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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

30 April 2020

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### REVISED 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 AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WHITE ROCK TUNNEL BOLT AUGMENTATION PROJECT  
EL DORADO COUNTY**

On 2 October 2019, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for the White Rock Tunnel Bolt Augmentation Project (project) in El Dorado County. The submittal included a completed NOI form and Form 200, application fee, CEQA compliance documentation, and a discharge monitoring plan (DMP) dated 25 September 2019. Additional information was submitted via email on 15 October 2019, 29 October 2019 (Revised DMP), 27 March 2020, and 14 April 2020 (Site Material Stabilization Plan).

The submittal contains 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 the General Order and assigned enrollee number 2003-0003-DWQ-0202. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

### PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The project is located in central El Dorado County in the El Dorado National Forest along the western face of the Sierra Nevada Mountains along White Rock Creek, a small tributary of the South Fork American River at the terminus of Kona Drive, 2.65 miles northeast of the town of Placerville.

SMUD proposes to conduct maintenance work in its hydroelectric system at White Rock Tunnel. This section of the tunnel conveys water from the Slab Creek Reservoir to SMUD's powerhouses where the water is released via a penstock for power generation. The primary operations on the tunnel maintenance project include rock bolting, shotcrete placement, and debris removal from tunnel (i.e. natural rock from tunnel dislodged after initial construction). The gate valve will be closed to cut water supply from the reservoir to the tunnel. Work in the tunnel will include the deployment of epoxy anchors (contained in tubes and minimal exposure to water), application of shotcrete in the tunnel for stabilization, and use of heavy equipment to mock out rocks and small debris.

### Construction Dewatering Operations

Construction dewatering is anticipated to capture gate valve leakage and natural groundwater seepage into the tunnel up to 720,000 gallons per day based on a maximum flow of 500 gallons per minute, continuous flow, 24 hours per day. This water will be collected at the rock traps within the tunnel, then pumped to a series of 2 to 3 settlement tanks. There are 14 rock trap bays for a total storage capacity of approximately 385,000 gallons of water. Additional water storage is available at the end of the tunnel (a closed system). The tunnel is sloped and can store up to 20,000 gallons per vertical foot of depth or up to 308,000 gallons before approaching Adit 2 (entrance to the tunnel). The settlement tanks will have a 20,000-gallon capacity connected in series for removing sediment and turbidity producing suspended solids and lowering pH. Acetic acid or muriatic acid may be used to meet desired pH levels. Target concentrations for pH and turbidity are between 6.5 and 8.5 and less than 250 NTU, respectively. After tank settling, the water will be discharged to a depressed vegetated patch of land located within the project staging area. The designated application area is approximately 1 acre of native rock fill impoundment that has developed a topsoil layer and a vegetated layer of herbaceous plants and grasses. Dewatering will take place over the course of two seasons during the winter months of November 2019 through April 2020 and November 2020 through April 2021.

Although no further treatment is anticipated, potential pollutants that may come in contact with the discharge include oil and grease, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). The DMP includes *Spill Response and Potential Pollutant Monitoring* procedures in the event that the discharge comes into contact with the above-mentioned pollutants. Pollutant monitoring may include but not limited to oil and grease, VOCs, SVOC, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) (diesel), TPH motor oil, pH, hardness, alkalinity, turbidity, total suspended solids, and temperature. According to the DMP, daily observations will be performed to ensure the discharge does not create a nuisance and that no runoff or discharge to surface water occurs, and if any evidence of contamination is observed the discharge will cease.

According to the DMP, the discharge will be monitored for flow; pH; turbidity; and visual observations to address runoff or discharge to surface water, sediment deposits, erosion, debris, odors, and color and clarity of discharge. This information including date and time, weather conditions, and the presence or absence of water flow will also be recorded. Any corrective actions will be initiated and documented in a corrective action

report to be submitted within 7 days of corrective action implementation. Three sampling points, including a location upstream of the project (S-0), downstream of the project (S-1), and at the discharge location (S-2) were identified in the DMP.

### Inert Solids Discharge Operations

Inert solid waste discharges will consist of tunnel lining debris including rock cuttings, sand, gravel, hardened cement, and polypropylene fibers. This material is primarily shotcrete rebound which is the term for shotcrete that did not stick to the tunnel walls and ceilings. Approximately 900 cubic yards or 1,350 tons of tunnel debris will be land applied at the perimeter slopes of the project site as shown on Attachment A. Based on information submitted by the Discharger; this material meets the conditions of inert solid waste discharge material as specified in the General Order. The material will be placed as soil stabilization fill in accordance with the Discharger's Site Material Stabilization Plan.

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) authorizes construction dewatering application to the designated 1-acre area under the Small/Temporary Dewatering Projects Category of Low Threat Discharges and inert solid waste material discharges under the Miscellaneous Category. Sampling, monitoring, and reporting requirements applicable to your discharge must be completed in accordance with the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program and your DMP dated 29 October 2019.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, revised May 2018 (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 Board. Pursuant to §13263(a) of the California Water Code, waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

### **FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

The General Order and this Notice of Applicability (NOA) regulates the land discharge of wastewater generated during the White Rock Tunnel Bolt Augmentation Project.

