21 July 2014

Clint Schelbert
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
P.O. Box 15830
Sacramento, CA 95852-0803

Duane A. Nelson
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ, STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT, IOWA HILL PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION, EL DORADO COUNTY

On 3 July 2014, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) 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 discharges to land of recovering groundwater water from the Iowa Hill Core Drilling Project.

The submittals contain all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order; therefore, the NOI is complete. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the proposed discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under General Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ-0118. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION

SMUD proposes to conduct geotechnical investigation at Iowa Hill adjacent to the existing Slab Creek Reservoir and proposed Upper Reservoir within its Upper American River Project to support design of a pumped storage project. The project area is located at the Iowa Hill area of the City of Camino, El Dorado County, Section 30, Township 11 North, Range 11 East MDB&M. This portion of El Dorado County is within the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins. The project areas near the Slab Creek Reservoir are owned by U.S. Department of Agricultural Forest Service (USFS); the proposed Upper Reservoir area near Iowa Hill is owned by SMUD, as shown on Attachment A. SMUD has requested USFS Special Use Authorization and expects to receive an approval prior to the start of the investigation work.

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

The geotechnical investigation is scheduled from October 2014 through December 2015. Exploratory work includes localized geotechnical investigation over the project area for rock coring, auguring shallow holes, and excavating test trenches/pits as shown on Attachment A. This phase of work will have total core drilling length of approximately 5,000 feet, total shallow auguring of 300 feet and approximately 10 to 20 geotechnical trenches/pits.

The recovered groundwater will be applied to three spray fields, as shown on Attachment A. Recovered groundwater will be collected and pumped into one of three 400-gallon recirculation tanks each equipped with a baffle system to settle out fines from the water. Drill cuttings and settled drilling mud will be removed from the tanks and stored in 55-gallon drums for off-site disposal at a permitted facility. Water will be decanted from the tanks and placed in open-top 2,000-gallon portable tanks. A flocculant will be used to assist in separating and settling out the fines. Once the fines have settled, the water will then be pumped into a 4-inch main line for land discharge to spray fields.

Each spray field consists of three zones and each zone has an area of approximately 113,650 square feet with an estimated application rate of 0.66 gallons per square foot per day. Each zone consists of 200 feet of 2-inch pressurized spray pipe with twenty ¼-inch orifices per zone that would discharge approximately 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm). Three zones can be switched or regulated by ball valves to receive the decanted water. Excess water may also be collected in a water truck for application to the access roads for dust control, also shown on Attachment A.

The discharge will be intermittent and sporadic. Portions of the core hole may be sealed using 100 percent Portland cement during drilling operations to minimize continued groundwater intrusion. The discharge design is for 50 gpm; however, the average monthly volume anticipated is less than 10 gpm or 14,400 gallons per day.

The General Order and this Notice of Applicability (NOA) regulate the discharge of recovered groundwater from SMUD's Iowa Hill Pumped Storage Core Drilling Project to land owned by SMUD and the U.S. Department of Agricultural Forest Service.

DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Water generated from geotechnical core borings shall be disposed of as described in the NOI and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. SMUD shall obtain USFS Special Use Authorization prior to the investigation work.
3. Discharge of water at a location or in a manner different from that described in the NOI is prohibited.
4. 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.

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 NOA is officially terminated. **SMUD must submit a Notice of Termination following completion of the discharge and before 30 June 2016 in order to avoid being billed for the annual fee for fiscal year 2016/2017.**
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.

