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SECRETARY FOR
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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

27 April 2016

Jess Avila, P.E.
California Department of Transportation
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Marysville, CA 95901

CERTIFIED MAIL
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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, SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT (EA NO. 03-0F310), EL DORADO COUNTY

On 21 March 2016, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Drainage Monitoring Plan 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. 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 discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under General Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ. You are hereby assigned order 2003-0003-DWQ-0147 for this discharger. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION

Caltrans proposes to replace the existing South Fork American River Bridge, in El Dorado County, located approximately one mile north of Coloma on State Route (SR) 49 and Post Mile (PM) 23.99. The bridge replacement project area is approximately 12.7 acres. The net disturbed soil area is estimated to be 5 acres and includes the total area within the cut/fill limits, minus the existing impervious areas that will remain. The bridge replacement project includes contractor staging areas inside the flood plain.

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 purpose of the bridge replacement project is to meet seismic requirements. The proposed bridge will have sidewalks to facilitate pedestrian traffic from the bridge into the commercial areas and will span a length of 519 feet. Both ends of the new bridge will have abutments, which will consist of driven H-Piles where dewatering is not anticipated to occur. The bridge will consist of three piers, each with two five-foot diameter piles installed approximately 72 to 86 feet below ground surface (bgs). The bridge will be built in two parallel halves (west bound direction and east bound direction) over two seasons with three piles constructed during each season. Season 1 is planned to begin in mid-April 2017 and Season 2 will begin in November 2017.

Construction of the six cast-in-drilled-hole piles will involve installing an 8-foot diameter steel shell casings using either impact or vibratory methods, to a depth of approximately 16 feet bgs, drilling 5-foot diameter pile shafts through the steel shell casings down to a specified depth (72 to 82 feet bgs), removing soil within the pile shafts, placing steel reinforcing, and placing concrete within the drilled pile shafts. Groundwater encountered in the pile shafts will remain until reinforced steel and concrete are placed, at which time the pile shafts will be dewatered.

Dewatering volumes for the project are estimated to be 72,000 gallons over the project timeline. Three piles will be constructed during each season with the work expected to take four days to build for a total of 12 days of drilling and dewatering for each season. Assuming full volume of the pile shaft, dewater volumes are estimated to be 10,000 to 12,000 gallons per pile. A dewatering volume of 36,000 gallons is estimated each season with approximately 3,000 gallons of dewatering per day.

The pumped groundwater from the pile shafts will be stored in on-site Baker Tanks that have an estimated capacity of 5,000 gallons each. Because the water will be in contact with poured concrete, which is known to elevate pH levels, a neutralizing agent will be added to the water to maintain a pH range between 6.5 and 8.4 prior to discharging to land. Water in the tanks will be sampled twice per shift (approximately every 4 hours) to ensure pH levels are within the specified range. The majority of the tested and neutralized water will be used for compaction efforts, with a small portion of the water used for dust control at the project site.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The General Order and this NOA regulate construction dewatering from the Caltrans South Fork American River Bridge Project.

1. Water generated during construction dewatering shall be disposed of as described in the NOI 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 NOI 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 NOA 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.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

All monitoring reports and other correspondences should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents less than 50 MB should be emailed to:

centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov .

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: Caltrans, South Fork American River Bridge Project, El Dorado County		
Program: Non-15 Compliance	Order: 2003-003-DWQ-0147	CIWQS Place ID: 823174

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Kenny Croyle is your new point of contact for any questions about the Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Kenny will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Kenny at (916) 464-4676 or at kcroyle@waterboards.ca.gov.

 For

PAMELA C. CREEDON
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

cc w/ enc: Sean Cross, Caltrans, North Region
cc w/o enc: El Dorado County Environmental Health Department, Placerville