	See Table E-3[10]	Standard Methods[5]
Chlorine, Total Residual[11,12]	mg/L	Field Sample[8]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[5]
Specific Conductance (@ 25°C)	µmhos/cm	Grab or Field Sample[8]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[4]
Visual Observations[13]	---	Visual	Daily[14]	---
Other	---	---	[15]	---

Table Notes:

1. The Permittee shall monitor the flow rate and calculate the average daily flow rate of the discharge during the entire period for the discharge. The flow rate, duration and total volume of the discharge shall be monitored and reported. Flow estimates are acceptable provided that the basis for the estimates is clearly indicated with the monitoring report(s).
2. GPD – gallons per day; MGD – million gallons per day
3. This flow sampling frequency assumes steady state flow. Flow rate shall be monitored more frequently if flow rate changes. Continuous flow monitoring is desirable if flow rates change frequently.
4. Monthly monitoring requirements apply to discharges of greater than one month in duration.
5. In accordance with the current edition of *Standard Methods for Examination of Water and Wastewater* (American Public Health Administration) or current test procedures specified in 40 C.F.R. part 136.
6. Monitoring for petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile halogenated compounds, ethylbenzene, benzene, toluene, and xylene is required for all construction, bilge water and similar discharges where these are pollutants of concern. The requirement for on-going monthly monitoring may be waived if the first monthly sample shows that these pollutants are not present and with documentation that no construction equipment or petroleum hydrocarbons are on the site.
7. Monitoring for total coliform bacteria is required for treated bilge water discharges.
8. All field equipment shall be properly calibrated. Calibration records shall be retained for a period of three years.

Table E-2. Discharge Monitoring Requirements (continued)

Table Notes (continued):

9. If the discharge has the potential for causing temperature or dissolved oxygen impacts in the stream, the Executive Officer may require continuous monitoring.
10. The Executive Officer may require more frequent turbidity monitoring for construction dewatering, well development and other similar projects to demonstrate that treatment measures and BMPs are removing sediment.
11. Total chlorine residual monitoring shall be required when the water being discharged originates from a chlorinated water source or has otherwise been chlorinated. Total chlorine residual monitoring is not required of non-chlorinated discharges.
12. Total chlorine residual shall be monitored with a method sensitive to and accurate at a minimum level of 0.1 mg/L.
13. Visual observations shall include the appearance of the discharge including color, turbidity, floating or suspended matter or debris. If visual monitoring indicates that the discharge may be out of compliance with permit requirements, the Permittee shall take prudent steps to determine the status of compliance, including, but not limited to, conducting additional monitoring, checking all BMPs and taking any necessary corrective measures to assure compliance, and/or calling Regional Water Board staff to discuss the observations.
14. Visual monitoring frequency may be reduced to less than daily upon demonstration by the Permittee that the discharge does not have any adverse impacts on the receiving water and that receiving water conditions do not vary on a daily basis.
15. When granting authorization to discharge under the General Order, the Executive Officer may stipulate conditions in addition to the requirements described by the General Order for all authorized discharges, including monitoring requirements, for a specific discharge. Such monitoring requirements shall become enforceable requirements of the General Order and may include effluent and/or receiving water monitoring requirements. When the discharge originates from groundwater with naturally occurring metals concentrations, monitoring the discharge for the metal(s) of concern may be required. When the discharge originates from a potable supply, monitoring for the trihalomethanes may be required in the discharge.

Table E-3. Discharge Monitoring Frequencies

Duration of Discharge	Sampling Requirements[1, 2, 3]
Less than 20 minutes	One sample is required during the first 10 minutes of the discharge.
20 minutes to 60 minutes	One sample is required during the first 10 minutes of the discharge, plus a second sample is required within the last 10 minutes of the discharge.
60 minutes to 24 hours	One sample is required within the first 10 minutes of the discharge, a second sample is required within the next 50 minutes, and a third sample is required approximately within the last 10 minutes of the discharge.
24 hours to 7 days	One sample is required within the first 10 minutes of the discharge and a second sample is required within the next 50 minutes. Daily samples are required thereafter.
7 days to 30 days	One sample is required within the first 10 minutes of the discharge and a second sample is required within the next 50 minutes. Daily samples are required thereafter for the remainder of the first week. Two samples per week are required thereafter.
Greater than 30 days	One sample is required within the first 10 minutes of the discharge and a second sample is required within the next 50 minutes. Daily samples are required thereafter for the remainder of the first week. Two samples per week are required for the next three weeks, and weekly samples are required thereafter.

Duration of Discharge	Sampling Requirements[1, 2, 3]
Table Notes: 1. If the discharge is intermittent rather than continuous, the Permittee shall collect samples according to the frequencies in Table E-3 for each intermittent discharge event. 2. If any receiving water measurement collected during the first hour of discharge does not comply with any receiving water limitation identified in section IX of the Order, the Permittee shall cease the discharge and contact Regional Water Board staff to discuss a plan to achieve compliance with the non-compliant receiving water limitation. The Permittee shall modify treatment and/or BMPs to achieve compliance with the non-compliant receiving water limitation(s) before restarting the discharge. After a shut-down, the Permittee shall sample at least twice during the first hour of discharge. If compliance is not achieved, the Permittee shall cease discharge and contact Regional Water Board staff within 24 hours by telephone or email. 3. If any effluent sample or measurement collected does not comply with any effluent limitation identified in section V of the Order, the Permittee shall collect additional measurements (if the non-compliant parameter is for a field parameter such as pH) and/or resample for the non-compliant pollutant(s) within 24 hours of receiving a report from an analytical laboratory. If these additional samples and/or measurements confirm that the effluent does not comply with an effluent limitation, the Permittee shall cease the discharge and contact Regional Water Board staff to discuss a plan to achieve compliance with the non-compliant effluent limitation. The Permittee shall modify treatment and/or BMPs before restarting the discharge. After a shut-down, the Permittee shall sample at least twice during the first hour of discharge. The Permittee shall contact Regional Water Board staff within 24 hours by telephone or email if compliance is not achieved.	

2. The Permittee shall take photographs at the point of discharge (discharge outfall) at the commencement of the discharge, and according to the frequencies in Table E-3, thereafter. The photographs shall be labeled with a date and time and shall be included with monitoring reports submitted to the Regional Water Board.

IV. RECEIVING WATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS – SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER

A. Monitoring Location RSW-001 and RSW-002 for Discharges to Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries

1. For discharges to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries, the Permittee shall monitor the upstream and downstream receiving water at Monitoring Locations RSW-001 and RSW-002, respectively, during discharge periods as follows:

Table E-4. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Flow[1]	GPD, MGD, cfs[2]	Continuous	Daily[3]	Standard Methods[4]
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Field Sample[5]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[4]
pH	pH Units	Field Sample[2]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[4]
Temperature	°C or °F	Field Sample[5]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[4]
Turbidity	NTU	Grab or Field Sample[5]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[4]
Specific Conductance (@ 25°C)	µmhos/cm	Grab or Field Sample[5]	See Table E-3	Standard Methods[4]
Visual Observations[6]	---	Visual	Daily[7]	---
Other[8]	---	---	---	---

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method

Table Notes:

1. The Permittee shall monitor the flow rate and calculate the average daily flow rate of the discharge during the entire period for the discharge. The flow rate, duration and total volume of the discharge shall be monitored and reported. Flow estimates are acceptable provided that the basis for the estimates is clearly indicated with the monitoring report(s).
2. GPD – gallons per day; MGD – million gallons per day
3. This flow sampling frequency assumes steady state flow. Flow rate shall be monitored more frequently if flow rate changes. Continuous flow monitoring is desirable if flow rates change frequently.
4. In accordance with the current edition of *Standard Methods for Examination of Water and Wastewater* (American Public Health Administration) or current test procedures specified in 40 C.F.R. part 136.
5. All field equipment shall be properly calibrated. Calibration records shall be retained for a period of three years.
6. Visual observations shall include the appearance of the receiving water at the point of discharge (occurrence of erosion and scouring, turbidity, solids deposition, unusual aquatic growth, etc.), and observations about the receiving water, such as the presence of aquatic life. If the visual monitoring indicates that the discharge is causing adverse impacts on the receiving water, the Permittee shall take prudent steps to determine the status of compliance, including, but not limited to, conducting additional monitoring, checking all BMPs and taking any necessary corrective measures to assure compliance, and/or calling Regional Water Board staff to discuss the observations.
7. Visual monitoring frequency may be reduced to less than daily upon demonstration that the discharge does not have any adverse impacts on the receiving water and that receiving water conditions do not vary on a daily basis.
8. When granting authorization to discharge under the General Order, the Executive Officer may stipulate conditions in addition to the requirements described by the General Order for all authorized discharges, including monitoring requirements, for a specific discharge. Such monitoring requirements shall become enforceable requirements of the General Order and may include effluent and/or receiving water monitoring requirements. When stream scouring or bank erosion is a concern, for example, monitoring for suspended solids in receiving water, upstream and downstream of the point of discharge, may be required.

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

a. Erosion or scouring caused or exacerbated by the discharge;
b. Nuisance conditions such as algae, fungi, slimes, or objectionable growths, mosquitoes, flooding, etc., caused or exacerbated by the discharge;
c. Floating or suspended matter;
d. Discoloration;
e. Bottom deposits;
f. Impact on aquatic life; and
g. Visible films, sheens, or coatings.

Documented observations and photographs of the receiving water conditions shall be summarized in the monitoring report(s) submitted to the Regional Water Board.

3. The Permittee shall take photographs of the receiving water at Monitoring Locations RSW-001 and RSW-002 prior to commencement of discharge and, when discharging, one time per week at a time of peak discharge. The photographs shall be labeled with a date and time and shall be included with monitoring reports submitted to the Regional Water Board.

V. REPORTING AND RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

A. General Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

1. The Permittee shall comply with all Standard Provisions (Attachment D) related to monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping.

2. The Permittee shall report to the Regional Water Board any toxic chemical release data it reports to the State Emergency Response Commission within 15 days of reporting the data to the Commission pursuant to section 313 or the "Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act" of 1986.

3. **Noncompliance Reporting.** The Permittee shall report by telephone any noncompliance with Order No. R1-2015-0003, including any violation of a discharge prohibition final effluent limitation, discharge specification, receiving water limitation, or other provision of this General Order that may result in a significant threat to human health or the environment or that results in an unauthorized discharge to a drainage channel or a surface water, or evidence that the discharge has adversely impacted any beneficial use of the receiving water. The telephone report must be made by calling the Regional Water Board staff person assigned to the enrolled project or an available Regional Water Board staff person (707-576-2220), as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours from the time the Permittee becomes aware of the noncompliance.

4. Permittees shall report catastrophic discharges to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) within 24 hours of the discovery of the discharge or as soon as feasible after measures to protect public health and safety have been implemented. For the purposes of this reporting, catastrophic discharges include, but are not limited to, release of super-chlorinated water that is not properly dechlorinated , high volume discharges that cause erosion to discharge sediment, salts and minerals to receiving waters, discharges that threaten public safety (e.g., washout of a hillside or flooding of downstream properties), and other discharges potentially harmful to aquatic life.

B. Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs)

1. SMRs must be submitted to the Regional Water Board, signed and certified as required by the Standard Provisions (Attachment D), to the address listed below:

   The Permittee shall report in the SMR the results for all monitoring specified in this MRP under sections III and IV. The Permittee shall submit SMRs according to the schedule in Table E-5 below including the results of all required monitoring using U.S. EPA-approved test methods or other test methods specified in this General Order. SMRs are to include all new monitoring results obtained since the last SMR was submitted. If the Permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this General Order, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculations and reporting of the data submitted in the SMR. All non-compliant discharge monitoring information must be accompanied by the corrective actions the Permittee has taken to return the discharge to compliance. If no discharge occurred during the reporting period, the monitoring report shall so state.

2. Monitoring periods and reporting for all required monitoring shall be completed according to the following schedule:

Table E-5. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

Sampling Frequency	Monitoring Period Begins On	Monitoring Period	SMR Due Date
Daily	When discharge is initiated	(Midnight through 11:59 PM) or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents a calendar day for purposes of sampling[1].	**For discharges that are four weeks or less in duration:** A single monitoring report shall be submitted within 30 days of ceasing the discharge.
Weekly	When discharge is initiated	If discharge lasts less than a month, each full week following the discharge initiation date. If discharge lasts longer than one month, Sunday through Saturday.	

Sampling Frequency	Monitoring Period Begins On	Monitoring Period	SMR Due Date
Monthly	When discharge is initiated	1st day of calendar month through last day of calendar month. If discharge lasts less than a month, but spans two months, the monitoring period shall be the discharge period.	**For discharges of longer duration:** Monthly reports shall be submitted by the 1st day of the 2nd month following the monitoring period.
Quarterly	When discharge is initiated	January 1 through March 31 April 1 through June 30 July 1 through September 30 October 1 through December 31.	
Table Notes 1. See Table E-3 for monitoring periods for discharges with durations less than 24 hours.			

3. **Reporting Protocols.** The Permittee shall report with each sample result the applicable Reporting Level (RL) and the current Method Detection Limit (MDL), as determined by the procedure in 40 C.F.R. part 136. The Permittee shall report the results of analytical determinations for the presence of chemical constituents in a sample using the following reporting protocols:

   a. Sample results greater than or equal to the RL shall be reported as measured by the laboratory (i.e., the measured chemical concentration in the sample).

   b. Sample results less than the RL, but greater than or equal to the laboratory's MDL, shall be reported as "Detected, but Not Quantified," or DNQ. The estimated chemical concentration of the sample shall also be reported.

   For the purposes of data collection, the laboratory shall write the estimated chemical concentration next to DNQ. The laboratory may, if such information is available, include numerical estimates of the data quality for the reported result. Numerical estimates of data quality may be percent accuracy (± a percentage of the reported value), numerical ranges (low to high), or any other means considered appropriate by the laboratory.

   c. Sample results less than the laboratory's MDL shall be reported as "Not Detected," or ND.

   d. Permittees are to instruct laboratories to establish calibration standards so that the ML value (or its equivalent if there is differential treatment of samples relative to calibration standards) is the lowest calibration standard. At no time is the Permittee to use analytical data derived from extrapolation beyond the lowest point of the calibration curve.

4. The Permittee shall submit SMRs in accordance with the following requirements:

   a. The Permittee shall arrange all reported data in a tabular format. The data shall be summarized to clearly illustrate whether the facility is operating in compliance with interim and/or final effluent limitations.

   b. The SMR shall contain documentation to demonstrate that field sampling staff have been properly trained and that all field equipment used for water quality monitoring was properly calibrated.

c. The Permittee shall include a cover letter with the SMR. The information contained in the cover letter shall clearly identify

i. Facility name;

ii. WDID number;

iii. Applicable period of monitoring and reporting;

iv. Any variations from the Notice of Intent (NOI);

v. A brief evaluation of the effectiveness of all treatment methods and/or management measures implemented;

vi. If the discharge resulted in observable changes or impacts in the receiving water, including, but not limited to, discoloration or turbidity and an explanation of upstream and downstream conditions identified in the receiving water monitoring required by section IV.A of this Monitoring and Reporting Program;

vii. Identification and explanation of any violations of the General Order (include a description of the requirement that was violated and a description of the violation);

viii. Explanation of corrective actions taken or planned to comply with the General Order;

ix. The proposed time schedule for any corrective actions planned;

x. Identification and explanation of any complaints caused by the discharge;

xi. Authorized signature; and

xii. Certification Statement: "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

C. Other Reports

1. **Notice of Start Up**. The Permittee shall notify the appropriate Regional Water Board staff person by telephone or email at least three (3) days before initiating an authorized discharge, unless a shorter notification period is authorized by the Executive Officer.

2. **Notice of Termination**. Using the Notice of Termination (NOT) form provided as Attachment G to this General Order, within 30 days following permanent termination of an authorized discharge, Permittees shall provide notice that the authorized discharge has been completed.

D. Best Management Practices Documentation

1. The Permittee shall maintain a written log of all BMPs implemented, visual observations, and modifications made to BMPs to assure compliance with this Order.

2. The Permittee shall make the log available to Regional Water Board staff upon request.

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ATTACHMENT F – FACT SHEET

As described in section III.B of this General Order, the Regional Water Board incorporates this Fact Sheet as findings of the Regional Water Board supporting the issuance of this General Order. This Fact Sheet includes the legal requirements and technical rationale that serve as the basis for the requirements of this General Order.

This General Order has been prepared under a standardized format to accommodate a broad range of discharge requirements for Permittees in California.

I. PERMIT INFORMATION

In 1972, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the Clean Water Act or CWA) was amended to provide that the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source is effectively prohibited unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Section IV.A of this Fact Sheet includes specific information regarding legal authorities.

The purpose of this General Order is to regulate discharges to surface waters of the North Coast Region, including inland and ocean waters, which are low threat in nature as defined in the Basin Plan and section I.A of this General Order. Individuals, public agencies, private businesses, and other legal entities that apply for coverage under this General Order and that are issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) are hereinafter referred to as "Permittees." For the purposes of this General Order, references to the "Permittee" in applicable federal and state laws, regulations, plans, or policy are held to be equivalent to references to the Permittee herein.

Permittees may obtain coverage under this General Order by submitting a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) as described in section II of this General Order and further described in section II of this Fact Sheet. Permittees who submit a complete NOI under this General Order are not required to submit an individual permit application. The Regional Water Board may request additional information and determine that a Permittee is not eligible for coverage under this General Order and would be better regulated under an individual or other general NPDES permit, or, for discharge to land under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) or a waiver of WDRs. If the Regional Water Board issues an NPDES permit or WDRs for a discharge that is otherwise covered by this General Order, the applicability of this General Order to the specified discharge is immediately terminated on the effective date of the NPDES permit or WDRs.

Permittees of low threat discharges that are already covered under General Order No. R1-2009-0045, are automatically covered under this General Order, provided that the discharge is in compliance with all permit requirements. The Executive Officer will provide a Notice of Applicability (NOA) letter to existing Permittees (those covered under Order No. R1-2009-0045) that coverage under the General Order will continue.

II. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Order Application

The NOI, as shown in Attachment B, is intended to provide the Regional Water Board with information necessary for a determination of suitability for coverage under this General Order. The information required to be completed in the NOI in Attachment B meets the requirements for NOIs established at 40 C.F.R. section 122.28(b)(2) and satisfies the requirements for a report of waste discharge (ROWD) established by Water Code section 13260. Water Code section 13260 requires a ROWD to start the application process for all WDRs and NPDES permits, except for general WDRs or general NPDES permits that use the NOI to comply or specify the use of an alternative application form designed for the permit. Submittal of the NOI is intended to replace

the requirement of discharges to provide State of California Form 200 and U.S. EPA Application Forms 1 and 2B. The requirement to provide a single application form for represents a less burdensome procedure for applicants and the Regional Water Board, while requiring submittal of all necessary information pursuant to NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.28(b)(2) and Water Code section 13260.

Applicants enrolling for coverage under this General Order must submit a complete NOI at least 90 days in advance of the proposed project start date. The 90 days may be decreased at the discretion of the Executive Officer. New discharges will not be authorized until a complete NOI has been submitted to the Regional Water Board and the Executive Officer has issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for coverage under this General Order. Permittees covered under Order No. R1-2009-0045 are automatically covered under this General Order, provided that the NOI submitted under Order No. R1-2009-0045 adequately characterizes the discharge and the discharge is compliant with all terms of this General Order.

The NOI, as detailed in Attachment B, requires submittal of the following information and data:

1. **General Information.** General information about the applicant and the applicant's representatives (e.g., contractors, professional engineer).

2. **Discharge Information.** Information about the existing or proposed discharge, including, but not limited to, a narrative project description describing the project generating the low threat discharge; the source of the discharge; whether the discharge is eligible for coverage under the State Water Board's Water Quality Order 2014-0194-DWQ, General Permit No. CAG140001, *Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges to Surface Waters* (hereinafter referred to as the Drinking Water General Permit); description of vessels, pipelines, structures, and processes with which the water has contact prior to discharge; description of the points of discharge and upstream and downstream receiving water locations; field parameter testing for temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, and pH; discharge rate and volume; whether the discharge will exceed one percent of the receiving water flow; and whether the discharges are continuous, intermittent, and/or seasonal.

3. **Identification of Known Groundwater Contamination Sites**. If the proposed discharge involves the discharge of groundwater, the applicant must contact Regional Water Board Cleanups Division staff to identify whether there are known groundwater contamination sites within ½ mile of the proposed project. The applicant will need to demonstrate that the proposed discharge is not currently impacted due to nearby groundwater contamination and that pumping of groundwater will not cause contaminants from nearby contaminated sites to be drawn to the proposed project site and inadvertently discharged.

4. **Pollutants of Concern/Discharge Sampling.** Applicants with discharges to inland surface waters, enclosed bays or estuaries applying for coverage under this General Order are required to analyze the proposed discharge for constituents regulated under the California Toxics Rule (CTR) (listed in Attachment C, Tables C-1, C-2, and C-3) and 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD_5), total suspended solids (TSS), settleable solids, total residual chlorine, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, hardness, turbidity, nitrate, and total dissolved solids, and submit the results with the NOI.

   Applicants with discharges to ocean waters are required to analyze the proposed discharge for constituents regulated under the Ocean Plan (listed in Attachment C, Table C-5) and oil and grease, TSS, settleable solids, turbidity, and pH, and submit the results with the NOI.

   Discharges from construction sites must also submit analytical results for petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile halogenated compounds, benzene, toluene, and xylene, unless the

NOI provides sufficient information to demonstrate that the discharge will not contain or come in contact with petroleum products.

The screening levels for the constituents in Attachment C, Tables C-1 and C-2, are based on the most restrictive water quality objectives/criteria from the CTR and primary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) from Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The screening levels in Table C-3 are based on Primary MCLs. The most restrictive criteria are necessary because this General Order is intended as a general order and covers low threat discharges to all surface waters in the North Coast Region of California. If the analytical test results of the discharge show that any constituent concentrations exceed the water quality screening levels listed in Attachment C, then the discharge will not be allowed under this General Order with the exception that discharges from drinking water systems associated with activities mandated by federal and state regulations. If the analytical test results of the discharge show that all constituent concentrations are below the screening levels in Attachment C, then the discharge may be enrolled under this General Order, with the exception that discharge categories where petroleum hydrocarbons and associated pollutants (volatile halogenated compounds, ethylbenzene, benzene, toluene, and xylene) may be present must demonstrate that appropriate BMPs are implemented to ensure that there will be no detectable levels of such pollutants in order to be enrolled under this General Order.

Section 1.3, Step 8 of the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (State Implementation Policy or SIP) reads, in part, "*The RWQCB shall require periodic monitoring (at least once prior to the issuance and reissuance of a permit) for pollutants for which criteria or objectives apply and for which no effluent limitations have been established; however, the RWQCB may choose to exempt low volume discharges, determined to have no significant adverse impact on water quality, from this monitoring requirement*." Certain types of low volume discharges may qualify for an exception to the sampling requirements contained in Attachment C, provided the applicant can sufficiently justify that the discharge will have no significant adverse impact on water quality. Applicants seeking an exception to the sampling requirements contained in Attachment C must submit justification as part of the NOI. If the Regional Water Board finds that the justification is not sufficient to grant an exception to the sampling requirements, the applicant will be required to analyze the existing or proposed discharge for all constituents regulated under the CTR, as listed in Attachment C, and submit the analytical test results.

As further discussed in section IV.C.6 of this Fact Sheet, the State Water Board through Resolution 2014-0067 adopted on November 18, 2014, allows water purveyors an exception to comply with priority pollutant criteria for the priority pollutants that have an applicable CTR criterion more stringent than the corresponding MCL, or do not have an adopted pollutant-specific MCL. The exception is limited to drinking water system discharges only and does not apply to discharges where the drinking water discharge is commingled with storm water, construction groundwater, or any other discharge.

If an applicant discharges or proposes to discharge into a water quality limited segment (WQLS), the applicant must sample the discharge for the constituents causing the impairment in the receiving water under the current 303(d) list and submit the result with the NOI. The list of WQLSs can be found under the CWA section 303(d) List at the web site: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/303d/. If the analytical data demonstrate that constituent concentrations in the discharge will cause or substantially contribute to the impairment of the receiving water, the discharge will not be authorized under this General Order.

5. **Evaluation of Disposal/Reuse Options.** Pursuant to section 2, Article X, California Constitution, and Water Code section 275, on preventing waste and unreasonable use of waters of the state, the Regional Water Board encourages, wherever practicable, water conservation and/or reuse of wastewater. Therefore, to obtain coverage under this General Order, applicants are required to evaluate reuse and/or alternative disposal options that could be used for all or part of the low threat discharge. These options include, but are not limited to:

   a. **Sanitary Sewage System.** If all the discharge is accepted by the local municipal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), then authorization to discharge under an NPDES permit is not needed for the proposed project. Applicants may submit any denial or restrictive flow letter from the WWTP as proof that this option is not viable for all or part of the proposed discharge or explain why it is infeasible to discharge to the WWTP.

   b. **Land Reuse/Disposal.** Each applicant must evaluate all reasonable reuse and disposal options, including, but not limited to irrigation of nearby urban or agricultural land or use for dust control. Reuse generally refers to application of the water to land at agronomic rates of existing vegetation, while land disposal involves application of water at greater than agronomic rates of existing vegetation or discharge to infiltration basins in a manner that may allow the discharge to reach groundwater. The land reuse/disposal option is usually restricted to the dry season (May through October) unless the applicant can demonstrate that the discharge can be retained on land during the wet season (November through April).

      If a land reuse/disposal is not proposed, the applicant must fully explain why land reuse/disposal is not a viable option.

   c. **Water Conservation.** The applicant must evaluate whether there are any viable options to reduce the discharge volume through water conservation measures.

6. **Discharge Location and Discharge Point Description.** The applicant must include information on the discharge location and attach a map showing the discharge site. The map should show the treatment system, flow path, discharge point, and surface waters. Wells and residences within 1,500 feet shall also be identified on the map.

7. **Receiving Water Information.** The applicant shall provide information on the receiving water, including, but not limited to, name of receiving water, receiving water flow, bank and instream conditions, and basic receiving water quality data.

   The receiving water characterization is an important element of the evaluation. Even if the proposed discharge contains no pollutants of concern, the discharge must be conducted in a manner that protects beneficial uses. For example, if a stream will be dry at the time of a proposed discharge, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that the discharge will not cause erosion or disrupt the life cycle of amphibians or other aquatic life that depend on the non-flowing conditions for part of their life cycle. If a low flow stream has pools that are populated with salmonids or other aquatic life, the applicant would need to demonstrate that a short-term, high flow rate discharge will not disrupt or harm the aquatic life.

8. **Treatment System.** Though treatment of the effluent is not required by this General Order, continuous compliance with the requirements of this General Order is required and may depend on some form of treatment being provided prior to discharge. It is anticipated that many Permittees will need to implement simple, low technology treatment measures such as dechlorination, sediment removal (sedimentation tanks or filters), and/or pH

adjustments. Each applicant must demonstrate that the treatment is adequate to remove or reduce pollutants to levels that will not impact water quality.

The Permittee shall implement treatment control BMPs to protect water quality as follows:

a. **Chlorine Residual.** Chlorine is added to potable water and other potentially low threat discharges for disinfection purposes. Chlorine is toxic to aquatic organisms. Therefore, all chlorinated discharges must be dechlorinated prior to discharge to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water. The Permittee must achieve strict levels that assure that there is no chlorine discharged to the receiving water.

b. **Settleable and Suspended Solids.** Sediment, algae and other solids may be present in the discharges at levels that could cause violation of the Basin Plan's narrative objectives for sediment, settleable material and suspended material. High flow rates may cause stream bank erosion and the discharge of a large amount of sediment downstream of the discharge. This General Order requires the development of a site-specific Best Management Practices/Pollution Prevention (BMP/PP) Plan to avoid and/or minimize these impacts.

   The applicant must demonstrate that the discharge will not exceed the TSS and settleable solids effluent limitations contained in the General Order and further demonstrate that the proposed discharge will not cause an exceedance of turbidity receiving water limitations.

c. **pH.** Lime or sodium hydroxide is added to water to adjust water pH for corrosion protection in water conveyance systems. The discharge of water with high pH content may adversely impact aquatic organisms. The discharges shall have a balanced pH in order to prevent detrimental responses to aquatic organisms.

If there is any doubt about the ability to continuously comply with the requirements of this General Order, the applicant shall contact a professional engineer to assure that the effluent is properly treated prior to discharge.

9. **Management Plans.** Except as described below, applicants are required to develop and submit a BMP/PP Plan in accordance with Special Provision X.C.3.a of the General Order, which identifies management measures that will be implemented at the site to control the discharge of pollutants and minimize impacts to water quality. Applicants must consider and identify preventative, control, treatment and response BMPs that may be necessary. The BMP/PP Plan must include, at a minimum, the elements identified in Attachment B-1.

   Permittees covered by this General Order may have numerous planned projects in the same watershed with similar discharge characteristics. For example, a water supplier may contract to have maintenance performed on multiple water storage reservoirs or on large sections of pipeline that are all conducted under a common work plan or contract, or a developer may have multiple construction dewatering sites from the same project. For the purpose of this General Order, these multiple discharges may be considered under a single application provided that the application contains adequate information and justification to assure that enrollment of multiple discharge points from similar projects meet the requirements of this General Order.

10. **Project map(s), site drawing, and photographs.** The project map(s) must include the location of the project, discharge point(s), and receiving water. The map shall also identify drinking water supply wells and residences within 1,500 feet and groundwater contamination sites within ½ mile of the proposed project site. The site drawing must identify BMPs and treatment systems, site runoff and conveyance systems, such as storm

drains and drainage ditches through which the proposed discharge would travel. Photographs should be included to supplement site and receiving water characterization.

11. **Fee Requirements.** Information concerning the applicable fees can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees. Applicants enrolling for coverage under this General Order are required to submit the appropriate filing fee as required by Title 23 of the CCR, Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1. When mitigated through implementation of appropriate management practices, treatment and/or controls, low threat discharges, as defined under this General Order, pose no adverse effects to beneficial uses of the receiving waters. In accordance with State Water Board Annual Fee Schedules per the CCR, the discharges covered under this General Order are of low threat and low complexity and are within category 3 of the de minimis discharges that are regulated under a general NPDES Permit that require minimal or no additional treatment systems to meet limits and pose no significant threat to water quality. If the proposed discharge has a duration of one year or more, an annual filing fee will be required each year.

12. **Ability to Comply.** Applicants must indicate whether the discharge is believed to have acute or chronic toxicity, chemical or organic constituents, sediment, total suspended solids, BOD_5, bacteria, pesticides, oil and grease, radioactivity, salinity or temperature that may violate receiving water objectives of this permit or adversely impact beneficial uses of the receiving water. If the discharge is expected to comply, the applicant shall provide an explanation of ability to comply considering the receiving water quality, discharge water quality, and the pollutant loading to the receiving water. Discharges that contain pollutants in concentrations that exceed applicable water quality objectives and criteria will not be covered by this General Order.

B. General Order Coverage

After reviewing the NOI, the Executive Officer will notify each General Order applicant in writing whether or not the proposed discharge is eligible for coverage under the General Order and the Executive Officer's intent with regard to granting authorization to discharge. The Executive Officer will also place a notice of enrollment on the Regional Water Board website for discharges authorized for enrollment under this General Order.

In no case may a discharge occur until the applicant receives written notification of coverage under the General Order of another permit issued or adopted by the State or Regional Water Board.

The determination of "low threat" and eligibility for coverage under the General Order will be made solely by the Executive Officer and will be based on information provided by an applicant in its NOI, the Regional Water Board's understanding of beneficial uses and water quality objectives, and all other site-specific information that is available for such a determination. Discharge flow characteristics, and anticipated flow rates and volumes, must be specified in the NOI. Discharge and receiving water flow rates will be considered but are not the sole or definitive factors in assessing the eligibility of a specific discharge for coverage under the General Order. The NOA may specify additional site-specific monitoring and reporting requirements.

The Executive Officer may also elect to schedule a Regional Water Board hearing if a proposed low threat discharge meets the eligibility criteria but is controversial and/or if any significant issues are raised by other agencies or the public. The Executive Officer may also require any facility requesting coverage under this General Order to apply for and obtain an individual NPDES permit in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.28(b)(3)(i). Discharges to a WQLS or a waterbody subject to one or more applicable Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) will be

evaluated on a case-by-case basis for coverage under this General Order or coverage under an individual permit.

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.28(b)(3)(iii), any facility may request to be excluded from coverage under a general NPDES permit by applying for an individual NPDES permit. The facility must provide justification supporting the request for an individual NPDES permit and reasons why coverage under this General Order is not appropriate. Upon receipt of the request, the Executive Officer will determine if an individual NPDES permit should be issued.

Permittees issued an NOA letter are subject to the terms and conditions of this General Order and are responsible for submitting the annual fee associated with this General Order until a written Notice of Termination (NOT) of coverage has been submitted to the Regional Water Board. If the Regional Water Board issues an individual NPDES permit or WDRs with more specific requirements, the applicability of this General Order is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit.

C. Eligibility Criteria

All Permittees must demonstrate that the proposed discharge meets the definition of low threat in section I.A of the General Order.

III. PURPOSE OF ORDER AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. Description of Low Threat Discharges and Existing Discharge Requirements

1. **General Description.** The General Order is a permitting tool used by the Regional Water Board to efficiently authorize and regulate a large number of similar Permittees. Following a determination of suitability for coverage, the Regional Water Board can efficiently regulate a large number of "low threat" discharges with a General Order, rather than individual permits, and thereby reduce its administrative burdens and establish planning, operational, monitoring, and reporting requirements which are appropriate for the similar nature of all authorized discharges.

   Individuals, public agencies, private businesses, and other entities often need to discharge to surface waters relatively pollutant-free wastewater that poses little threat to water quality. Some discharges may need minimal treatment, such as settling out sediment or dechlorination, in order to remove specific pollutants prior to discharge and/or application of BMPs to assure that the discharge does not create conditions of pollution or nuisance.

   Many of these low threat discharges are short-term and may be completed in a period of one day to one week. Examples of short term discharges include projects that need to pump groundwater during well installation, development, test pumping, or purging, or that need to release potable water from water supply maintenance projects. Although these projects occur over very short periods of time, the discharges may involve high flows relative to the receiving water flow and may involve volumes on the order of a thousand gallons per day to over one million gallons per day.

   Other types of low threat discharges, such as construction dewatering projects, may occur over a longer period of time, sometimes months and occasionally periods that exceed one year. These discharges typically involve the discharge of smaller daily volumes. Some discharges, such as subterranean seepage dewatering (e.g., dewatering of structures situated below ground level such as basements or roadways) may occur seasonally and typically during the wet-weather season. Discharge flows may vary depending on the intensity of the wet-weather season.

Duration and flow rate are not necessarily limiting factors in the applicability of this General Order for a specific surface water discharge. The discharge duration, flow rate, and volume must be disclosed and evaluated in relation to the receiving water flow rate and characteristics in order for the Regional Water Board to determine if the discharge will have a low threat to water quality. With proper management measures, higher volume discharges can be implemented in a manner that poses a low threat to water quality.

As the term "low threat" suggests, discharges authorized by this General Order are similar in that they each present a low threat to water quality and beneficial uses of receiving waters within the Region. Authorization to discharge under the General Order will be granted at the discretion of the Executive Officer following review of information provided by the Permittee in its NOI regarding suitability of a particular discharge for coverage under the General Order. Consultation with public agencies such as local flood control agencies, municipal storm water agencies/permittees, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service, may be required as necessary to assure that a low threat discharge will not cause unintentional impacts. Any concerns identified by any of these agencies would need to be mitigated in order for a proposed discharge to qualify as a low threat discharge.

The Regional Water Board has the discretion to limit coverage only to discharges which clearly present no or minimal threat to water quality. In general, the Regional Water Board views low threat discharges as planned, short-term and/or low volume discharges from definable projects with discrete point source discharges where the discharge is controlled to eliminate or reduce pollutants and minimize volume and discharge rates through implementation of BMPs. Discharges that may receive authorization for coverage under this General Order shall not contain pollutants in concentrations that exceed applicable water quality objectives or criteria and must be consistent with applicable State and federal antidegradation policies.

Section I.B of this General Order includes examples of discharges that may be eligible or ineligible for coverage under the General Order. These lists should be viewed as guidance only, as the Regional Water Board will determine eligibility for coverage on a case-by-case basis. It is important to note that, with some exceptions, if discharges proposed for authorization under the General Order must receive anything more than simple, low-technology treatment to meet applicable water quality objectives or criteria, such discharges will not be authorized under the General Order. In general, the Regional Water Board views a need for anything more than simple, low-technology treatment to meet water quality criteria and objectives as indication that a discharge also requires the close attention of an individual discharge permit or other appropriate general permit. Although each discharge proposed for coverage under the General Order will be considered on a case-by-case basis, following are several types of wastewater treatment systems that will likely not be precluded from coverage under the General Order:

a. Treatment to remove physical pollutants, such as settleable and suspended solids, turbidity, and excessive temperature from the wastewater;

b. Treatment to remove chlorine from chlorinated sources that receive treatment by chlorine, such as potable supplies; and

c. Treatment to adjust pH to fall within the range of 6.5 and 8.5 (or range specified for a specific waterbody identified in Table C-4 of Attachment C) or to decrease temperature so that it will not adversely cause temperature increases in the receiving water or adversely impact beneficial uses.

2. **Eligible Discharges.** A comprehensive list of eligible discharges is included in section I.B.1 of the Order. Potential pollutants of concern for these discharge categories are summarized in the table below.

Table F-1. Pollutants of Concern by Discharge Type

Type of Discharge	Pollutants of Concern
Construction dewatering	• Sediments • Turbidity • Construction Materials • Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons • Metals (naturally occurring)[1] • High temperature
Discharges from maintenance, disinfection and repair of water supply structures (e.g., wells, pipelines, tanks, reservoirs)[2].	• Chlorine and associated trihalomethanes • Metals[3] • Sediments • Total dissolved solids • Minor adhesives • Scale, rust, corrosion products
Well installation, development, test pumping, and/or purging[2]	• Sediments • Total dissolved solids • Chlorine and associated trihalomethanes • Metals (naturally occurring)[3] • Glues (volatile organic hydrocarbons)
Hydrostatic testing of new pipelines, tanks, reservoirs, etc., used for purposes other than potable water supply[2]	• Scale and corrosion products • Total petroleum hydrocarbons • High temperature • Metals
Geothermal well testing	• Sediments • Total dissolved solids • High temperature • Metals
Subterranean seepage dewatering (e.g., dewatering of structures situated below ground level such as basements, roadways, etc.)	• Sediments • Total dissolved solids • Metals (naturally occurring)[3]
Dewatering of dredge spoils	• Sediment • Turbidity • Nutrients • Metals (naturally occurring)[3] • Petroleum hydrocarbons • Grease and oil
Cooling tower water	• Scale and corrosion products (e.g., chromium • Biocides • Biofilm • Concentrated minerals and metal ions (e.g., iron, manganese)
Condensate Water (from refrigeration, air-conditioning systems, compressors, etc.)	• Petroleum hydrocarbons • Semi-volatile compounds • Concentrated minerals and suspended matter

Type of Discharge	Pollutants of Concern
Seafood processing wash water	• Biochemical oxygen demand • Nutrients • Residual Chlorine • Pathogenic organisms
Desalination brine	• Concentrated salts • Antiscalants (polyphosphates, polymers) • Coagulants (ferric sulfate, ferric chloride,) • Membrane preservative (sodium bisulfite) • Cleaning solutions – organic and inorganic • Total suspended solids • Turbidity
Bilge Water from harbor pump-out facilities	• Exotic species • Petroleum hydrocarbons • Grease and oil • Sediment • Turbidity • Total Dissolved Solids • Human Wastes

Table F-1 Notes:
1. Metals, including, but not limited to, arsenic and iron that are naturally occurring in local groundwater as a result of local geology but at concentrations below water quality objectives.
2. Unless covered under State Water Board's Drinking Water General Permit. For example, arsenic, iron, copper, lead, zinc: naturally occurring in groundwater used for water supply or picked up from metallic surfaces of pipes and storage tanks.

3. Ineligible Discharges. A comprehensive list of ineligible discharges is included in section I.B.3 of the Order. This section provides explanatory details regarding several of the ineligible discharges identified.

a. This General Order does not apply to projects that would have adverse impacts on sensitive species and habitat (section I.B.3.k of the Order), including but not limited to, rare, threatened, and endangered species or any other habitat deemed sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service or any other resource agency. These agencies will be consulted, as necessary, to determine if the proposed discharge or implementation of BMPs (e.g., such as those that require substantial earth movement) have the potential to adversely impact sensitive communities or habitat (aquatic, riparian, or terrestrial (including wetlands and vernal pools). If a sensitive community or habitat is identified, the Permittee shall implement any mitigation measures identified by the consulting agency to avoid adverse impacts. If no such mitigation is available, the discharge shall not be authorized to discharge under this General Order.

b. This General Order does not apply to proposed discharges that would have significant impacts on biological or cultural resources, aesthetics, or air quality (section I.B.3.m of the Order). Biological, cultural resources and air resource agencies will be consulted, as necessary, to determine if the proposed discharge or implementation of BMPs have the potential to adversely impact biological, cultural, or air resources.

If a proposed discharge requires the implementation of BMPs that involve substantial disturbance of land that has not been disturbed previously, a cultural resources investigation shall be conducted before any substantial disturbance of land occurs in relation to the BMP. The cultural resources investigation will include, at a minimum, a

records search for previously identified cultural resources and previously conducted cultural resources investigations of the project parcel and vicinity. This record search will include, at a minimum, contacting the appropriate information center of the California Historical Resources Information System, operated under the auspices of the California Office of Historic Preservation. In coordination with the information center or a qualified historian, a determination shall be made regarding whether previously identified cultural resources will be affected by the proposed project and if previously conducted investigations were performed to satisfy the requirements of CEQA. If not, a cultural resources survey shall be conducted. The purpose of this investigation will be to identify resources before they are affected by a proposed project and avoid the impact. If the impact is unavoidable, mitigation will be determined on a case-by-case basis, as warranted.

c. This General Order does not apply to discharges that do not consist solely of the discharge of low threat water (section I.B.3.o of the Order). If a low threat discharge mixes with other discharges (e.g., storm water, domestic wastewater, or industrial process wastewater) prior to contacting receiving water, the other discharges must be covered under a separate and valid NPDES permit if required.

If an applicant plans to have a low threat discharge in combination with another discharge, including, but not limited to storm water, domestic wastewater, or industrial process wastewater, this fact must be disclosed in the NOI and demonstration must be made that the other discharges are covered under any required NPDES permits. Storm water discharges would require coverage under an NPDES permit if it is associated with (1) construction that involves the disturbance of greater than an acre of land (requires coverage under the Statewide General Construction Storm Water Permit (2) an industrial facility that requires coverage under the Statewide General Industrial Storm Water Permit; or (3) a discharge covered under a municipal storm water permit (individual or general).

d. Accidental releases from pipeline breaks (section I.B.3.r of the Order) are not appropriately covered under this General Order because these events are unplanned and therefore pollutants such as chlorine cannot be removed prior to discharge. When leaks or spills occur, they should be promptly reported and remediated as necessary. The Regional Water Board will evaluate its response to such events based on the particular circumstances of the release such as the size, effect, and nature of the spill events as well as the Permittee response actions.

B. Discharge Points and Receiving Waters

The discharge points and receiving water will be described in the NOI submitted by each Permittee.

The Basin Plan and the Ocean Plan designate beneficial uses, establish water quality objectives and criteria, and contain implementation plans and policies to achieve those objectives and criteria for all waters of the North Coast Region. These plans identify specific beneficial uses for ground waters and surface waters, including ocean, coastal, and inland waters. Beneficial uses of inland waters specifically identified by the Basin Plan generally apply to its tributary streams. The beneficial uses of all receiving waters within the North Coast Region are described in section IV.C of this Fact Sheet.

C. Summary of Existing Requirements

1. Effluent limitations contained in General Order No. R1-2009-0045 for discharges to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries are as follows:

Table F-2. Historic Effluent Limitations – Discharges to Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitation	
		Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
Chlorine, Total Residual	mg/L	0.011[1]	0.019[2]
Settleable Solids	mL/L	--	0.1[3]
pH	pH units.	--	6.5 to 8.5[4]
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	--	[5]

Table Notes:
1. Applied as a 4-day average effluent limitation.
2. Applied as a 1-hour average effluent limitation.
3. Effluent shall not contain any measurable settleable solids, using a detection limit of 0.1 mL/L.
4. For waters listed in Attachment B-4 of General Order No. R1-2009-0045 (Table 3-1 from the Basin Plan), the pH water quality objectives in Attachment B-4 of General Order No. R1-2009-0045 shall apply as effluent limitations. For waters not listed in Attachment B-4 of General Order No. R1-2009-0045 and where pH objectives are not prescribed, the pH of the discharge shall not be less than 6.5 nor greater than 8.5.
5. For waters listed in Attachment B-4 of General Order No. R1-2009-0045 (Table 3-1 from the Basin Plan), the total dissolved solids water quality objectives in Attachment B-4 of General Order No. R1-2009-0045 shall apply as effluent limitations.

2. Effluent limitations contained in General Order No. R1-2009-0045 for discharges to ocean waters are as follows:

Table F-3. Historic Effluent Limitations – Discharges to Ocean Waters

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitation	
		Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
Chlorine, Total Residual	mg/L	--	0.008
Settleable Solids	mL/L	--	0.1[1]
pH	pH units	--	6.0 – 9.0

Table Notes:
1. Effluent shall not contain any measurable settleable solids, using a detection limit of 0.1 mL/L.

IV. APPLICABLE PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

The requirements contained in this General Order are based on the requirements and authorities described in this section.

A. Legal Authorities

In 1972, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the Clean Water Act or CWA) was amended to provide that the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source is effectively prohibited unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. On 22 September 1989, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) granted the State of California, through the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), the authority to issue general NPDES permits pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) parts 122 and 123.

This General Order serves as WDRs pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, division 7 of the California Water Code (commencing with section 13260). This General Order is also issued pursuant to

section 402 of the federal CWA and implementing regulations adopted by the U.S. EPA and chapter 5.5, division 7 of the Water Code (commencing with section 13370). It shall serve as an NPDES permit for low threat point source discharges to surface waters of the North Coast Region.

40 C.F.R. section 122.28 authorizes the U.S. EPA and approved states to issue general permits to regulate a point source category, if the sources:

1. Involve the same or substantially similar types of operations;

2. Discharge the same type of waste;

3. Require the same type of effluent limitations or operating conditions;

4. Require similar monitoring; and

5. Are more appropriately regulated under a general permit rather than individual permits.

On September 22, 1989, U.S. EPA granted the State of California, through the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards, the authority to issue general NPDES permits pursuant to 40 C.F.R. parts 122 and 123.

Water Code Section 13263(i) authorizes the Regional Water Board to prescribe general WDRs for a category of discharges, which:

1. Are produced by the same or similar operations;

2. Involve the same or similar types of waste;

3. Require the same or similar treatment standards; and,

4. Are more appropriately regulated under general discharge requirements.

This General Permit meets these requirements because the discharges that could potentially enroll under this General Permit are all de minimis discharges that are high quality, relatively pollutant-free wastewaters that pose a low threat to water quality. These discharges are most typically produced by water suppliers and construction-related operations. Many activities that result in low threat discharges are vital to community development activities, such as construction and provision of reliable water supply. Often there is no practical alternative to surface water discharge for these types of projects. The wastes are similar in that they are relatively pollutant-free and the pollutants that are typically present are generally naturally occurring parameters such as naturally occurring metals and salts, sediment, temperature, and pH. Some of the discharges could also contain chlorine and chlorine by-products that originate from disinfection. The discharges all require similar treatment ranging from no treatment to simple, low technology treatment. Regulating such discharges under a general permit rather than issuing individual permits allows the Regional Water Board to more efficiently permit these similar types of discharges.

B. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Under Water Code section 13389, this action to adopt an NPDES permit is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 of CEQA, (commencing with section 21100) of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code.

Pursuant to Water Code section 13389, the action by the Regional Water Board to adopt WDRs and NPDES permit does not trigger the requirements of CEQA, Public Resources Code sections 21100-21177, except for "new sources"[1] as defined by the CWA. Because this General Order precludes from coverage any discharge that is subject to Effluent Limitations Guidelines

[1] A "new source" is a discharge type for which U.S. EPA has issued New Source Performance Standards. A "new source" does not mean a new discharge. See also section II.A of this Fact Sheet.

promulgated pursuant to CWA section 306, "new sources," as contemplated by the CWA, will not be eligible for coverage, and therefore, the action by the Regional Water Board to adopt WDRs and NPDES permit with this General Order does not trigger the requirements of CEQA.

C. Regional, State and Federal Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Plans

1. **Water Quality Control Plans.** The Regional Water Board adopted a *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (hereinafter Basin Plan) that designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan at section 2, Beneficial Uses, states that the beneficial uses of any specifically identified water body generally apply to its tributary streams. In addition, the Basin Plan implements State Water Board Resolution 88-63, which established state policy that all waters, with certain exceptions, should be considered suitable or potentially suitable for municipal or domestic supply. Thus, beneficial uses applicable to inland surface waters and coastal waters of the North Coast Region are as follows:

    - Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN)
    - Agricultural Supply (AGR)
    - Industrial Service Supply (IND)
    - Industrial Process Supply (PRO)
    - Groundwater Recharge (GWR)
    - Freshwater Replenishment (FRSH)
    - Navigation (NAV)
    - Hydropower Generation (POW)
    - Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)
    - Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2)
    - Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM)
    - Aquaculture (AQUA)
    - Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM)
    - Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD)
    - Inland Saline Water Habitat (SAL)
    - Estuarine Habitat (EST)
    - Marine Habitat (MAR)
    - Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
    - Preservation of Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)
    - Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE)
    - Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR)
    - Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN)
    - Shellfish Harvesting (SHELL)
    - Water Quality Enhancement (WQE)
    - Flood Peak Attenuation/Flood Water Storage (FLD)
    - Wetland Habitat (WET)
    - Native American Culture (CUL)
    - Subsistence Fishing (FISH)

    Requirements of this General Order protect beneficial uses by implementing water quality objectives, which are designed to protect such uses. Thus, the requirements of this General Order implement the Basin Plan.

2. **Action Plan for Low Threat Discharges.** Section IV of the Basin Plan contains an Action Plan for Low Threat Discharges that includes a definition of low threat discharges (included

in section I.A of this General Order) and identifies procedures for regulating low threat point source discharges that can be demonstrated to not have an adverse impact on beneficial uses or water quality and for which there are no other reasonable discharge alternatives. The Action Plan for Low Threat Discharges allows low threat point source discharges to be permitted to surface waters, and provides an exemption from the Basin Plan seasonal and year-round point source discharge prohibition and discharge flow limitation provided that certain conditions identified in section I.A. of this General Order are met. All applicants for coverage under this General Order, must demonstrate that they meet the criteria specified in the Action Plan for Low Threat Discharges, which are included in section I.B.2 of this General Order.

3. **Thermal Plan.** The State Water Board adopted a *Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California* (Thermal Plan) on January 7, 1971, and amended this plan on September 18, 1975. This plan prohibits elevated temperature waste discharges into cold interstate waters.

4. **California Ocean Plan.** The State Water Board adopted the *Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California, California Ocean Plan* (Ocean Plan) in 1972 and amended it in 1978, 1983, 1988, 1990, 1997, 2000, 2005, 2009, and 2012. The State Water Board adopted the latest amendment on October 16, 2012, and it became effective on August 19, 2013. The Ocean Plan is applicable, in its entirety, to point source discharges to the Pacific Ocean. In order to protect the beneficial uses, the Ocean Plan establishes water quality objectives and a program for implementation. The Ocean Plan identifies the beneficial uses of ocean waters of the State to be protected as summarized below:

   - Industrial Water Supply
   - Water Contact and Non-contact Recreation, Including Aesthetic Enjoyment
   - Navigation
   - Commercial and Sport Fishing
   - Mariculture
   - Preservation and Enhancement of Designated Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)
   - Protection of Rare and Endangered Species
   - Marine Habitat
   - Fish Migration
   - Fish Spawning and
   - Shellfish Harvesting

   Requirements of this General Order implement the Ocean Plan.

5. **National Toxics Rule (NTR) and California Toxics Rule (CTR).** U.S. EPA adopted the NTR on December 22, 1992, and later amended it on May 4, 1995 and November 9, 1999. About forty criteria in the NTR applied in California. On May 18, 2000, U.S. EPA adopted the CTR. The CTR promulgated new toxics criteria for California and, in addition, incorporated the previously adopted NTR criteria that were applicable in the state. The CTR was amended on February 13, 2001. These rules contain federal water quality criteria for priority pollutants.

6. **State Implementation Policy.** On March 2, 2000, the State Water Board adopted the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (State Implementation Policy or SIP). The SIP became effective on April 28, 2000, with respect to the priority pollutant criteria promulgated for California by the U.S. EPA through the NTR and to the priority pollutant objectives established by the

Regional Water Board in the Basin Plan. The SIP became effective on May 18, 2000, with respect to the priority pollutant criteria promulgated by the U.S. EPA through the CTR. The State Water Board adopted amendments to the SIP on February 24, 2005, that became effective on July 13, 2005. The SIP establishes implementation provisions for priority pollutant criteria and objectives and provisions for chronic toxicity control.

Section 5.3 of the SIP allows for the granting of a categorical exceptions from meeting priority pollutant criteria/objectives for discharges from drinking water systems conducted by owners or operators to fulfill statutory requirements mandated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the California Health and Safety Code. The CTR contains criteria for 126 priority pollutants that may be present in these drinking water systems discharges. In many cases, discharges from drinking water systems do not comply with all of the applicable priority pollutant criteria (such as for the protection of aquatic life) since potable and treated drinking water are only required to comply with maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for the protection of public health. The State Water Board reviewed the 126 priority pollutants during preparation of the Statewide Drinking Water System Discharge General Order and found that there are priority pollutant criteria that are more stringent than the established MCLs. The drinking water systems discharges covered under this General Order are in accordance with the exception granted by the State Water Board through Resolution 2014-0067, adopted on November 18, 2014, which allows water purveyors an exception to comply with priority pollutant criteria for the priority pollutants that have an applicable CTR criterion more stringent than the corresponding MCL, or do not have an adopted pollutant-specific MCL. The exception was granted in accordance with the requirements set forth in section 5.3 of the SIP. The exception is limited to drinking water system discharges only and does not apply to discharges where the drinking water discharge is commingled with storm water, construction groundwater, or any other discharge.

Requirements of this General Order implement the SIP.

7. **Antidegradation Policy.** Federal regulation 40 C.F.R. section 131.12 requires that the state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution 68-16. Resolution 68-16 is deemed to incorporate the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution 68-16 requires that existing water quality be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Regional Water Board's Basin Plan implements, and incorporates by reference, both the State and federal antidegradation policies. The permitted discharge must be consistent with the antidegradation provision of 40 C.F.R. section 131.12 and State Water Board Resolution 68-16. If the Regional Water Board, subsequent to review of any NOI, finds that the impact of a discharge will not be consistent, then authorization for coverage under this General Order will be denied and coverage under an individual permit will be required (including preparation of an antidegradation analysis).

8. **Anti-Backsliding Requirements.** Sections 402(o) and 303(d)(4) of the CWA and federal regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(l) restrict backsliding in NPDES permits. These anti-backsliding provisions require that effluent limitations in a reissued permit must be as stringent as those in the previous permit, with some exceptions in which limitations may be relaxed.

9. **Endangered Species Act Requirements.** This General Order does not authorize any act that results in the taking of a threatened or endangered species or any act that is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code, §§ 2050 to 2097) or the Federal Endangered Species Act

(16 U.S.C.A. §§ 1531 to 1544). This General Order requires compliance with effluent limits, receiving water limits, and other requirements to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state. Each Permittee is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable Endangered Species Act.

D. Impaired Water Bodies on CWA 303(d) List

Section 303(d) of the federal CWA requires states to identify waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards and are not supporting their beneficial uses after implementation of technology-based effluent limitations on point sources. Each state must submit an updated list, the 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies, to U.S. EPA by April of each even numbered year. California divides the state into thirds with each of the nine regional water boards submitting an updated list once every six years. In addition to identifying the waterbodies that are not supporting beneficial uses, the 303(d) list identifies the pollutant or stressor causing impairment and establishes a schedule for developing a control plan to address the impairment. For each 303(d) listed pollutant and water body contaminant, U.S. EPA requires the Regional Water Board to develop TMDLs, implement existing programs, or implement additional water quality programs that will result in the attainment of water quality standards. TMDLs establish the maximum quantity of a given pollutant that can be added to a water body from all sources without exceeding the applicable water quality standard for that pollutant. TMDLs also determine waste load allocations (the portion of a TMDL allocated to existing and future point sources) for point sources and load allocations (the portion of a TMDL attributed to existing and future nonpoint sources) for nonpoint sources.

On October 11, 2011, U.S. EPA gave final approval to the 2008-2010 303(d) list of impaired water bodies prepared by the State. Certain water bodies in the North Coast Region are listed as impaired for parameters including, but not limited to, nutrients, sediment, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pathogens, aluminum, and pH. The discharges covered by this General Order are low threat discharges and the requirements of this General Order are expected to assure that the discharges covered by this General Order will not cause or contribute to the impairments. If a Permittee is proposing to discharge into a WQLS, the Permittee must provide a wastewater analysis of the 303(d) listed constituents as part of the NOI. In determining suitability for coverage under the General Order, the 303(d) status of the receiving water for a proposed discharge, as well as any TMDLs established in response to 303(d) listing, will be considered by Regional Water Board staff. This General Order does not authorize the discharge of pollutants into a WQLS that is impaired for a constituent that exists in the low threat discharge at a concentration greater than the criteria used to establish the impairment of the water body.

E. Other Applicable Permits

1. **Industrial Storm Water.** Order No. 97-03-DWQ, NPDES General Permit No. CAS000001 for the regulation of storm water discharges associated with industrial activities was adopted by the State Water Board on April 1, 1997 and through June 30, 2015, may be applicable to Permittees seeking coverage under this General Order. Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ was adopted by the State Water Board on April 1, 2014, and may be applicable to Permittees seeking coverage under this General Order for low threat discharges after June 30, 2015. Special Condition D.1 of Order No. 97-03-DWQ and section IV of Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ authorize non-storm water discharges from the following discharges to municipal storm drain systems covered by a Regional Water Board individual permit or by State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2013-0001-DWQ, *General Permit for Storm Water Discharges From Small Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer Systems* if the municipal storm water Permittee has an approved programmatic best management plan that applies to non-storm water discharges to the permitted storm drain system: fire hydrant flushing; potable water

sources, including potable water related to the operation, maintenance, or testing of potable water systems; atmospheric condensates including refrigeration, air conditioning and compressor condensate, and uncontaminated natural springs, groundwater, foundation drainage, and footing drainage. Non-storm water discharges to surface waters and MS4s that do not have an approved programmatic BMP plan, must be covered by an NPDES permit, such as this General Permit for low threat discharges.

2. **Construction Storm Water.** On September 2, 2009, the State Water Board adopted Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, NPDES General Permit No. CAS000002 for the regulation of storm water discharges associated with construction activities and may be applicable to to permittees seeking coverage under this General Order.

3. **Drinking Water Systems.** On November 18, 2014, the State Water Board adopted the Statewide NPDES General Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges, which authorizes discharges from drinking water systems with greater than 1,000[2] connections that are regulated by the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW; formerly the Department of Public Health) or a local county department of health, with the primary purpose of transmitting, treating, and distributing safe drinking water. The Regional Water Board's General Order R1-2009-0045 covered discharges from drinking water systems; however, the Statewide NPDES Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges is intended to regulate all community drinking water systems statewide. Therefore, this General Order does not cover drinking water systems that are eligible for coverage under the Statewide NPDES Permit for Drinking Water System Discharges. The Statewide General Permit does not cover non-community water systems or non-transient water systems, as defined in Attachment A. Therefore, this General Order will continue to provide coverage for non-community water systems or non-transient water systems, or any additional low threat drinking water system discharges which are not otherwise eligible for coverage under the Drinking Water General Permit.

V. RATIONALE FOR EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

The CWA requires point source Permittees to control the amount of conventional, non-conventional, and toxic pollutants that are discharged into the waters of the United States. The control of pollutants discharged is established through effluent limitations and other requirements in NPDES permits. There are two principal bases for effluent limitations in the Code of Federal Regulations: 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(a) requires that permits include applicable technology-based limitations and standards; and 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d) requires that permits include water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs) to attain and maintain applicable numeric and narrative water quality criteria to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water.

A. Discharge Prohibitions.

Discharge prohibitions are necessary to assure that the authorized discharge meets all state and federal regulations. All of the discharge prohibitions described below are retained from General Order No. R1-2009-0045.

1. **Discharge Prohibition III.A.** The discharge of waste, other than those that meet the eligibility criteria in section I of this General Order is prohibited until the Permittee obtains coverage under another general or individual permit that regulates the discharge of such wastes.

[2] Systems with fewer than 1,000 connections that discharge to waters of the United States have the option to enroll under the Drinking Water General Permit.

NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.28 and Water Code section 13263 (i) authorize the issuance of general NPDES permits and general WDRs to regulate a category of point sources, which involve the same or substantially similar types of operations; discharge the same type of wastes; require the same type of effluent limitations or operating conditions; require similar monitoring; and are more appropriately regulated under a general permit than individual permits.

The advantage to the Regional Water Board in issuing a general permit is that a group of similar Permittees can be regulated by one permit, instead of with individual permits, thereby reducing some administrative burden. Before authorization to discharge under the General Order can be granted, however, the Regional Water Board must be assured that all authorized Permittees have similarities required by the NPDES regulations and the Water Code. By this prohibition, the Regional Water Board is therefore prohibiting discharges which are not "low threat" as represented by the Permittee in its NOI or as contemplated by the Regional Water Board.

2. **Discharge Prohibition III.B.** Creation of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by section 13050 of the Water Code, is prohibited.

   This prohibition is based on section 13050 of the Water Code.

3. **Discharge Prohibition III.C.** A low threat discharge in excess of the flow rate described by a Permittee in its NOI is prohibited.

   Authorization to discharge under the General Order will be granted by the Executive Officer only following a determination that a discharge is "low threat," as that term is described and contemplated by the General Order. Significant factors to be weighed in making such a determination are the volume and rate of discharge. Discharge rates or volumes greater than what are described by a Permittee in its NOI or approved by the Regional Water Board may have significant adverse impacts to receiving waters, and therefore, such discharges will be viewed as unauthorized discharges and may subject the Permittee to all available and appropriate penalties pursuant to the Water Code and the CWA.

4. **Discharge Prohibition III.D.** Discharges containing pollutants that exceed applicable water quality criteria or objectives, or that cause or substantially contribute to exceedances of applicable water quality criteria or objectives established by the Basin Plan, Ocean Plan, or CWA for surface waters are prohibited.

   Discharges which contain pollutants at concentrations exceeding applicable water quality criteria and objectives, including any waterbody-specific TMDL, may cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards, and therefore, cannot be viewed as "low threat." Such discharges are precluded from coverage under the General Order. If, following authorization, a discharge is found to contain pollutants at concentrations exceeding applicable water quality criteria or objectives, such a discharge will be viewed as an unauthorized discharge, and, as such, the Permittee will be subject to all available and appropriate penalties pursuant to the Water Code and the CWA and the discharge will be required to cease.

5. **Discharge Prohibition III.E.** The discharge of polluted groundwater to waters of the State is prohibited.

   Projects that involve the discharge of groundwater have the potential to contain naturally occurring constituents that exceed applicable water quality objectives (e.g., naturally occurring arsenic) or to draw in groundwater that has been contaminated by human activities. Such projects will not receive authorization for coverage under this General

Order. The NOI requires identification of known groundwater contamination sites within a one half-mile radius of the project site.

6. **Discharge Prohibition III.F.** The discharge of detectable levels of petroleum, petroleum constituents, or volatile halogenated compounds from construction dewatering sites or other similar low-threat discharges is prohibited.

   Discharges from construction sites have the potential to contain pollutants related to the use of petroleum products and solvents used for the operation and maintenance of vehicles, machinery, and pumps. The NOI requires demonstration that pollutants related to the use of petroleum products are not discharged to surface waters.

7. **Discharge Prohibition III.G.** The discharge of domestic, agricultural, commercial and/or industrial process wastes are prohibited.

   Discharges with any domestic, agricultural, commercial, or industrial waste component are not considered "low threat" and therefore must be authorized and regulated by an individual discharge permit.

8. **Discharge Prohibition III.H.** The discharge of an effluent with constituents in excess of applicable limits required by any watershed-specific TMDL, is prohibited.

   Discharges that contain constituents in excess of applicable limits required by a TMDL are not considered low threat and therefore must be authorized and regulated by an individual discharge permit, if appropriate.

9. **Discharge Prohibition III.I.** The contact of low threat discharges with contaminated soil or groundwater is prohibited.

   If a low threat discharge comes in contact with contaminated soil or groundwater, the discharge would likely entrain pollutants that are not authorized under this General Order and would no longer qualify as a low threat discharge.

10. **Discharge Prohibition III.J.** The discharge of elevated temperature wastes[3] to COLD interstate waters is prohibited.

    This prohibition is based on the *Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California* (Thermal Plan). The Thermal Plan defines elevated temperature as "Liquid, solid, or gaseous material, including thermal waste discharged at a temperature higher than the natural temperature of the receiving water. Irrigation return water is not considered elevated temperature waste for the purpose of this plan." In the North Coast Region, examples of interstate waters include the Klamath, Smith, Applegate and Illinois Rivers.

B. Technology-Based Effluent Limitations

1. Scope and Authority

Section 301(b) of the CWA and implementing U.S. EPA permit regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.44 require that permits include conditions meeting applicable technology-based requirements at a minimum, and any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to meet applicable water quality standards

[3] Elevated temperature waste is defined in the Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries as "liquid, solid, or gaseous material, including thermal waste discharged at a temperature higher than the natural temperature of the receiving water. Irrigation return water is not considered elevated temperature waste for the purpose of this plan."

The CWA requires that technology-based effluent limitations be established based on several levels of controls:

a. Best practicable treatment control technology (BPT) represents the average of the best existing performance by well-operated facilities within an industrial category or subcategory. BPT standards apply to toxic, conventional, and non-conventional pollutants.

b. Best available technology economically achievable (BAT) represents the best existing performance of treatment technologies that are economically achievable within an industrial point source category. BAT standards apply to toxic and non-conventional pollutants.

c. Best conventional pollutant control technology (BCT) represents the control from existing industrial point sources of conventional pollutants including BOD, TSS, fecal coliform, pH, and oil and grease. The BCT standard is established after considering a two-part reasonableness test. The first test compares the relationship between the costs of attaining a reduction in effluent discharge and the resulting benefits. The second test examines the cost and level of reduction of pollutants from the discharge from publicly owned treatment works to the cost and level of reduction of such pollutants from a class or category of industrial sources. Effluent limitations must be reasonable under both tests.

d. New source performance standards (NSPS) represent the best available demonstrated control technology standards. The intent of NSPS guidelines is to set limitations that represent state-of-the-art treatment technology for new sources.

The CWA requires U.S. EPA to develop effluent limitations, guidelines and standards (ELGs) representing application of BPT, BAT, BCT, and NSPS. Section 402(a)(1) of the CWA and 40 C.F.R. section 125.3 authorize the use of BPJ to derive technology-based effluent limitations on a case-by-case basis where ELGs are not available for certain industrial categories and/or pollutants of concern. Where BPJ is used, the Regional Water Board must consider specific factors outlined in 40 C.F.R. section 125.3.

2. Applicable Technology-Based Effluent Limitations

This General Order requires the use of BMPs to control and abate the discharge of pollutants to surface waters and to achieve compliance with BAT/BCT requirements and compliance with Basin Plan water quality objectives. Discharges enrolled under this General Order are expected to comply with all water quality objectives with implementation of BMPs.

Technologies used for treatment of low threat discharges include simple measures such as settling, dechlorination, and pH and temperature adjustment. These technologies are readily available and represent accepted standards of treatment for the categories of discharges that may be authorized under this General Order. The cost of application of these technologies in relation to the effluent reduction benefits to be achieved from the application have been considered and determined to be reasonable. Non-water quality environmental impacts have been considered and mitigation measures have been identified in section X.C.3.b of the General Order. All other C.F.R. section 125.3(d) factors are not directly applicable to low threat discharges due to the facts that these are generally short-term and temporary discharges.

The General Order will authorize numerous types of high quality discharges that are relatively pollutant-free and pose a low threat to water quality and beneficial uses of receiving waters. The primary mechanism for regulating/controlling such discharges will be

through the development and implementation of a BMP/PP Plan by each authorized Permittee, as required by section X.C.3.a of the Order.

NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.44 (k) allow the use of BMPs to take the place of numeric limitations in discharge permits under certain circumstances, including when numeric effluent limitations are infeasible. In these circumstances, discharges which contain pollutants at concentrations greater than applicable water quality objectives and criteria will be precluded from coverage under the General Order. Pollutants of concern are therefore difficult to anticipate for each type of possible discharge; and it is therefore similarly infeasible to establish numeric effluent limitations to regulate/control each type of possible discharge authorized by the General Order. In the General Order, Regional Water Board staff view the thoughtful and effective implementation of BMPs as implementation of technology-based requirements and, with the prohibition of discharges that contain pollutants at concentrations greater than applicable water quality standards, as the means to assure protection of water quality standards. In particular, BMPs will be directed to control "physical" pollutants such as TSS, settleable solids, and turbidity.

C. Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs)

1. Scope and Authority

CWA Section 301(b) and 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d) require that permits include limitations more stringent than applicable federal technology-based requirements where necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards.

Section 122.44(d)(1)(i) of 40 C.F.R. requires that permits include effluent limitations for all pollutants that are or may be discharged at levels that have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a water quality standard, including numeric and narrative objectives within a standard. Where reasonable potential has been established for a pollutant, but there is no numeric criterion or objective for the pollutant, WQBELs must be established using: 1) U.S. EPA criteria guidance under CWA section 304(a), supplemented where necessary by other relevant information; 2) an indicator parameter for the pollutant of concern; or 3) a calculated numeric water quality criterion, such as a proposed state criterion or policy interpreting the state's narrative criterion, supplemented with other relevant information, as provided in section 122.44(d)(1)(vi).

The process for determining reasonable potential and calculating WQBELs when necessary is intended to protect the designated uses of the receiving water as specified in the Basin Plan, and achieve applicable water quality objectives and criteria that are contained in other state plans and policies, or any applicable water quality criteria contained in the CTR and NTR.

2. Applicable Beneficial Uses and Water Quality Criteria and Objectives

a. Beneficial Uses. Low threat discharges may potentially be authorized to discharge to all surface waters of the North Coast Region. Beneficial use designations for receiving waters are presented in section IV.C of this Fact Sheet.

b. Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives. Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan contains narrative objectives for color, tastes and odors, floating material, suspended material, settleable material, oil and grease, biostimulatory substances, sediment, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, temperature, toxicity, pesticides, chemical constituents, and radioactivity that apply to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries. For waters designated for use as domestic or municipal supply (MUN), the Basin Plan establishes as applicable water quality criteria the MCLs established by DDW for the

protection of public water supplies at title 22 of the CCR section 64431 (Inorganic Chemicals) and section 64444 (Organic Chemicals). This General Order requires the Permittee to analyze the proposed discharge for the pollutants identified in section VII. of the NOI and in Tables C-1 and C-2 of Attachment C and submit the analytical results with the NOI.

At title 22, division 4, chapter 15 of the CCR, DDW has established MCLs for certain pollutants for the protection of drinking water. Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan establishes these MCLs as water quality objectives applicable to receiving waters with the beneficial use designation of municipal and domestic supply. For purposes of this General Order, these water quality criteria are assumed to be applicable to all inland waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries of the North Coast Region.

c. **Ocean Plan Water Quality Objectives.** Water quality criteria applicable to ocean waters of the Region are established by the Ocean Plan, which includes general provisions and water quality objectives for bacterial, physical, chemical, and biological and radiological characteristics. These water quality objectives from the Ocean Plan are incorporated as receiving water limitations into the Order. Table 1 of the Ocean Plan contains numeric water quality objectives for 83 toxic pollutants for the protection of marine aquatic life and human health. The General Order does not authorize discharges that have the reasonable potential to exceed water quality objectives in the Ocean Plan. This General Order requires the Permittee to analyze the proposed discharge for the pollutants identified in section VII. of the NOI and in Table C-5 of Attachment C and submit the analytical results with the NOI.

d. **SIP, CTR and NTR**. Water quality criteria and objectives applicable to the receiving waters are established by the California Toxics Rule (CTR), established by the U.S. EPA at 40 C.F.R. section 131.38; and the National Toxics Rule (NTR), established by the U.S. EPA at 40 C.F.R. section 131.36. Criteria for most of the 126 priority pollutants are contained within the CTR and the NTR.

The SIP, which is described in section IV.C.5 of this Fact Sheet, includes procedures for determining the need for, and the calculation of, WQBELs and requires Permittees to submit data sufficient to do so.

This General Order requires the Permittee to analyze the proposed effluent for priority pollutants and hardness and analyze the upstream receiving water for hardness and submit the analytical results with the NOI. Due to the uncertainty of the various types of discharge conditions that could be covered under this General Order, and in order to assure the protection of water quality for all discharge conditions, the reasonable potential analysis (RPA) must be conducted using a reasonable worst-case condition in order to protect beneficial uses for all discharge conditions. Depending on receiving water conditions, use of either the lowest observed effluent hardness or the lowest observed receiving water hardness may be more protective of aquatic life beneficial uses. For example, under effluent dominated discharge conditions, use of the lowest observed effluent hardness is the most protective.

In this General Order, Table C-2 of Attachment C includes screening levels for cadmium, chromium (III), copper, lead, nickel, silver, and zinc which are dependent on water hardness. The CTR expresses the objective for these metals through equations where the hardness of the receiving water is a variable. To simplify the permitting process, it was necessary that fixed hardness values be used in these equations. Thus, criteria were calculated for hardness values in increments of 10 mg/L. For instance, for waterbodies

with hardness ranging from 11 mg/L to 20 mg/L, criteria were calculated using a hardness of 11 mg/L.

e. **Thermal Plan.** The *Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California* (Thermal Plan), which establishes water quality objectives for temperature in the coastal and interstate waters and enclosed bays and estuaries of the Region, as well as ocean waters.

The General Order does not authorize discharges that have the reasonable potential to exceed water quality objectives from the Basin Plan, CTR, or NTR.

3. Determining the Need for WQBELs

NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d) require effluent limitations to control all pollutants which are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any State water quality standard.

This General Order requires Permittees seeking authorization to discharge under this General Order to provide analysis of the proposed effluent and demonstrate that the discharge does not pose reasonable potential to exceed any water quality objective. Although the SIP applies directly to the control of CTR priority pollutants, the State Water Board has held that the Regional Water Board may use the SIP as guidance for water quality-based toxics control[4]. The SIP states in the introduction "*The goal of this Policy is to establish a standardized approach for permitting discharges of toxic pollutants to non-ocean surface waters in a manner that promotes statewide consistency*." Therefore, in this General Order the RPA procedures from the SIP were used to evaluate reasonable potential for both CTR and non-CTR constituents.

Prior to enrolling a Permittee under this General Order, Regional Water Board staff shall conduct an RPA in accordance with section 1.3, Step 7 of the SIP by comparing the results to the screening criteria contained in Attachment C to determine reasonable potential. If reasonable potential is found for a proposed discharge to exceed or cause an exceedance of any water quality objective in Attachment C, the discharge will not be authorized under this General Order, as this General Order does not contain effluent limitations for any of the pollutants identified in Attachment C.

a. Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries

i. **Total Residual Chlorine.** Many low threat discharges will likely originate from potable water supplies (e.g., hydrostatic test waters, etc.) and other discharges that may contain chlorine. Chlorine is extremely toxic to aquatic organisms. Due to the potential for chlorine to be discharged, these discharges have a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an instream excursion above the Basin Plan's narrative toxicity objective which states, "*[a]ll waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that are toxic to, or that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life*." In order to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water, this General Order includes an effluent limitation for total residual chlorine for any discharge of water that was chlorinated that requires no detectable levels of chlorine in the discharge.

Regional Water Board staff considers any chlorinated discharge as having the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to exceedances of this water quality objective for toxicity, and therefore, this General Order establishes specific effluent limitations for chlorine. U.S. EPA has established the following criteria for

[4] See Order WQO 2001-16 (Napa) and Order WQO 2004-0013 (Yuba City).

chlorine-produced oxidants for protection of fresh water aquatic life. [Quality Criteria for Water 1986 (The Gold Book, 1986, EPA 440/5/-86-001)].

Chronic Criteria	Acute Criteria
0.011 mg/L	0.019 mg/L

The U.S. EPA *Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control* (EPA/505/2-90-001) contains statistical methods for converting chronic (4-day) and acute (1-hour) aquatic life criteria to average monthly and maximum daily effluent limitations based on the variability of the existing data and the expected frequency of monitoring. Because projects that would be granted coverage under this General Order are typically short in duration, reasonable potential exists for acute toxicity over short periods of time and an average 1-hour limitation is considered more appropriate than an average daily limitation. Average 1-hour and 4-day effluent limitations for chlorine, based on these criteria, are included in this General Order.

ii. **Total Suspended Solids and Settleable Solids.** For inland surface waters, the Basin Plan states that *"[w]ater shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in the deposition of material that causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses."* Suspended solids and settleable solids are constituents of concern in low threat discharges and are a component of sediment. Many water bodies in the North Coast Region are on the CWA 303(d) list for sediment. The General Order establishes total suspended solids effluent limitations of 10 mg/L as a monthly average, 15 mg/L as a weekly average, and 30 mg/L as a maximum, based on technology-based standards for tertiary-treated effluent which has been established as a standard that is protective of receiving waters. The General Order establishes an effluent limitation for settleable solids of <0.1 mL/L based on protection of the narrative settleable solids objective.

iii. **pH.** The effluent limitations for pH are specific to the receiving water and are based on the water quality objectives for pH established in Chapter 3 and identified in Table 3-1 of the Basin Plan.

For waters not listed in Table 3-1 of the Basin Plan (included as Table C-4 of Attachment C) and where pH objectives are not otherwise prescribed, this General Order requires that the pH of the discharge be not less than 6.5 nor greater than 8.5, based on the general pH water quality objective specified in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan.

iv. **Total Dissolved Solids.** For waters listed in Table C-4 of Attachment C (Table 3-1 from the Basin Plan), the total dissolved solids water quality objectives in Table C-4 of Attachment C shall apply as effluent limitations.

This effluent limitation is based on water quality objectives for specific water bodies identified in Table 3-1 of the Basin Plan.

v. **Priority Pollutants.** This General Order is not intended to regulate discharges that have the reasonable potential to exceed water quality objectives; such discharges would be more appropriately regulated by an individual order. Since this is a general order for all low threat discharges to surface waters in the North Coast Region of California, this General Order establishes screening levels in Attachment C, Tables C-1 and C-2 that are protective of beneficial uses under all discharge conditions and are based on the most protective water quality criteria

for priority pollutants from the CTR and MCLs. Permittees enrolling under this General Order are required to analyze the proposed discharge for constituents regulated under the CTR and submit the results as part of the NOI. If the analytical data demonstrate that any constituent concentrations in the discharge exceed the water quality screening levels listed in Attachment C, the discharge will not be allowed under this General Order. If all constituent concentrations are below the screening levels listed in Attachment C, the discharge may be authorized for coverage under this General Order, provided all of the eligibility criteria and enrollment requirements are met.

b. Ocean Waters

i. Total Residual Chlorine. The Ocean Plan establishes the following water quality criteria for chlorine in ocean waters of the State.

6-Month Median	Daily Maximum
0.002 mg/L	0.008 mg/L

The water quality criteria recommended by U.S. EPA and established by the Ocean Plan are, in effect, non-detectable concentrations by the common amperometric analytical method used for the measurement of chlorine; and therefore, the Regional Water Board is establishing an effluent limitation for chlorine in the General Order that requires no detectable level of chlorine in authorized discharges.

ii. pH. Table 2 in section III.B of the Ocean Plan includes effluent limitations for pH requiring that the pH be maintained within the limit of 6.0 to 9.0 at all times. General Order No. R1-2009-0045 included effluent limitations for pH based on the Ocean Plan. These effluent limitations are retained in this General Order.

iii. Settleable Solids. Table 2 in section III.B of the Ocean Plan includes effluent limitations for settleable solids of 1.0 mg/L as a 30-day average, 1.5 ml/L as a 7-day average, and 3.0 mL/L as a maximum at any time. General Order No. R1-2009-0045 included an effluent limitation for settleable solids of <0.1 mL/L which was based on the limits in the 2009 Ocean Plan. Settleable solids effluent limits in this General Order have been updated to reflect the 2012 Ocean Plan and to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving waters.

iv. Other Ocean Plan Effluent Limitations. Effluent limitations from Table 2 in section III.B of the Ocean Plan were not included in Order No. R1-2009-0045, but are included in this General Order for the following additional constituents: grease and oil, suspended solids, and turbidity.

D. Final Effluent Limitation Considerations

1. Anti-Backsliding Requirements

Sections 402(o) and 303(d)(4) of the CWA and federal regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(l) prohibit backsliding in NPDES permits. These anti-backsliding provisions require effluent limitations in a reissued permit to be as stringent as those in the previous permit, with some exceptions where limitations may be relaxed. All effluent limitations in this General Order are at least as stringent as the effluent limitations in General Order No. R1-2009-0045.

2. Antidegradation Policies

While meeting water quality objectives and criteria, low threat discharges must also not cause a violation of the State's antidegradation policy, which is established by State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16 and through the Regional Water Board's implementation of U.S. EPA rules regarding antidegradation expressed at 40 C.F.R. section 131.12.

The Regional Water Board has determined that discharges authorized under this General Order will be consistent with applicable antidegradation policies expressed by NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 131.12 and by State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. These provisions require that, at a minimum, existing instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses must be maintained. Where the existing water quality is better than the water quality objectives set to protect existing and potential beneficial uses, that quality must be maintained, unless specific findings are made. The federal antidegradation policy also requires that high quality waters that constitute an outstanding national resource must be maintained and protected.[5]

This General Order retains requirements that were included in General Order No. R1-2009-0045 to assure that water quality objectives are met and that existing water quality is protected to the greatest extent possible. For example, General Order No. R1-2009-0045 and this General Order require characterization of the discharge and the receiving water, a certification that no pollutants will be discharged at levels that exceed water quality objectives, an evaluation of feasible alternatives to the discharge, and a description of treatment measures and BMPs that will be implemented to remove pollutants and minimize the rate, volume, and duration of the discharge. These requirements will help assure that low threat discharges will protect the existing quality of water where that quality exceeds the objectives set forth in the Basin Plan and State Water Board plans and policies adopted for the protection of water quality, and will at a minimum, maintain water quality to protect existing beneficial uses, and will not impede recovery of those waterways that are not meeting all water quality objectives. Nonetheless, because of the potential for increased numbers of discharges to North Coast streams under this General Order, the Regional Water Board has considered the requirements of the federal and state antidegradation policies.

Under the federal antidegradation policy, existing instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses must be maintained and protected. Where, however, the quality of the water exceeds levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and recreation in and out of the water, that quality must be maintained and protected unless the State finds, after ensuring public participation, that:

a. Such activity is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located,

b. Water quality is adequate to protect existing beneficial uses fully, and

c. The highest statutory and regulatory requirement for all new and existing point source discharges and all cost-effective and reasonable best management practices for non-point source control are achieved (40 C.F.R. § 131.12).

The federal policy also requires that the state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16 (Resolution) prior to the adoption of the federal policy. The Resolution incorporates the federal antidegradation policy and requires that existing quality of waters be maintained unless

[5] No waterbodies within the North Coast Region have been formally designated as outstanding national resources waters.

degradation is justified based on specific findings. California's antidegradation policy is also included in the North Coast Basin Plan as a General Objective (Basin Plan pages 3-2.00 to 3-3.00).

California's antidegradation Policy applies to both groundwater and surface waters whose quality meets or exceeds (are better than) water quality objectives. The State policy establishes several conditions that must be met before the quality of high quality waters may be lowered by waste discharges.

The State must determine that lowering the quality of high quality waters:

a. Will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state;

b. Will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial uses of such water; and

c. Will not result water quality less than that prescribed in state policies (e.g., water quality objectives).

d. In addition, before any degradation of water quality is permitted, it must be shown that the discharge will be required to meet waste discharge requirements that result in best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that:

- **i.** Pollution or nuisance will not occur; and
- **ii.** The highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State is maintained.

