
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

15 May 2024

Jon Munger
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF DISCHARGE WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION, R5-2023-0061; GARDEN HIGHWAY MUTUAL WATER COMPANY, FEATHER RIVER MAIN PUMP STATION PROJECT, SUTTER COUNTY

On 26 January 2024, the Garden Highway Mutual Water Company (Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for coverage under the *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Report of Waste Discharge (RWDs), and/or Water Recycling Requirements (WRRs) for Specific Types of Discharge within the Central Valley Region (Low Threat Waiver), Resolution R5-2023-0061*. The submittal contains all the information required to evaluate the applicability of the Low Threat Waiver; therefore, the discharge qualifies for the category of disposal of dredge material to land and meets the conditions of the Waiver. The discharge is hereby covered under the Waiver and assigned enrollee number **R5-2023-0061-0019**. Please include this number in all correspondence related to this discharge. A copy of the [Low Threat Waiver](#) is enclosed and also available on the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's website.

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2023-0061.pdf).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the project is to perform regular annual maintenance in the Feather River where sediment buildup prevents water flow to the Discharger's irrigation water intake channel and irrigation pumps. Maintenance dredging to clear the irrigation water intake supply ditch is completed annually over a period of one week. Approximately 500 cubic yards of sandy material will be dredged annually and placed on the north bank of the inlet channel.

Dredging of the Feather River is accomplished using a long reach excavator. The excavator travels along the south side of the pump intake channel to the edge of the Feather River. The excavator then pulls material from the upstream side of the sand bar to create a temporary path from the riverbank out into the river, building the path as it

goes. This temporary path is approximately 500 feet long and 15 feet wide. The excavator then proceeds across the river and removes the portion of the sandbar blocking the flow of water to the pump intake channel, with the goal of creating a nine-foot-deep channel. When that work is complete, the long reach excavator moves back across the river, removing the temporary path it created by carefully placing the material on the downstream side of the sandbar, where it settles immediately.

Sediment and debris removal in the pump intake channel is accomplished using a dragline excavator working from both sides of the pump intake channel. Material removed from the channel is side cast along the banks of the channel and graded away from the channel.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Best management practices that will be employed to prevent excess erosion and prevent runoff from the emplaced sediments include:

- Mitigation Measure HWQ-1: The Discharger shall actively implement the BMPs described in Mitigation Measures HWQ-2 and HWQ-3, during all project construction activities in upland areas, to prevent erosion and the discharge of sediment into the pump intake channel and the Feather River. The Discharger shall include the BMPs in all contracts issued for project construction work, shall require contractors to monitor implementation of BMPs on a daily basis during construction in upland areas, and to make any repairs to implemented BMPs to ensure maximum erosion and sediment control. The Discharger shall only use fiber rolls, straw wattles, or hay bales within the construction area that are free from non-native plant materials. Fiber rolls or erosion control mesh shall be made of loose-weave mesh such as jute or coconut (coir) fiber, not fused at the intersections of the weave, which reduces entanglement risks for wildlife species.
- Mitigation Measure HWQ-2: The Discharger shall take precautions to minimize turbidity and siltation during construction in upland areas, both during and after construction periods. Precautions shall include but are not limited to: pre-construction planning to identify site specific turbidity and siltation minimization measures and best management erosion control practices; implementing best management erosion control practices during construction activities; and using settling, filtering, or other treatment options to treat silty and turbid water prior to discharge into the pump intake channel or the Feather River.
- Mitigation Measure HWQ-3: The Discharger shall ensure that all contractors and sub-contractors it hires to complete project-related construction adhere to the following measures:
 - The Discharger and/or its contractors shall not allow water containing pollutants from grading, aggregate washing, or other project-related construction activities on the project site to enter the pump intake channel or the Feather River, nor allow such materials to be placed in locations that may be subject to high storm flows. The Discharger will operate the

diversion pumps during any activities that could result in mud or silt entering the pump intake channel to minimize the likelihood that these materials do not get into the Feather River.

- The Discharger and/or its contractors shall not dump any litter or construction debris within the riparian zone along the pump intake channel or the Feather River. All such debris and waste shall be removed from the worksite on a daily basis and disposed of at an appropriate disposal site.
- The Discharger and/or its contractors shall not locate construction spoils sites within the pump intake channel or Feather River, nor in locations where such spoils may be subjected to high storm flows and washed into those waters where it could impact streambed habitat and aquatic or riparian vegetation. This does not apply to material dredged from the pump intake channel, which may be temporarily placed in designated locations adjacent to the pump intake channel to dry prior to being hauled off-site.
- The Discharger and/or its contractors shall not allow any broken concrete, cement, debris, bark, slash, sawdust, soil or sand stockpiles, rubbish or washings thereof, or oil or petroleum products, from construction or related activities to enter the pump intake channel or the Feather River. The Discharger and/or its contractors shall also avoid placing these materials in a location where they may be washed into these waters. When construction activities are completed, any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area. No rubbish shall be deposited within 100 feet of the high water mark of the pump intake channel or the Feather River.

SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZATION

The Discharger submitted a sediment characterization on 29 April 2024 to demonstrate compliance with the Low Threat Waiver. One sediment sample was taken from the Feather River. Based on the sediment analysis results, the dredge material did not appear to contain constituents that are potentially hazardous or at concentrations that could impair beneficial uses of receiving waters.

APPROXIMATE TIMEFRAME FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Annually 15 June through 1 November

PROJECT LOCATION

Address: West Bank of Feather River near 12036 Garden Highway, Yuba City, CA 95991

Latitude: 38.954600°, Longitude: -121.580700°

Assessor's Parcel Number: 25-190-015

APPLICATION FEES RECEIVED

An application fee of \$2,985.00 was received on 12 February 2024. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections

3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3) and was calculated as Category B - Dredging Discharges (fee code 86) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Low Threat Waiver, including the Conditions of Discharge (Attachment A of the Low Threat Waiver). The discharge must be managed in accordance with the requirements contained in the Conditions of Discharge and with the information submitted in the RWD and this Notice of Applicability (NOA). Garden Highway Mutual Water Company is responsible for compliance with the Waiver and must provide sufficient oversight to ensure compliance and prompt reporting of any non-compliance. Upon completion of the discharge activities and confirmation that all dewatering and hydrostatic water has percolated and/or evaporated, the Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board to request termination of coverage under the Waiver.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL AND COMMUNICATION

Please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf). All documents, including Monitoring Reports, written notifications, and documents submitted to comply with this NOA and the Low Threat Waiver, should be submitted to the Water Quality Certification and Dredging Unit, Attention: Jenna Yang at centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov and Jenna.Yang@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please include the following information in the body of the email:

- Attention: Water Quality Certification and Dredging Unit
- Discharger: Garden Highway Mutual Water Company
- Project: Feather River Main Pump Station Project
- County: Sutter County
- CIWQS place ID: 893438

Please contact Jenna Yang at (916) 464-4764 or Jenna.Yang@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability or compliance with the Low Threat Waiver.

Original Signed by Anne Walters for:
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosures (3): Low Threat Waiver, R5-2023-0061
 Enclosure A - Project Location Map
 Enclosure B – Disposal Site Location Map

cc: Distribution List, page 5

DISTRIBUTION LIST
(via e-mail only)

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ENCLOSURE A – PROJECT LOCATION MAP



ENCLOSURE B – DISPOSAL SITE LOCATION MAP