1. Wastewater as described in this NOA shall be disposed of as described in the NOI and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. The discharge at a location or in a manner different from that described in the NOI or this NOA is prohibited.
3. Except as expressly otherwise provided herein, the Discharger shall comply with applicable sections of the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements, March 1991 edition (Standard Provisions), which are attached as Attachment B. Applicable sections include (without limitation) those sections pertaining to monitoring and reporting activities.
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. For the small/temporary dewatering project category, monitoring results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program. For the July through December reporting period, the monitoring report is due 15 February. For the January through June reporting period, the monitoring report is due 15 August.
6. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Board) until the NOA is officially terminated. To officially terminate coverage, the Discharger shall submit a Notice of Termination (Attachment 4 of the General Order) if and when the wastewater discharge ceases.
7. 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 correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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:

Project Name: White Rock Tunnel Bolt Augmentation Project.  
Program: Non-15 Compliance  
Order: WQO 2003-0003-DWQ-0202  
CIWQS Place ID: 861856

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 revised 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 regarding compliance with the Order. All monitoring and

technical reports should be submitted to him. The enclosed transmittal sheet shall be included with each monitoring report.

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 [kenny.croyle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kenny.croyle@waterboards.ca.gov).

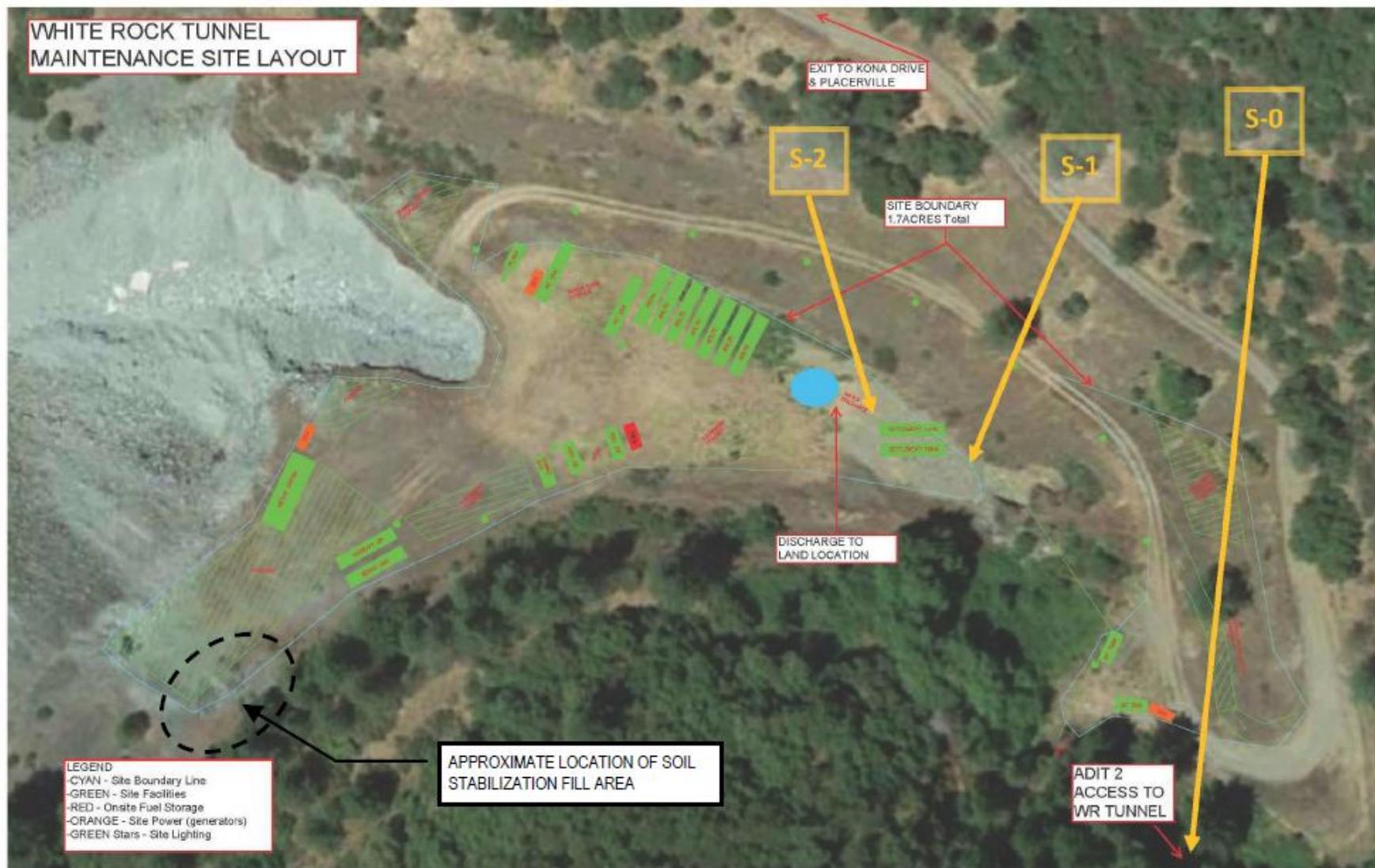
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PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

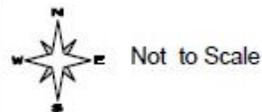
enc: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ  
Attachment A, Site Plan  
Attachment B, Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste  
Discharge Requirements, March 1991 ed. (Standard Provisions)  
Monitoring Report Submittal Transmittal Form

cc w/enc: Brian Harris, Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, Inc., Antioch

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



**Drawing Reference:**  
NOTICE OF INTENT  
OCTOBER 2019



**SITE PLAN**  
WHITE ROCK TUNNEL BOLT AUGMENTATION PROJECT  
EL DORADO COUNTY