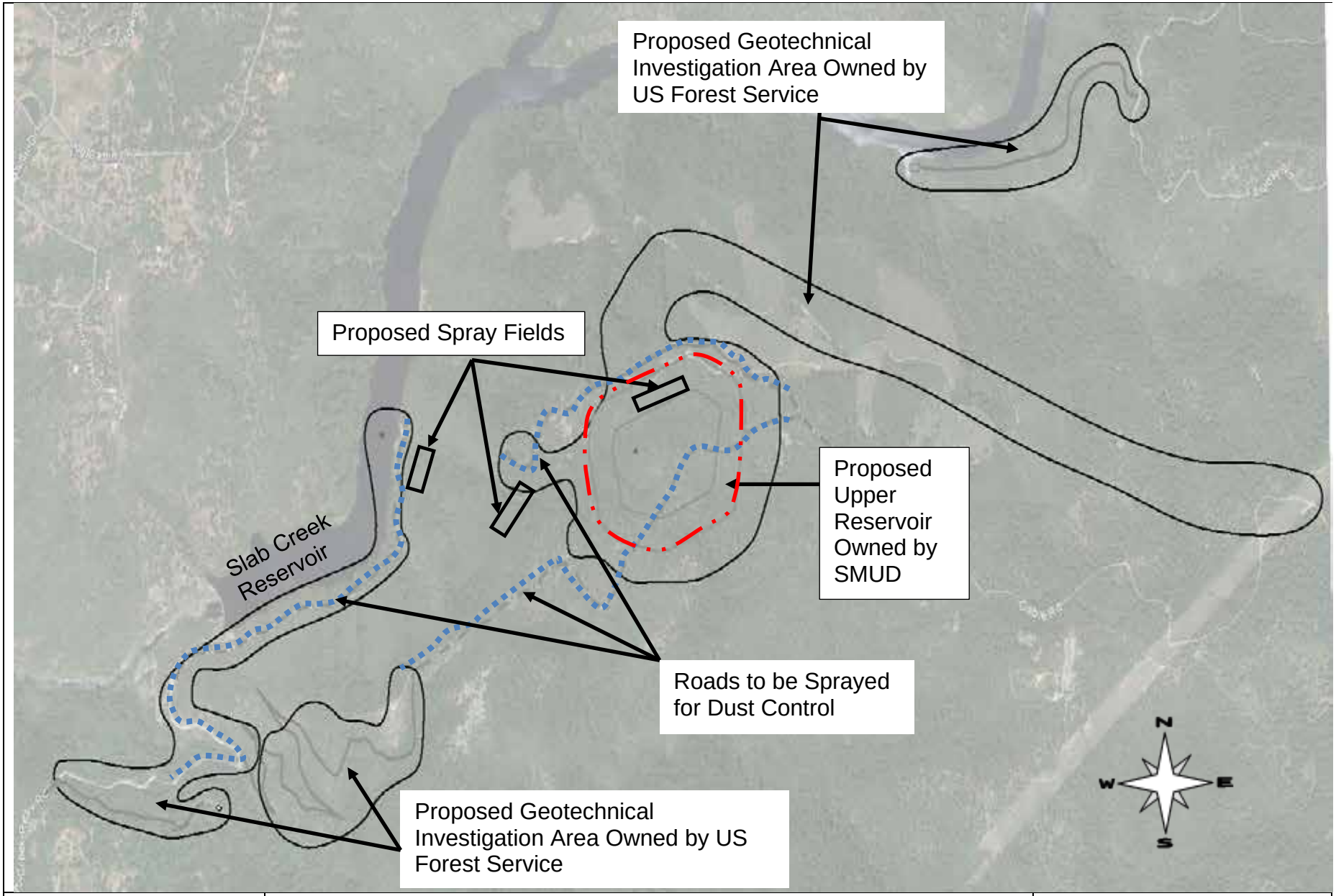
Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Brendan Kenny is your new point of contact for any questions about the Orders. In addition, all monitoring and technical reports should be submitted to Mr. Kenny. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Brendan will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Brendan at (916) 464-4635 or at bkenny@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original signed by Andrew Altevogt for

PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Attachment A
Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality, Order 2003-0003-DWQ

cc w/o enc: El Dorado County Environmental Health Department, Placerville



Drawing Reference: Notice of Intent, SMUD July 2014	**SITE MAP** SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT IOWA HILL GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION EL DORADO COUNTY	Approx. Scale: 1 in. = 1,900 ft.