



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

24 July 2018

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2016-0076-01 FOR LIMITED THREAT DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATER; PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY, RALSTON AFTERBAY DAM LOW LEVEL OUTLET PROJECT, PLACER COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent on 1 May 2018 from Placer County Water Agency (hereinafter Discharger), for discharge of treated wastewater from dredging activities to surface water. Based on the application packet submitted by the Discharger, staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order), Tier 2. This project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order R5-2016-0076-042 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995002. Please reference your Limited Threat General Order number, **R5-2016-0076-042**, in your correspondence and submitted documents.

The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in the Limited Threat General Order and as specified in this NOA. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the entire contents of the enclosed Limited Threat General Order. The Limited Threat General Order may also be viewed at the following web address:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf

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's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP). Screening levels for CTR constituents and other constituents of concern are found in Attachment I of the Limited Threat General Order. Review of your water quality data in comparison to the screening values, showed no reasonable potential for the discharge to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in the Middle Fork American River, which is a water of the United States.

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

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is located at the Ralston Afterbay Dam on the Oxbow Reservoir in Placer County and consists of removing excess sediment that was deposited near the vicinity of the Ralston Afterbay Dam due to the severe storms in early 2017. The Discharger intends to dredge approximately 5,000 cubic yards of sediment near the outlet within a silt barrier and treat the resulting slurry using the following process shown in Attachment B and described below:

- Slurry from the dredging process will be pumped to the top of the Ralston Afterbay Dam and flow through the following processes:
 - A primary tank with ¼" screens,
 - A secondary tank with two hydrocyclones, and
 - A portable clarifier where polymers will be added to aid in the settlement of solids;
- Liquids from the portable clarifier will continue to a polishing tank;
- From the polishing tank, wastewater will be stored in a water tank until it is discharged back to Oxbow Reservoir;
- Solids from the portable clarifier will be pumped to a belt press to be treated and stored prior to transport to a disposal site on the Discharger's land in Foresthill, California; and
- Return liquid from the belt press is pumped back to the primary tank for treatment.

A maximum of 0.83 million gallons per day is expected to be discharged back to the reservoir over ten days for an estimated total discharge volume of 8.3 million gallons. The Discharger has applied for coverage of solids disposal to land and will obtain coverage under Notice of Applicability R5-2013-0145-0101 for Waiver of Reports of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Discharge within the Central Valley Region, Resolution R5-2013-0145.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

Effluent limitations are specified in Section V. Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications of the Limited Threat General Order. Based on the information provided in the NOI, effluent limitations are only required for the parameters identified below:

1. **Flow (Section V.A.1.a).** The flow rate shall not exceed 0.83 MGD.
2. **pH (Section V.A.1.b.ii).** The pH of all limited threat discharges within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (except Goose Lake in Modoc County) shall at all times be within the range of 6.5 and 8.5.

The Receiving Water is not listed under the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired water bodies. Therefore, no additional 303(d) based effluent limitations or monitoring requirements will be added to this Limited Threat Notice of Applicability.

RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

The Limited Threat General Order includes receiving surface water limitations in Section VIII.A. Based on the information provided in the NOI, only the following receiving surface water limitations are applicable to this discharge:

- Bacteria (VIII.A.2);
- Biostimulatory substances (VIII.A.3);

- Chemical constituents (VIII.A.4);
- Color (VIII.A.5);
- Dissolved oxygen (VIII.A.6.a);
- Floating material (VIII.A.7);
- Oil and grease (VIII.A.8);
- pH (VIII.A.9.a);
- Pesticides (VIII.A.10);
- Radioactivity (VIII.A.11);
- Suspended sediments (VIII.A.12);
- Settleable substances (VIII.A.13);
- Suspended material (VIII.A.14);
- Taste and odors (VIII.A.15);
- Temperature (VIII.A.16.a);
- Toxicity (VIII.A.17); and
- Turbidity (VIII.A.18.a).

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting requirements are contained in Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order. The Discharger is required to comply with the following specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the effluent and receiving water in accordance with Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order.

Monitoring Locations – The Discharger shall monitor the effluent at the specified location as follows:

Table 1. Monitoring Station Locations

Discharge Point Name	Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description
001	EFF-001	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharge to Oxbow Reservoir.
--	RSW-001	Oxbow Reservoir, approximately 200 feet upstream from the point of discharge.
--	RSW-002	Middle Fork American River, approximately 100 feet downstream from the point of discharge below the Ralston Afterbay Dam.

Effluent Monitoring – When discharging to surface water, the Discharger shall monitor the effluent at EFF-001 in accordance with Table C-3 of the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA. The applicable monitoring requirements are as follows in Table 2:

Table 2. Effluent Monitoring

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Total Flow	MGD	Estimate	1/Day	1,2
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Day	1,2
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	1/Day	1,2
Temperature	°F	Grab	1/Week	1,2

¹ A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.

² Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.

Receiving Water Monitoring – When discharging to Oxbow Reservoir, the Discharger shall monitor the receiving water at RSW-001 and RSW-002, in accordance with Table C-5 of the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA. The applicable monitoring requirements are as follows in Table 3:

Table 3. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	1/Day	1,2

¹ Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.

² A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained by the Discharger.

In conducting the receiving water sampling, a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions throughout the reach bounded by RSW-001 and RSW-002. Attention shall be given to the presence or absence of:

- a. Floating or suspended matter
- b. Discoloration
- c. Bottom deposits
- d. Aquatic life
- e. Visible films, sheens, or coatings
- f. Fungi, slimes, or objectionable growths
- g. Potential nuisance conditions

Notes on receiving water conditions shall be summarized in the Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Report Submittals - Monitoring in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order shall begin upon initiation of discharge. Monitoring Reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis, beginning with the **Third Quarter 2018**. This report shall be submitted on **1 November 2018**. All Monitoring Reports shall specify the dates during the monitoring period the discharge did or did not occur. If treatment and discharge to Oxbow Reservoir has not begun, there is no need to monitor. However, a certified Monitoring

Report must be submitted stating that there has been no discharge. Table 3, below, summarizes the Monitoring Report due dates required under the Limited Threat General Order. Quarterly Monitoring Reports must be submitted until your coverage is formally terminated in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge during the reporting quarter.

Table 3. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

Sampling Frequency	Monitoring Period Begins On...	Quarterly Report Due Date
1/Day, 1/Week, 1/Month, 1/Quarter	First Day of Discharge	1 May (1 Jan – 31 Mar) 1 Aug (1 Apr – 30 Jun) 1 Nov (1 Jul – 30 Sep) 1 Feb, of following year (1 Oct – 31 Dec)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff within 24 hours of having knowledge of 1) the start of each new discharge, 2) noncompliance, and 3) when the discharge ceases. The Central Valley Water Board shall be notified immediately if any effluent limit violation is observed during implementation of the project.

Discharge of material other than what is described in the application is prohibited. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual invoice you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing when the discharge regulated by the Limited Threat General Order is no longer necessary by submitting the Request for Termination of Coverage (Attachment E). If a timely written request is not received, the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

ENFORCEMENT

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. In addition, late Monitoring Reports may be subject to MMPs or discretionary penalties of up to \$1,000 per day late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly certified Monitoring Report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

COMMUNICATION

All documents, including Monitoring Reports, written notifications, and documents submitted to comply with this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order, should be submitted to the NPDES Compliance Unit, Attention: Mohammad Farhad. Mr. Farhad can be reached at (916) 464-1181 or mohammad.farhad@waterboards.ca.gov.

We have transitioned to a paperless office, therefore, please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf) and email them to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov. **Please include the following information in the email:** Attention: NPDES Compliance Unit; Discharger: Placer County Water Agency; Facility: Ralston Afterbay Dam Low Level Outlet Project; County: Placer; and the CIWQS place ID 846991 in the body of the email. Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger must be

transferred to a DVD, or flash drive and mailed to our office, attention "ECM Mailroom-NPDES". Please include the attached Monitoring Report Transmittal Form as the first page of each Monitoring Report.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water 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 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 Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

Original Signed by

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosures (4): Attachment A - Project Location Map
Attachment B – Flow Schematic
General Order R5-2016-0076-01 (Discharger only)
Monitoring Report Transmittal Form (Discharger only)

cc: David Smith, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)
Afrooz Farsimadan, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento (email only)

ATTACHMENT A – PROJECT LOCATION MAP

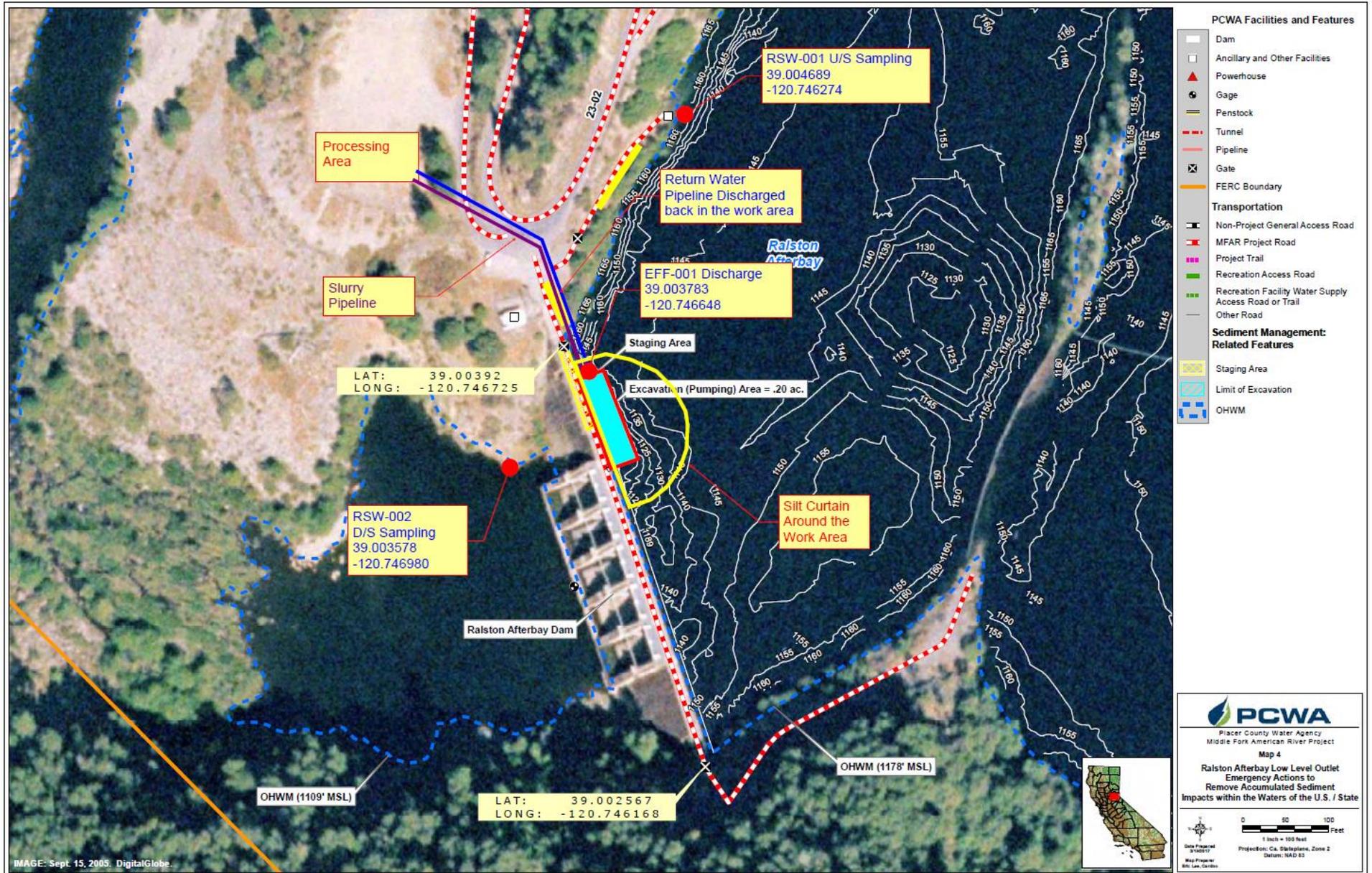
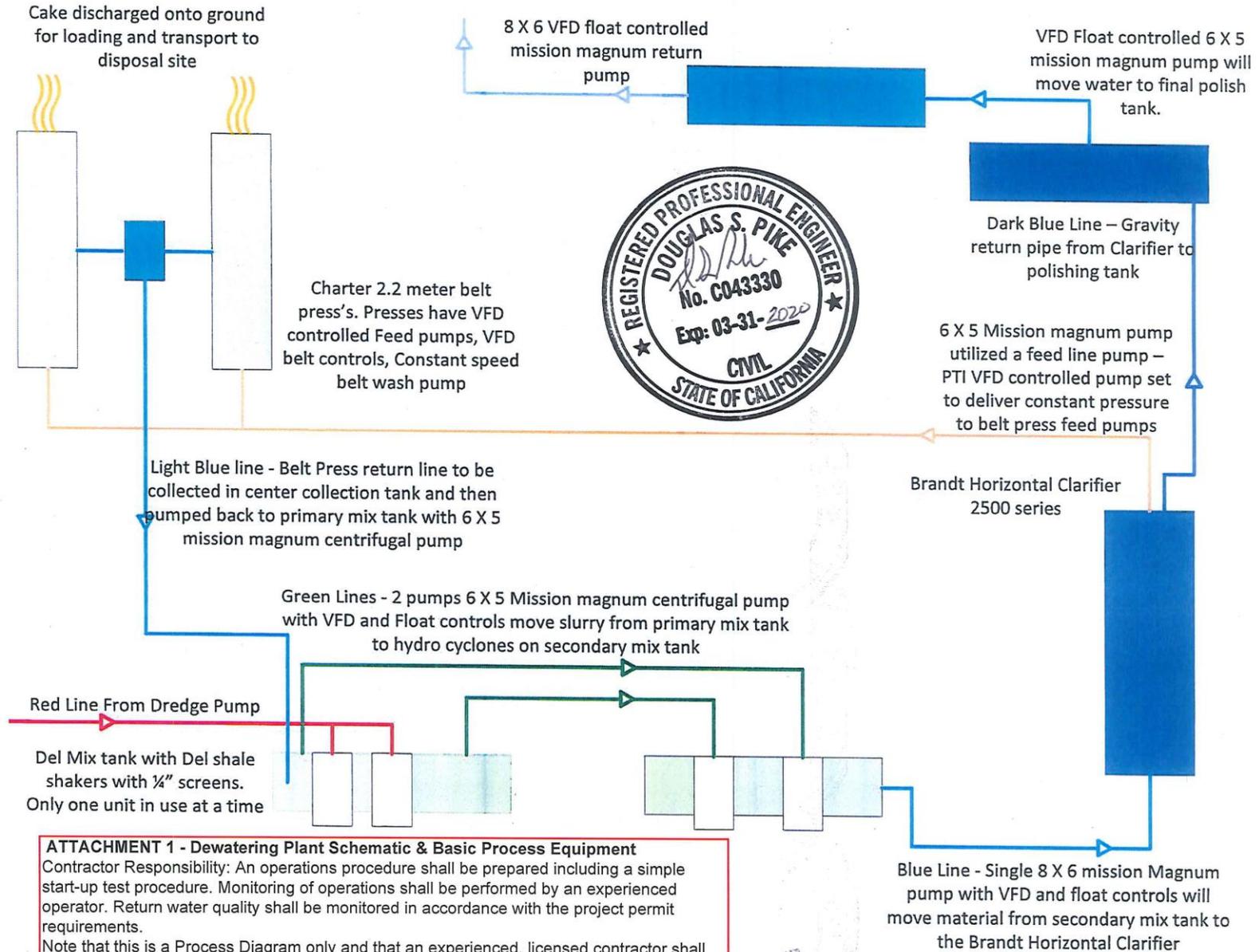


IMAGE: Sept. 15, 2003. DigitalGlobe.
 C:\GIS\Carano\3116501\map\GeoMaps\Sediment Mgt Maps\Ralston\2017\PCWA_EmergMgt\Ralston_17111_10_WOUB.mxd

ATTACHMENT B- FLOW SCHEMATIC



ATTACHMENT 1 - Dewatering Plant Schematic & Basic Process Equipment
 Contractor Responsibility: An operations procedure shall be prepared including a simple start-up test procedure. Monitoring of operations shall be performed by an experienced operator. Return water quality shall be monitored in accordance with the project permit requirements.
 Note that this is a Process Diagram only and that an experienced, licensed contractor shall work with vendor support technicians in implementation details according to common practice.