Only those discharges that do not exceed Basin Plan water quality objectives or criteria, the CTR objectives, or any other applicable Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or federal objective or criteria promulgated to protect water quality and beneficial uses are eligible to enroll under the this General Order. Where a low threat discharge meets water quality objectives, it would not be expected to adversely affect the present or future beneficial use of surface waters, nor would it be expected to result in water quality less than that prescribed in the Basin Plan.

There may, however, be the potential for a small reduction in water quality from multiple low threat discharges cumulatively affecting water quality or where a discharge would be allowed that met water quality objectives, but exceeded background levels of the receiving water. The minor impact on water quality is, however, outweighed by the benefit of these low threat discharges, which are necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the North Coast Region. Any such potential change in water quality is, therefore, consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of California. All of the potentially low threat discharges identified in section I.B.1 of this General Order are associated with activities vital to communities. Activities such as construction dewatering, well development, and pipeline and reservoir maintenance that may produce discharges have been identified as having a potentially low threat to water quality, and serve important economic and social interests.

In order to enroll under this General Order, each Permittee will be required to implement BMPs and treatment, as necessary, to assure that the discharge will not adversely affect beneficial uses of the receiving water and will comply with all applicable water quality objectives. Such BMPs could include BMPs designed to prevent, reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants and waste; BMPs designed to control or manage pollutants and waste after they are generated, but before they come into contact with receiving water; BMPs designed to remove pollutants and waste from water prior to discharge; and BMPs intended to respond to leaks, spills and other releases with containment, control, and

cleanup measures to prevent or minimize the potential for the discharge of pollutants and to minimize the adverse effects of such discharges. The BMPs identified by the Permittee will be submitted as part of the NOI for enrollment under this General Order. This General Order requires that the BMP/PP Plan include, at a minimum, the elements identified in Attachment B-1. The implementation of these measures will assure the discharge is meeting the best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that the discharge will not cause pollution or nuisance, and result in the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State.

3. Stringency of Requirements for Individual Pollutants

This General Order contains both technology-based requirements and WQBELs for individual pollutants. The technology-based requirements consist of a requirement to develop and implement an approved BMP/PP Plan to regulate and control the low threat discharge to minimize the volume, discharge rate and duration of the discharge and to assure that the discharge does not cause erosion, scouring, adverse impacts to aquatic life, or any other adverse impacts. These requirements are discussed in section V.B of this Fact Sheet. This General Order's technology-based requirements implement the minimum, applicable federal technology-based requirements. In addition, this General Order contains effluent limitations for chlorine residual, pH, settleable solids, and total dissolved solids for discharges to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries, and chlorine residual, pH, and settleable solids for discharges to ocean waters that are more stringent than the minimum, federal technology-based requirements but are necessary to meet water quality standards. These requirements are discussed in section V.C.3 of this Fact Sheet.

WQBELs have been scientifically derived to implement water quality objectives that protect beneficial uses. Both the beneficial uses and the water quality objectives have been approved pursuant to federal law and are the applicable federal water quality standards. To the extent that toxic pollutant WQBELs were derived from the CTR, the CTR is the applicable standard pursuant to section 131.38. The scientific procedures for calculating the individual WQBELs for priority pollutants are based on the CTR-SIP, which was approved by U.S. EPA on May 18, 2000. Most beneficial uses and water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan were approved under State law and submitted to and approved by U.S. EPA prior to May 30, 2000. Any water quality objectives and beneficial uses submitted to U.S. EPA prior to May 30, 2000, but not approved by U.S. EPA before that date, are nonetheless "applicable water quality standards for purposes of the CWA" pursuant to section 131.21(c)(1). The remaining water quality objectives and beneficial uses implemented by this General Order (specifically the addition of the beneficial use of Native American Culture (CUL) and the General Objective regarding antidegradation) were approved by U.S. EPA on March 4, 2005, and are applicable water quality standards pursuant to section 131.21(c)(2). Collectively, this General Order's restrictions on individual pollutants are no more stringent than required to implement the requirements of the CWA.

E. Land Discharge Specifications

This General Order is not applicable to discharges that are solely to land. Discharges that are solely to land may separately require WDRs or a waiver of WDRs.

Land discharge is a means by which a Permittee enrolled under this General Order may reduce the volume and duration of discharge to surface waters. Such a discharge shall not cause the creation of pollution or nuisance conditions.

Land disposal methods that a Permittee may elect to use as a manner of reducing the flow rate and volume of low threat discharge to surface waters may include, but are not limited to, spray or

overland flow disposal, percolation trenches or basins, evaporation trenches or basins, subsurface infiltration, or other similar disposal methods. The NOI must describe how any proposed land disposal method will be implemented so that it does not create pollution or nuisance conditions, including but not limited to erosion, localized flooding, breeding of insects or other vectors of health significance, or the discharge of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, salts, nutrients or any other pollutant of concern to surface or groundwater.

F. Recycling Specifications

The General Order is not applicable to discharges that are solely recycling uses of wastewater. Discharges that are solely recycling uses may separately require WDRs or a waiver of WDRs.

On January 6, 1977, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 77-1, "*Policy with Respect to Water Reclamation in California*", which states the that State Water Board and Regional Water Board shall encourage reuse of wastewater which does not adversely impact water rights or unreasonable impair instream beneficial uses or place an unreasonable burden on present water supply systems.

Furthermore, the Action Plan for Low Threat Discharges includes criteria for allowing low threat, point source discharges, including a demonstration that the discharge is necessary because no feasible alternative to the discharge, including reuse, is available and that the discharge is limited to that increment of wastewater that remains after implementation of all reasonable alternatives for reuse or disposal.

Consistent with Resolution No. 77-1 and the Action Plan for Low Threat Discharges, the Regional Water Board encourages Permittees authorized under this General Order to place the discharge water to multiple uses or a beneficial reuse. Discharges authorized under this General Order that are put to multiple use or beneficial reuse are not required to obtain any other WDRs if the discharge is collected and reused for landscape irrigation or other uses in a manner that augments the existing supply, or if the discharge is directly or indirectly discharged to: storm water capture basin(s), low impact development features, or other groundwater-recharge system(s).

VI. RATIONALE FOR RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

A. Surface Water

CWA section 303(a-c) requires states to adopt water quality standards, including criteria where they are necessary to protect beneficial uses. The Regional Water Board adopted water quality criteria as water quality objectives in the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan states that "[t]*he numerical and narrative water quality objectives define the least stringent standards that the Regional* [Water] *Board will apply to regional waters in order to protect the beneficial uses.*" The Basin Plan includes numeric and narrative water quality objectives for various beneficial uses and water bodies. This General Order contains Receiving Surface Water Limitations based on the Basin Plan numerical and narrative water quality objectives for biostimulatory substances, bacteria, chemical constituents, color, dissolved oxygen, floating material, oil and grease, pH, pesticides, radioactivity, sediment, settleable material, suspended material, tastes and odors, temperature, toxicity, and turbidity.

The State Water Board adopted water quality criteria as water quality objectives for discharges to ocean waters in the Ocean Plan. Receiving water limitations within this General Order reflect all applicable, general water quality objectives of the Ocean Plan. The Ocean Plan includes numeric and narrative water quality objectives for various beneficial uses. This General Order contains receiving water limitations for discharges to the Pacific Ocean based on the Ocean Plan numerical and narrative water quality objectives for bacteria, dissolved oxygen, floating

particulates, oil and grease, pH, discoloration, natural lighting, deposition of solids, dissolved sulfides, organic materials in sediments, Table 1 parameters, nutrient materials, radioactive wastes, and biological characteristics.

Receiving water quality is a result of many factors, some unrelated to the discharges which will be authorized by the General Order. This General Order considers these factors and is designed to minimize the influence of low threat discharges on the receiving waters of the North Coast Region.

B. Groundwater

Receiving water limitations for groundwater established by the General Order reflect the objectives established by the Basin Plan for the protection of the beneficial uses of groundwater of the North Coast Region.

VII. RATIONALE FOR PROVISIONS

A. Standard Provisions

1. Federal Standard Provisions

Standard Provisions, which apply to all NPDES permits in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.41, and additional conditions applicable to specified categories of permits in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.42, are provided in Attachment D. The Permittee must comply with all standard provisions and with those additional conditions that are applicable under 40 C.F.R. section 122.42. The Regional Water Board has also included in this General Order special provisions applicable to the Permittee. The rationale for the special provisions contained in the General Order is provided in section VII.B, below.

40 C.F.R. section 122.41(a)(1) and (b) through (n) establish conditions that apply to all State-issued NPDES permits. These conditions must be incorporated into the permits either expressly or by reference. If incorporated by reference, a specific citation to the regulations must be included in the Order. 40 C.F.R. section 123.25(a)(12) allows the state to omit or modify conditions to impose more stringent requirements. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 123.25, this General Order omits federal conditions that address enforcement authority specified in 40 C.F.R. sections 122.41(j)(5) and (k)(2) because the enforcement authority under the Water Code is more stringent. In lieu of these conditions, this General Order incorporates by reference Water Code section 13387(e).

2. Regional Water Board Standard Provisions

In addition to the Federal Standard Provisions (Attachment D), the Permittee shall comply with the Regional Water Board Standard Provisions provided in Standard Provisions X.A.2.

a. Order Provision X.A.2.a identifies the State's enforcement authority under the Water Code, which is more stringent than the enforcement authority specified in the federal regulations (e.g., 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(j)(5) and 40 C.F.R. § (k)(2)).

b. Order Provision X.A.2.b requires the Permittee to notify Regional Water Board staff, orally and in writing, in the event that the Permittee does not comply or will be unable to comply with any Order requirement. This provision requires the Permittee to make direct contact with a Regional Water Board staff person. This Provision implements federal requirements at 40 C.F.R. section 122.41(I)(6) and (7) for notification of noncompliance and spill reporting.

B. Special Provisions

1. Reopener Provisions

a. Standard Revisions (Special Provision X.C.1.a). Conditions that necessitate a major modification of a permit are described in 40 C.F.R. section 122.62, which include the following:

i. When standards or regulations on which the permit was based have been changed by promulgation of amended standards or regulations or by judicial decision. Therefore, if revisions of applicable water quality standards are promulgated or approved pursuant to section 303 of the CWA or amendments thereto, the Regional Water Board will revise and modify this General Order in accordance with such revised standards.

ii. When new information that was not available at the time of permit issuance would have justified different permit conditions at the time of issuance.

b. 303(d)-Listed Pollutants (Special Provision X.C.1.c). This provision allows the Regional Water Board to reopen this General Order to modify existing effluent limitations or add effluent limitations for pollutants that are the subject of any future TMDL action.

c. Chlorine Residual Policy (Special Provision X.C.1.d). The State Water Board is developing a Total Residual Chlorine policy, which, when adopted, is intended to establish consistent standards and implementation procedures for regulating chlorine statewide. This reopener allows the Regional Water Board to reopen this General Order to include a revised reporting level to determine compliance with effluent limitations for total residual chlorine if a statewide policy for total residual chlorine is adopted during the term of this General Order.

2. Special Studies and Additional Monitoring Requirements – Not Applicable

3. Best Management Practices and Pollution Prevention

a. Best Management Practices and Pollution Prevention (BMP/PP) Plan (Special Provision X.C.3.a). The General Order will authorize numerous types of discharges which present no or minimal threat to water quality and beneficial uses of receiving waters. Although the General Order establishes some WQBELs, the development and implementation of a BMP/PP Plan by each authorized Permittee is necessary to assure that the discharge(s) pose a low threat to water quality. The Regional Water Board has determined that implementation of BMPs in combination with effluent limitations is the most efficient manner in which to regulate and control such discharges.

As defined by NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.2, BMPs include schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the United States. The inclusion of BMPs as requirements in discharge permits is authorized by CWA Section 304 (e); and in accordance with NPDES regulations at 40 C.F.R. section 122.44 (k), BMPs can be used to control or abate the discharge of pollutants in several circumstances, including, when numeric effluent limitations are infeasible.

Each applicant that requests coverage of a low threat discharge under the General Order must submit with its NOI, a BMP/PP Plan that identifies structural and nonstructural controls, schedules of activities, prohibited practices, maintenance procedures and other management practices that will be implemented to prevent or

reduce the discharge of pollutants and prevent impacts related to the discharge (e.g., erosion and scouring, adverse impacts on aquatic life, etc.).

The following table identifies the types of treatment and best management practices to address pollutants of concern by types of discharges. This table identifies practices that are commonly used, but is by no means intended to be all-inclusive. Each Permittee will develop a detailed BMP/PP Plan for approval by the Executive Officer.

Table F-4. Pollutants of Concern and Reasonably Foreseeable Treatment/Management Measures by Discharge Type

Type of Discharge	Reasonable Foreseeable Treatment/Management Measures	Pollutants of Concern
Construction dewatering	• Segregation of flow to prevent introduction of pollutants. • Sediment removal through settling or filtration basins. • Utilize measures such as vegetation, straw bales, silt fences, wattles, and/or sand/gravel bags to control flow rate or discharge to minimize erosion potential and prevent sediment transport. • Utilize storm drain inlet filters to capture some pollutants. • Eliminate source of petroleum hydrocarbons. • No surface water discharge allowed if petroleum hydrocarbons are present or if naturally occurring metals concentrations exceed applicable water quality objectives.	• Sediments • Turbidity • Construction Materials • Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons • Naturally occurring metals • High temperature
Well installation, development, test pumping and/or purging of water supply wells[1]	• Dechlorinate water (if chlorine has been used) using aeration and/or sodium thiosulfate and/or other appropriate means. • Sediment removal is discharge through settling or filtration basins. • Utilize measures such as vegetation, straw bales, silt fences, wattles, and/or sand/gravel bags to control flow rate of discharge to minimize erosion potential and prevent sediment transport. • Utilize instream diffuser, if necessary, to prevent instream erosion. • No surface water discharge allowed if naturally occurring metals concentrations exceed applicable water quality objectives.	• Sediments • Total dissolved solids • Chlorine and associated trihalomethanes • Naturally occurring metals • Glues (volatile organic hydrocarbons)

Type of Discharge	Reasonable Foreseeable Treatment/Management Measures	Pollutants of Concern
Maintenance, disinfection, and repair of water of water supply structures (e.g., pipelines, tanks, reservoirs) [1]	• Dechlorinate water (if chlorine has been used) using aeration and/or sodium thiosulfate and/or other appropriate means. • Settling and/or filtration as necessary to remove sediments, scale, rust, corrosion products. • Utilize measures such as vegetation, straw bales, silt fences, wattles, and/or sand/gravel bags to control flow rate of discharge to minimize erosion potential and prevent sediment transport. • Utilize instream diffuser, if necessary, to prevent instream erosion. • No surface water discharge allowed if metals or trihalomethane concentrations exceed applicable water quality objectives.	• Chlorine and associated trihalomethanes • Metals (e.g., arsenic, iron, copper, lead, zinc: naturally occurring from water supply or picked up from metallic surfaces of pipes and storage tanks) • Sediments • Total Dissolved Solids • Minor adhesives • Scale, rust, corrosion products
Hydrostatic testing of new pipelines, tanks, reservoirs, etc., used for purposes other than potable water supply	• Eliminate source of petroleum hydrocarbons. • Settling and/or filtration as necessary to capture scale, rust, corrosion products. • No surface water discharge allowed if petroleum hydrocarbons are present or if naturally occurring metals concentrations exceed applicable water quality objectives.	• Scale and corrosion products • Total petroleum hydrocarbons • Metals
Geothermal well testing	• Settling and/or filtration to remove sediment. • Cooling to address high temperature.	• Sediments • Total dissolved solids • High temperature • Metals
Subterranean seepage dewatering (e.g., dewatering of structures situated below ground level such as basements, roadways, etc.)	• Segregation of flow to prevent introduction of pollutants. • Sediment removal through settling or filtration basins. • Control discharge flow rate to minimize erosion potential. • No surface water discharge allowed if petroleum hydrocarbons are present or if naturally occurring metals concentrations exceed applicable water quality objectives.	• Sediments • Total dissolved solids • Petroleum hydrocarbons • Metals (e.g., arsenic, iron) that are naturally occurring in groundwater • Low dissolved oxygen
Dewatering of dredge spoils	• Settling and/or filtration to remove sediment/turbidity from discharge. • No surface water discharge allowed if petroleum hydrocarbons are present or if naturally occurring metals concentrations exceed applicable water quality objectives.	• Sediments • Turbidity • Nutrients • Metals (naturally occurring) • Petroleum hydrocarbons • Grease and Oil
Cooling Tower water (noncontact only)	• Settling and/or filtration as necessary to capture scale, rust, corrosion products. • No surface water discharge allowed if biocides or biofilm are present	• Scale and corrosion products (e.g., chromium • Biocides • Biofilm • Concentrated minerals and metal ions (e.g., iron, manganese)

Type of Discharge	Reasonable Foreseeable Treatment/Management Measures	Pollutants of Concern
Condensate Water (from refrigeration and air-conditioning systems, compressors, etc.)	• Eliminate source of petroleum hydrocarbons. • No surface water discharge allowed if petroleum hydrocarbons are present	• Petroleum hydrocarbons • Semivolatile compounds • Concentrated minerals and suspended matter
Seafood processing wash water	• Dechlorinate water, if necessary • Filtration to remove solids	• Biochemical oxygen demand • Nutrients • Residual chlorine • Pathogenic organisms
Desalination brine	• Filtration to reduce total suspended solids and turbidity • Pretreatment to remove additives (antiscalants, coagulants, membrane preservatives) • Dilution through proper outfall design	• Concentrated salts • Antiscalants (polyphosphates, polymers) • Coagulants (ferric sulfate, ferric chloride,) • Membrane preservative (sodium bisulfite) • Cleaning solutions – organic and inorganic • Total suspended solids • Turbidity
Bilge water from harbor pump-out facilities	• Oil/water separator • Sediment removal through settling or filtration basins.	• Exotic species • Petroleum hydrocarbrons • Grease and oil • Sediment • Turbidity • Total dissolved solids • Human Wastes
Table Notes: 1. Unless covered under the Drinking Water General Permit.		

b. Mitigation Measures (Special Provision X.C.3.b). Permittees enrolled under this General Order are required to implement BMPs in accordance with a BMP/PP Plan submitted with each Permittee's NOI. In order to assure that BMPs do not cause adverse environmental impacts, each Permittee shall implement all applicable mitigation measures identified in section X.C.3.b of this General Order.

4. Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Specifications

a. Proper Operation and Maintenance (Special Provision X.C.4.a). This General Order (Attachment D, Standard Provision I.D) requires that the Permittee at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with this General Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes adequate laboratory quality control and appropriate quality assurance procedures.

b. **Treatment BMPs (Special Provision X.C.4.b).** This General Order requires that treatment systems and BMPs be constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that assures compliance with all requirements of this General Order.

5. **Other Special Provisions**

a. **Storm water (Special Provision X.C.5.a).** This provision requires each Permittee authorized to discharge under this General Order to comply with the State's regulations relating to industrial and construction storm water activities.

VIII. RATIONALE FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Section 122.48 of 40 C.F.R. requires that all NPDES permits specify requirements for recording and reporting monitoring results. Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 authorize the Regional Water Board to require technical and monitoring reports. The Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), Attachment E, establishes monitoring and reporting requirements that implement federal and state requirements. The following provides the rationale for the monitoring and reporting requirements contained in the MRP for applicable facilities.

A. Effluent Monitoring

The MRP establishes the following effluent monitoring requirements for discharges authorized under the General Order.

1. General Order R1-2009-0045 required monthly monitoring for BOD_5, TSS, and settleable solids; daily monitoring for flow and chlorine residual; and four times per day for pH, temperature, turbidity, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen. These monitoring requirements applied to all low threat discharges, regardless of duration. The duration of low threat discharges covered by this General Order can range widely from short-term, low-volume discharges to continuous, high-volume discharges. Consequently, Table E-3 of this General Order includes tiered monitoring frequencies based on discharge duration to assure that an appropriate number of samples are collected to characterize each discharge.

2. **Flow**. Daily flow monitoring is required for all authorized discharges to allow comparison of actual discharge rate and volume with the discharge rate and volume described in the NOI. Excessive rates of discharge or excessive volumes relative to flow of the receiving waters can have adverse impacts on aquatic habitats. Flow shall be measured by meter or estimate for all flow durations. The method for establishing flow must be described in the NOI.

3. **BOD_5 and TSS**. General Order No. R1-2009-0045 required monitoring of the discharge for BOD_5 and TSS. The Permittee must demonstrate that the discharge is a high quality, relatively pollutant free wastewater, and BOD_5 and TSS sampling is required as part of the NOI for coverage under this General Order. Therefore, this General Order discontinues the requirement to monitor the discharge for BOD_5 and TSS.

4. **Total Chlorine Residual**. Due to the aquatic toxicity of chlorine, monitoring for this pollutant is required for all discharges that originate as a disinfected water.

5. **Settleable Solids**. The Permittee must demonstrate that the discharge is a high quality, relatively pollutant-free wastewater that will not contribute settleable solids to the receiving water. This General Order includes effluent limitations for settleable solids. Therefore, this General Order retains monitoring requirements for settleable solids to determine compliance with the applicable effluent limitations.

6. **Field Parameters – Temperature, Turbidity, pH, Specific Conductance, and Dissolved Oxygen.** The Permittee must sample the field parameters of temperature, turbidity, pH, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen to assure that the discharge complies with water

quality objectives for these parameters. The MRP requires that field meters be properly calibrated to assure data reliability.

7. **Visual Observations**. The MRP requires daily observance of the discharge and receiving water conditions to detect the presence of such pollutants as debris, films, suspended solids, and turbidity, and to assess physical impacts to the receiving water - stream scouring, bank erosion, unusual aquatic growths, etc. to assure compliance with narrative receiving water limitations. The MRP allows reduction of visual monitoring to less than daily upon demonstration by the Permittee that the discharge does not have any adverse impacts on the receiving water and that receiving water conditions do no vary on a daily basis.

8. **Toxic Pollutants**. Low threat discharges that continue for more than one year may be required to monitor for any toxic pollutants for which water quality criteria or objectives have been established for the receiving stream. For example, this additional monitoring requirement may be applied to any discharge for which pre-project sampling revealed levels of any toxic pollutant that was below the applicable water quality criteria. This additional monitoring requirement may be stipulated in the authorization letter or may be requested at a later date if Regional Water Board staff determines that this requirement is necessary to assure water quality protection.

   Monitoring for the toxic pollutants will provide on-going characterization of authorized discharges and assurance that toxic pollutants are not present in the concentrations that exceed applicable water quality criteria and objectives.

9. **Other**. The Regional Water Board may stipulate conditions, in addition to those conditions and requirements established by the General Order for all authorized discharges, including monitoring requirements, for a specific discharge.

   When chlorinated (or brominated) water supplies are being discharged, for example, in addition to monitoring for chlorine (or bromine), the Regional Water Board may require monitoring for the common byproducts of chlorination, the trihalomethanes, which include chloroform, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, and bromoform.

B. Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Requirements – Not Applicable

Due to the low threat nature of discharges authorized under the General Order, whole effluent toxicity monitoring requirements are not required by the General Order and therefore there are no monitoring requirements for whole effluent toxicity established in the MRP in Attachment E.

C. Receiving Water Monitoring

1. Surface Water

Surface water monitoring is required to assess potential impacts to receiving waters and to determine compliance with receiving water limitations established by the General Order. Visual monitoring to assess the success of BMPs at preventing erosion and scouring and nuisance conditions is an essential part of the MRP.

2. Groundwater

Discharges to land and surface waters, particularly when the surface water channel is dry or low flow conditions, have the potential to impact groundwater. Receiving water limitations for groundwater in this General Order are based on water quality objective for groundwater from the Basin Plan.

D. Other Monitoring Requirements

As discussed previously, when authorization to discharge under the General Order is granted, the Regional Water Board may establish monitoring requirements for a specific Permittee, in addition to those established by the General Order for all authorized discharges. It is not the intent of Regional Water Board staff to design a monitoring plan for each Permittee. In fact, such "individualization" of monitoring requirements defeats, to some extent, the purpose of a General Order, which is to ease the administrative burden of regulating a large number of similar Permittees. The Regional Water Board does want to retain, however, the discretion to require supplemental monitoring for a specific Permittee, if site or discharge-specific conditions merit attention in addition to that provided by the General Order.

E. Reporting Requirements

The MRP establishes reporting requirements to enable Regional Water Board staff to assess compliance with the terms and conditions of the General Order and to maintain effective oversight of low threat discharges and their potential impacts to receiving waters of the North Coast Region. Reporting requirements for most Permittees include a requirement to submit monthly Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs).

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) is considering the issuance of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) that will serve as a General Order for Low Threat Discharges in the North Coast Region. As a step in the WDR adoption process, the Regional Water Board staff has developed tentative WDRs. The Regional Water Board encourages public participation in the WDR adoption process.

A. Notification of Interested Parties

The Regional Water Board notified the potential Permittees and other interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe WDRs for the discharge and provided an opportunity to submit written comments and recommendations. Notification was provided through the following posting on the Regional Water Board's Internet site at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/public_notices/public_hearings/npdes_permits_and_wdrs.shtml and through publication in the Press Democrat, Time-Standard, Siskiyou Daily, and Triplicate on **December 23, 2014**. The public had access to the agenda and any changes in dates and locations through the Regional Water Board's website.

B. Written Comments

Interested persons were invited to submit written comments concerning these tentative WDRs as provided through the notification process. Comments were due either in person or by mail to the Executive Office at the Regional Water Board at the Regional Water Board at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, 95403.

To be fully responded to by staff and considered by the Regional Water Board, written comments were due to the Regional Water Board offices by 5:00 p.m. on **January 27, 2015**.

C. Public Hearing

The Regional Water Board held a public hearing on the tentative WDRs during its regular Board meeting on the following date and time and at the following location:

Date: March 12, 2015
Time: 8:30 a.m. or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda
Location: Regional Water Board Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Interested persons were invited to attend. At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board heard testimony pertinent to the discharge, WDRs, and permit. For accuracy of the record, important testimony was requested in writing.

D. Reconsideration of Waste Discharge Requirements

Any aggrieved person may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the decision of the Regional Water Board regarding the final WDRs. The petition must be received by the State Water Board at the following address within 30 days of the Regional Water Board's action:

State Water Resources Control Board
Office of Chief Counsel
P.O. Box 100, 1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

For instructions on how to file a petition for review, see
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/wqpetition_instr.shtml

E. Information and Copying

The Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD), related documents, tentative effluent limitations and special provisions, comments received, and other information are on file and may be inspected at the address above at any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copying of documents may be arranged through the Regional Water Board by calling (707) 576-2220.

F. Register of Interested Persons

Any person interested in being placed on the mailing list for information regarding the WDRs and NPDES permit should contact the Regional Water Board, reference this Facility, and provide a name, address, and phone number.

G. Additional Information

Requests for additional information or questions regarding this General Order should be directed to Cathleen Goodwin at Cathleen.Goodwin@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2687.

ATTACHMENT G – NOTICE OF TERMINATION

OF COVERAGE UNDER THE GENERAL ORDER/WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW THREAT DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS IN THE NORTH COAST REGION NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0024902; ORDER NO. R1-2015-0003

Pursuant to section II.C of the General Order, this Notice of Termination must be submitted to the Regional Water Board within 30 days following completion of a discharge, which was authorized by the General Order.

I. OWNER/OPERATOR/SITE

Owner:	Contact:	Phone:
Operator:	Contact:	Phone:
Site Name:	WDID No:	
Site Address:		
City:	County:	ZIP:

II. START/END DATE

Discharge Start Date:
Discharge End Date:

III. REASON FOR TERMINATION

	Y or N
a. The discharge authorized by the General Order has been permanently terminated.	
b. Discharge has been redirected:	
1. To a sanitary sewer system	
2. To land application	
3. To reuse (e.g., irrigation)	
4. To infiltration or evaporation ponds	
5. Other (describe)	

IV. Certification

I certify under penalty of law that the discharge(s) authorized under NPDES General Order No. CA0024902, at the site identified herein, has been permanently terminated. I understand that with the submittal of this Notice of Termination, the discharge(s) is no longer authorized; however the Owner/Operator shall remain responsible for any violations of the General Order tha toccurred during the period of discharge.

Name (print):	
Title:	Date:
Signature:	