
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

27 July 2013

Preston Tri
California Department of Transportation
3951 Performance Drive, Suite E
Sacramento, CA 95838

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ, STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING SUT99 (03-406604) RIEGO ROAD PROJECT, SUTTER COUNTY

On 12 June 2013, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for construction dewatering at the above-referenced site. Additional information was received on 17 June 2013. The submittals contain all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order; therefore, the NOI is considered complete. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under State Water Resources Control Board General Order 2003-0003-DWQ-0045. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Riego Road Interchange Project is a highway construction project that will replace the existing signalized intersection of Riego Road and State Route 99/70 (State Route 99) with a full-service eight-lane overcrossing interchange. The intersection is approximately 10 miles north of downtown Sacramento in the southern portion of Sutter County; Section 9, Township 10 North, Range 4 East of Mount Diablo B&M. The nearest existing surface water drainage within the project area consists of agricultural ditches that run parallel to Riego Road and State Route 99.

The project is anticipated to disturb approximately 90 acres within the CalTrans right-of-way along State Route 99 and may involve dewatering operations during the construction of a 5-column bent and six overhead sign locations surrounding the intersection. Dewatering is anticipated during the installation of bent pile caps and during the construction of cast-in-drilled-hole (CIDH) sign supports. Intersection modifications and upgrades will involve the construction of five columns on a bent in the median of State Route 99, four overhead sign locations on State Route 99, and two overhead sign locations on Riego Road.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fourth Edition, revised October 2011 (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, contains implementation plans and policies for protecting waters of the basin, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Pursuant to §13263(a) of the California Water Code (CWC), waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Bent construction is currently scheduled to occur between August and October 2013 while CIDH construction operations are anticipated to begin in June 2014 and continue for approximately 30 days. Typical excavation depth to the bottom of each column pile cap is anticipated to be 10 feet below ground surface (bgs). The anticipated depth of each CIDH foundation is approximately 25 feet bgs.

Dewatering will occur as groundwater seepage is encountered during installation of the column bent and CIDH foundations associated with the Riego Road intersection. The duration of Dewatering is estimated to take one day per location, or total of five days for the five-column bent construction, and a total of six days for the CIDH foundations. Based on observed site conditions during site preparation activities and at another nearby interchange project, CalTrans has estimated that approximately 50 gallons of groundwater seepage will be pumped from each location, for a total of 550 gallons generated during dewatering operations.

Because of the low anticipated volume of water to be generated during dewatering activities, groundwater seepage and water coming into contact with freshly poured concrete during column footing and CIDH foundation construction dewatering will be pumped to a portable water storage tank for testing and neutralization, if necessary, before discharge. Water pumped into the portable water storage tank will be tested for pH levels after the concrete seal course has been set. Discharge sampling will follow Caltrans *Dewatering Monitoring Plan* (EA: 03-40660), and the Monitoring and Reporting Program of the attached General Order.

Grab samples of the dewatering discharge during column and CIDH construction activities will be collected and tested twice per shift (approximately every 4 hours) to ensure pH levels are within the limits listed above. Because uncured concrete is known to elevate pH levels and may mobilize metals in groundwater, neutralization agents will be added to the extracted water, as necessary, before discharge. Stored water will be neutralized, as necessary, to maintain a pH range between 6.5 and pH 8.4 before discharge. The addition of muriatic acid or an equivalent solution to the water tank(s) will be used to maintain the targeted pH range during dewatering and discharge. If a grab sample is outside of the designated pH range dewatering will stop immediately, neutralizing agent will be added and mixed, and pH readings will be collected again to verify pH levels prior to restarting dewatering operations.

The water storage tank will be regularly monitored for available storage capacity during dewatering operations. If the storage tank approaches capacity, Caltrans will provide additional temporary water containment to prevent dewatering discharge from over-flowing until the water can be tested and utilized as part of planned construction activities.

CalTrans proposes to use the treated water during interchange construction activities for dust suppression and/or as a moisture additive to achieve optimal structural section compaction or on top of the new road base within the SUT99 Riego Road interchange construction project.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The General Order and this Notice of Applicability regulates construction dewatering and reuse of the treated water at the Caltrans SUT99 Riego Road intersection project.

1. Water generated during construction dewatering shall be disposed of as described in the Notice of Intent and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Construction dewatering discharge at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Notice of Intent or this Notice of Applicability is prohibited.
3. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.
4. Analytical results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program.
5. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the Notice of Applicability is officially terminated.
6. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including its monitoring and reporting requirements, and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Scott Armstrong of our Permitting Unit at (916) 464-4616 or sarmstrong@waterboards.ca.gov. All permit compliance and enforcement questions should be directed to Guy Childs of our Compliance and Enforcement Unit, at (916) 464-4648 or gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original signed by Andrew Altevogt for:

PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ

cc: Jan Hill, Sutter County Environmental Health Department, Yuba City