



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region

Katherine Hart, Chair



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

12 May 2010

Ms. Kim Donovan
Project Manager
California Water Service Company
2222 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway
Chico, CA 95928

CERTIFIED MAIL
7009 1410 0000 7143 1666

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY, WELL AT STATION NO. 003-01 PROJECT, SOLANO COUNTY

Our office received a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) on 18 March 2010 from the California Water Service Company, and hereafter referred to as Discharger for the well at Station No. 003-01 Project. Based on the information in the NOI, staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the *Waste Discharge Requirements for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Low Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0081-062 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-062 in all future correspondence and documents.

The Low Threat General Order (enclosed) may also be viewed at the following web address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Low Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Discharger.

CALIFORNIA TOXIC RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Low Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxic Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxic Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California, 2005*, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP). Section 5.3 of the SIP allows "exceptions from meeting the Priority Pollutant criteria/objectives if determined to be necessary to implement control measures..." The Discharger qualified for the SIP exception in Section 5.3 and is not required to conduct Priority Pollutant (CTR constituent) sampling. Dischargers authorized to discharge under this Low Threat General Order who have been granted an exception to the priority pollutant criteria and objectives in

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the SIP, must provide certification by a qualified biologist that the beneficial uses of the receiving water have been restored upon completion of the discharge.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Discharger proposes to discharge treated and untreated groundwater associated with a pilot study that involves the construction of an ion exchange system at Well Station No. 003-01, located at 708 North Adams Street in the City of Dixon. Well Station No. 003-01 is a critical source of water to the Dixon area, and is needed in order to meet the high water demand for domestic purposes, and fire suppression, during the summer months.

The Discharger will evaluate the effectiveness of the system to reduce the nitrate level in groundwater, which was reported to be at a concentration (as NO_3) of approximately 35 mg/L. The California Department of Public Health primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate (as NO_3) is 45 mg/L.

It is estimated that 5.5 million gallons of treated groundwater and 0.8 million gallons of untreated groundwater will be discharged to surface water over a 1-week period. The discharge will be repeated, as needed, approximately four times per year. Groundwater is being treated as part of a pilot study; treatment is not required for compliance under this Order.

The California Water Service Company also proposes to construct a 48-inch concrete pipeline to the nearby existing storm drain so that the groundwater can be directly discharged into Hass Slough. The proposed discharge will enter into the City of Dixon holding ponds that discharge into Hass Slough, a tributary of the Sacramento River via Cache Slough.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

All Dischargers must notify Central Valley Water Board staff 24 hours before the start of each new discharge, as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and when the discharge ceases. The Discharger is required to comply with all the monitoring and reporting requirements contained in Attachment E of the Low Threat General Order.

Effluent and receiving water analytical monitoring shall be conducted and the results submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis unless specified otherwise. The Discharger must submit quarterly reports, as described in Attachment E, Section X, even if there is no discharge or receiving water flow during the reporting quarter, until the Discharger formally requests that coverage under this Order be terminated.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until the discharge is terminated. The Discharger must notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing if the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order is no longer necessary, so we may terminate applicability of this Low Threat General Order and avoid additional and unnecessary billing.

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the Low Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Late reporting and effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation [California Water Code Section 13385(h) and (i)]. If there is no discharge during a quarterly monitoring period, a report indicating that no discharge occurred must be submitted to avoid the monetary penalties. All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Spencer Joplin at (916) 464-4660 or SJoplin@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and requests for termination of coverage under this Order, may be directed to Mike Negrete at (916) 464-4662 or mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov.



for Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosure: General Order No. R5-2008-0081 (Discharger only)

cc: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco
Mr. Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento