



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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22 February 2010

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Mr. Charles Bergson, City Administrator
City of Williams
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Williams, CA 95987

Mr. Craig Bradford
Syblon Reid
P. O. Box 100
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; CITY OF WILLIAMS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) UPGRADE PROJECT, COLUSA COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 2 November 2009 from Syblon Reid, General Engineering Contractors, for the City of Williams WWTP Upgrade Project. Based on the information in the NOI, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters (Low Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Low Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0081-056 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-056 in all future correspondence and documents.

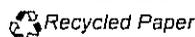
The Low Threat General Order (enclosed) may also be viewed at the following web address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Low Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Dischargers.

CALIFORNIA TOXIC RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Low Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxic Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxic Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP).

Section 5.3 of the SIP allows "exceptions from meeting the Priority Pollutant criteria/objectives if determined to be necessary to implement control measures..." The Dischargers qualified for the SIP exception in Section 5.3 and are not required to conduct Priority Pollutant (CTR

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constituent) sampling. The Dischargers authorized to discharge under this Low Threat General Order who have been granted an exception to the priority pollutant criteria and objectives in the SIP, must provide certification by a qualified biologist that the beneficial uses of the receiving water have been restored upon completion of the discharge.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Syblon Reid and the City of Williams (Dischargers) are proposing to discharge groundwater into surface waters from dewatering activities associated with the City of Williams WWTP Upgrade Project. The Dischargers propose to construct 12-15 wells to a depth of 25-30 feet around the proposed construction area, and discharge to Salt Creek via a ditch located in the northwest corner of the plant. The underlying groundwater has an Electrical Conductivity (salinity) level of approximately 2400 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$. Salt Creek is ultimately a tributary of the Colusa Basin Drain.

The project proposes to begin on 23 February 2010, and is expected to continue for eight months. The beginning flows are estimated to be 240,000 gallons per day. However, once the water table falls below 25 feet, the flow rates are expected to decrease.

The Central Valley Water Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-08-0081 for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters (General Order) does not allow discharge of dewatered groundwater that may pose a threat to the beneficial uses of the receiving water. The salinity level in the proposed discharge may pose a temporary threat to the agricultural water supply use of the receiving water. However, the City does not have the option of land disposal due to lack of land for disposal purposes. Therefore, this approval of the discharge of dewatered groundwater from the wastewater treatment plant site, as described above, is conditionally based on the following factors:

- The proposed discharge is a temporary discharge;
- During the irrigation season, the proposed discharge will be diluted with other irrigation waters before application to fields, minimizing the potential for any agricultural impacts. Agricultural use will prevent most of the discharge from reaching the Colusa Basin Drain; and
- The proposed discharge is necessary to allow this municipality to proceed with improvements to its wastewater treatment facility to comply with existing NPDES permit requirements that protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water, which include agriculture, recreation, freshwater habitat, migration, spawning, and wild habitat.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

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

Effluent and receiving water analytical monitoring shall be conducted and the results submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis unless specified otherwise. The Dischargers must submit quarterly reports, as described in Attachment E, Section X, even if

there is no discharge or receiving water flow during the reporting quarter, until the Dischargers formally requests that coverage under this Order be terminated.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be due and payable until the discharge is terminated. The Dischargers must notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing if the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order is no longer necessary, so we may terminate applicability of this Low Threat General Order and avoid additional and unnecessary billing.

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the Low Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Late reporting and effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation [California Water Code Section 13385(h) and (i)]. If there is no discharge during a quarterly monitoring period, a report indicating that no discharge occurred must be submitted to avoid the monetary penalties.

All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Spencer Joplin at (916) 464-4660 or sjoplin@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and requests for termination of coverage under this Order, may be directed to Michael Negrete at (916) 464-4662 or mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov.



Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

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

cc: Mr. Dave Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco
Mr. Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento
Ms. Yulya Borrom, ECO:Logic Engineering, 3875 Atherton Road, Rocklin, CA 95765