



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

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Mr. Fred Burnett, O & M Superintendent
Calaveras County Water District
P.O. Box 846
San Andreas, CA 95249

3 May 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2003-0003-DWQ-0001, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, POTABLE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE DISCHARGE, CALAVERAS COUNTY

The Calaveras County Water District, hereafter known as "Discharger", owns and operates a potable water distribution system that serves several communities in Calaveras County. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) on 14 October 2003 for the discharge of water generated during its ongoing maintenance of its potable water distribution system. The Discharger submitted additional information on 3 February 2004 and on 16 April 2004. Based on information provided, staff has determined that this project meets the conditions for approval under the enclosed State Water Quality Control Board (State Board) Water Quality Order No. 2003-003-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality (General WDRs). All the requirements contained within the General WDRs described as applicable to "Water Main/ Water Storage Tanks/ Water Hydrant Flushing, and Pipelines/Tank Hydrostatic Testing Discharge" apply to your discharge. You are hereby assigned General Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ-0001 for the discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Discharger owns and operates 290 miles of water distribution pipelines, ranging from 2 to 20 inches in diameter, that convey potable water from five water treatment plants to the areas of Sheep Ranch, Ebbetts Pass, Jenny Lind, Wilseyville, Copper Cove, and Copperopolis. The project discharges result from the routine flushing of the pipelines through 1,953 fire hydrants in the system. Generally, hydrants are flushed once a year, but some hydrants are flushed two to three times per year. The volume discharged from each hydrant ranges from 2,500 to 10,000 gallons per flushing. The discharges occur next to the hydrants on land within the Discharge's easement boundaries. Discharges beyond the limits of land controlled by the Discharger are not anticipated. The main constituents of concern are chlorine at concentrations of less than 5 mg/l and turbidity of 10 NTU. The Discharger has implemented Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and a Pollution Prevention Plan for the flushing operations.

As of 13 May 2003, the discharge of hydrant flushing and additional potable water releases from this project has also been covered under the General Order for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 5-00-175, NPDES NO. CAG995001. The Discharger submits quarterly monitoring reports to the Regional Board for this Order.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Surface water drainage from the project is to the Middle and North Forks of the Mokelumne River and to the Calaveras River. The beneficial uses of these surface water bodies are municipal and domestic supply; hydropower generation, water contact recreation, non-contact water recreation; warm and cold freshwater habitat; migration of aquatic organisms; spawning, reproduction, and/or early development; and wildlife habitat.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. The system shall be operated and discharge conducted in accordance with the Discharger's submittals (RWD, Notice of Intent, SOP, Pollution Prevention Plan) and the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.
3. Regional Board staff shall be notified immediately if any violation of the permit occurs.
4. The Discharger shall comply with the requirements of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. 97-10-DWQ. Semiannual monitoring reports shall be submitted. At a minimum, monitoring reports shall contain the approximate volume in gallons at each discharge location and the date of each discharge.
5. Discharge of potable water at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Project Location and Description and in the RWD is prohibited.
6. The required annual fee, which corresponds to threat to water quality and complexity of 3C (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Board), shall be submitted yearly until this Notice of Applicability is officially revoked.
7. This Order shall no longer be applicable to this discharge if the General Order for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 5-00-175, NPDES NO. CAG995001 is revoked, lapses, or is found to be no longer applicable.

Enclosed for your information are the General Order and the MRP. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Kranhold at (916) 464-4689.



THOMAS R. PINKOS
Executive Officer

Enclosure - General Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2003-003-DWQ

cc w/o enc: Calaveras County Environmental Health Department, San Andreas