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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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**Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor

29 June 2010

Mr. Michael Crooks
Sacramento County Water Agency
9700 Goethe Road, Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95827

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LIMITED THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0082; VINEYARD SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT TESTING AND STARTUP DISCHARGES, SACRAMENTO COUNTY WATER AGENCY, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received application forms on 24 February 2010 from the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) for the new Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant for testing and startup discharges. Based on the application package, we have determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges of Wastewater from Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0082-016 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) No. CAG995002.

The Limited 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/r5-2008-0082.pdf. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Limited Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements in Attachment E. The project activities shall be managed in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Limited Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Discharger.

CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Limited Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (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). The Discharger requested a categorical exception to the requirement for meeting the CTR pollutant criteria in the Limited Threat General Order, as authorized by Section 5.3 of the SIP. The Discharger certified that its discharges are necessary to implement drinking water control measures conducted to fulfill statutory requirements under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the California Health and Safety Code. The Discharger's project is granted a Categorical Exception to the SIP, as authorized by Section 5.3 of the SIP.

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The receiving water, Gerber Creek, is not listed under the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired water bodies. Therefore, no additional effluent limitations or additional monitoring requirements will be added to this Limited Threat General Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Freeport Regional Water Agency (FRWA) is a joint powers agency formed under state law by the SCWA and East Bay Municipal Water District (EBMUD). SCWA is leading construction of the Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant (VSWTP) in order to provide potable water to existing and approved urban development in the Sacramento area. The VSWTP is located west of the intersection of Florin and Excelsior Roads in unincorporated Sacramento County. Raw surface water will be provided to the VSWTP from an intake along the Sacramento River and mixed with raw groundwater. VSWTP facilities will include raw water flow control and distribution structures, flushing basin, sludge dewatering and handling facilities, flocculation and sedimentation basins, granular media filters, treated water clearwell, chemical storage, chemical feed building, operations building, and an administration building. Stormwater runoff will be held in two stormwater basins prior to discharge to Gerber Creek.

The proposed project involves VSWTP testing protocol and discharge of testing water from the VSWTP major facilities, components, and processes to an unnamed tributary of Gerber Creek prior to making the VSWTP fully operational. The Limited Threat General Order is issued for the testing protocol program only, due to superchlorination and discharge of up to 15 million gallons per day (mgd) with a total discharge of approximately 1800 million gallons (mg) to the unnamed tributary of Gerber Creek, according to the following schedule:

Testing	Schedule	Discharge Rate	Volume	Max Discharge Rate
Chemical Feed	Mar to Apr 2011	1.8 mgd	26 mg	15 mgd
Solids Removal	Apr to May 2011	5.4 mgd	162 mg	15 mgd
Filter Operation	May to Jun 2011	5.4 mgd	162 mg	15 mgd
30 Day – 24 Hour Operation Trial #1	Jun to Jul 2011	14.4 mgd	431 mg	15 mgd
30 Day – 24 Hour Operation Trial #2	Jul to Aug 2011	14.7 mgd	441 mg	15 mgd
Service Area Commissioning	Aug to Sep 2011	12.6 mgd	340 mg	15 mgd
Field Acceptance	Sep to Oct 2011	6.6 mgd	218 mg	15 mgd
Total Volume to be discharged to Gerber Creek:			1780 mg	

During all phases of the testing program, some testing discharges will be released to an on-site flushing basin and emergency sludge storage lagoon for flow equalization, and then through the plant drain pump station and on-site sewer system to an interim sewer line installed for this project in Florin Road. During later phases of the testing program, discharges will also be directly from the high service pump station to an unnamed tributary of Gerber Creek through a temporary piping system at a rate of up to 15 mgd. Chlorine (superchlorination) will be added at several locations designed to leave chlorine residual. Sodium hypochloride will be added at several points for dechlorination prior to discharge. Sodium hydroxide addition for pH control is also required at several locations in the plant prior to discharge.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Discharger is required to comply with all the monitoring and reporting requirements contained in the Limited Threat General Order. This includes notifying Central Valley Water Board staff 24 hours before the start of each new discharge, notification of noncompliance or anticipated noncompliance, and quarterly reporting of monitoring results.

The Discharger is granted a Categorical Exception to the SIP and, therefore, is not required to conduct sampling and analysis of CTR constituents of the effluent or receiving water.

Effluent monitoring shall be conducted and results submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis. The Discharger must submit quarterly reports, even if there is no discharge or receiving water flow during the reporting quarter, until Central Valley Water Board staff formally terminates the Discharger's coverage under the Limited Threat General Order. Most reporting requirements are found in Attachment E of the Limited Threat General Order. Please reference your unique Order No. R5-2008-0082-016, in your correspondence and submitted documents.

Receiving water monitoring is not required. Effluent monitoring is required as specified in Attachment E, as follows:

- Section I (General Monitoring Provisions);
- Section II (Monitoring Locations, Table E-1);
- Section IV.A.2 (Effluent Monitoring – Treatment Required, Table E-3; Total Flow, Electrical Conductivity, and pH only);
- Section IV.A.3 (Effluent Monitoring – Discharge from Superchlorination Projects, Table E-4); and
- Section V (Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Requirements).

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Discharge of material other than what is described in the application is prohibited.

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

Dischargers authorized to discharge under this Limited Threat General Order, who have been granted an exception to the priority pollutant criteria and objectives in the CTR and SIP, as allowed by Section 5.3 of 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.

Failure to comply with the Limited Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation. Late reports are subject to an MMP of \$3,000 per each period of 30 days late. If you have no discharge during a quarterly monitoring period, you must still submit a report indicating that no discharge occurred, or you may be subject to MMPs.

All monitoring report submittals, discharge notifications, and any questions regarding compliance or enforcement, shall be to Spencer Joplin, who may be reached at (916) 464-4660 or at SJoplin@waterboards.ca.gov. If you have any questions regarding permitting of your Limited Threat General Order coverage, please contact Elizabeth Thayer of our office at (916) 464-4671 or at ethayer@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed By Kenneth D. Landau for
Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Limited Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0082 (Discharger only)

cc: Mr. David Smith, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco
Mr. Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento