



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

30 November 2021

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CERTIFIED MAIL
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ-0226; STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON; DAM 7 DRAIN CLEANING DISCHARGE; FRESNO COUNTY

On 3 November 2021, Southern California Edison submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* WQ Order 2003-0003-DWQ (hereafter General Order) for a discharge of wastewater from cleaning the toe drains at Dam 7 on Redinger Lake in Fresno County. The discharge will be to unpaved forest service roads owned by the United States Forest Service. The submittal includes a Form 200, application fee, analytical data, and project description and monitoring.

The submittal contains all the information required to evaluate the applicability of the discharge under the General Order. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the proposed discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under the General Order and assigned enrollee number **2003-0003-DWQ-0226**. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge. A copy of the [Low Threat General Order](#) is enclosed and available on the Central Valley Water Board's website at:

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo2003-0003.pdf).

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

PROJECT LOCATION

Dam 7 is part of the Big Creek hydroelectric power system on the western end of Redinger Lake, approximately eight miles west of Shaver Lake and 32 miles northeast of Fresno in Fresno County as shown in **Attachment A** (37° 08' 40.72" N, 119° 27' 6.59" W). This portion of Fresno County is within the Tulare Lake Basin.

The operative Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve water quality objectives for all waters of the basin.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Water Resources, Division of Dam Safety requires Southern California Edison to conduct routine maintenance on certain dams within the Big Creek hydroelectric power system to maintain dam safety. Dam 7 on Redinger Lake is a concrete dam. The dam is equipped with a series of weep holes and drainage channels designed to collect seepage and provide pressure relief within the dam structure. As part of the required maintenance on the dam, Southern California Edison is required to periodically flush out and clean sediment and calcium build up in the drainage channels.

Cleaning and maintenance at Dam 7 will take place in the fall, as needed, to maintain dam safety. Cleaning will involve mechanically removing debris and calcite build up from the weep holes and flushing the drainage structures with compressed air, and/or a high-pressure wash using onsite water. Water, sediment, and algae flushed out of the drains will be collected in a temporary storage/settling tank. From the settling tank, the wastewater will be placed in water trucks and applied to approximately three miles of unpaved forest service roads around the dam for use as dust control as shown in **Attachment A**. According to the RWD, documentation from the United States Forest Service authorizing the use of wastewater from the dam cleaning on forest service roads will be provided prior to initiating dam cleaning operations.

According to the RWD, the volume of wastewater will be minimized to the extent feasible by increased use of compressed air during the cleaning process and blocking off sections of the gallery drainage system that are not actively being cleaned. The RWD estimates a maximum of 14,400 gallons of wastewater per day may be generated during the cleaning process. Prior to spraying the roads, all water truck operators will be trained in the correct application rate to ensure runoff and ponding does not occur.

Samples of the drain water from Dam 7 were collected and analyzed for constituents of concern including total and dissolved metals. The results of the sampling including total and dissolved metal constituents are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Drain Water Quality (10/13/2021)

Constituent	Total	Dissolved
pH, (std. units)	7.2	--
Total Dissolved Solids, (mg/L)	56	--
Turbidity, (NTU)	3.5	--
Alkalinity, (mg/L)	34	--
Calcium, (mg/L)	7.5	--
Magnesium, (mg/L)	0.94	--
Arsenic, (µg/L)	7.7	2.8
Barium, (µg/L)	27	26
Cadmium, (µg/L)	<1	<1
Copper, (µg/L)	<5	11
Lead, (µg/L)	<1	<1
Mercury, (µg/L)	<0.2	<0.2
Nickel, (µg/L)	<10	<10
Zinc, (µg/L)	<50	<50

Based on the information provided, the proposed discharge of drain cleaning wastewater to land after the settling tank should not pose a threat to water quality.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The General Order and this NOA covers the discharge of drain cleaning wastewater from Dam 7 for use as dust control on unpaved forest service roads. The Discharger shall comply with the requirements specified in the General Order and the facility-specific requirements listed below.

1. Provide a copy of the signed use agreement from the United States Forest Service prior to initiating drain cleaning operations and discharge of wastewater to unpaved forest service roads.
2. Discharge to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited.
3. Discharge of wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in the RWD and this NOA is prohibited.

4. In accordance with the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program all monitoring results, including volume and location of discharges, shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis (i.e., July through December monitoring data shall be submitted by 15 February of each year, and January through June monitoring data shall be submitted by 15 August of each year).
5. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing statement issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until this NOA is officially terminated.
6. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order including its monitoring and reporting requirements, and this NOA, could result in enforcement actions as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@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: Southern California Edison, Dam 7
Program: NON-15.
Order: 2003-0003-DWQ-0226
CIWQS Place ID: 877594

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 Fresno Office
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

All documents, including responses to inspections and written notifications, submitted to comply with this Waiver shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the Compliance and Enforcement Unit, attention to Russell Walls. Mr. Walls can be reached at (559) 488-4392 or Russell.Walls@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of the Waiver, and notification for termination of coverage under the Waiver, shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the WDR Permitting Unit, attention Katie Carpenter. Ms. Carpenter can be reached at (559) 445-5551 or by email at Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Resources Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. [Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) may be found on the internet or will be provided upon request.
(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality).

Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:
Patrick Pulupa,
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A – Site Map

Enclosures: General Order 2003-0003-DWQ

cc w/o encs.: Tanya Bilezikjian, Michael Baker International, (via email)

Paul Ahn, Southern California Edison, (via email)

Russell Walls, Central Valley Water Board, (via email)

Annette Lambert, United States Forest Service, High Sierra District, (via email)

