



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 December 2023

Salena Estrada
Water Treatment Plant Manger
Stanislaus Regional Water Authority
1235 Aldrich Road
Hughson, CA 95326

VIA EMAIL
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2022-0006-02 FOR LIMITED THREAT DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATER; STANISLAUS REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY, REGIONAL SURFACE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT, STANISLAUS COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent on 01 December 2022 from Jacobs Engineering Group for the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority (SRWA), a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) between the City of Ceres and the City of Turlock, for discharge of process water from startup testing and commissioning of a new water treatment plant to surface water (hereinafter Project). Based on the application packet and subsequent information 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), as a water supply system and pipeline flushing project. In a letter dated 08 November 2023, SRWA requested an amendment to the current NOA for a change of ownership for the Project from Jacobs Engineering Group to the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority (hereinafter Discharger). This Project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order R5-2022-0006-012-02 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995002. Please reference your Limited Threat General Order number, **R5-2022-0006-012-02**, 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](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2022-0006-02.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

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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 Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers, which are waters of the United States.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The SRWA, a JPA between the City of Ceres and the City of Turlock, was formed to implement the Regional Surface Water Supply Project (RSWSP) located near the City of Hughson in Stanislaus County. Attachment A provides a map of the area around the Facility. The RSWSP will supply surface water to replace a large portion of groundwater supply in the Cities of Ceres and Turlock. The final RSWSP will deliver 15 million gallons per day (mgd) from the Tuolumne River through an intake located to the East of the City of Hughson and convey it to a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The WTP will serve the Cities of Ceres and Turlock via two Finished Water Transmission Mains (FWTMs). The Project discharge activities covered by this NOA are 1) the commissioning of the WTP and 2) the flushing and disinfection of the Ceres and Turlock FWTMs.

The source of the water being used for the Project is the Tuolumne River and the test water will be discharged to one of several locations depending on the activity. The test water used during disinfection, start-up and testing from the WTP will be discharged to the Ceres Main Canal via the Ceres Main outfall structure, which was constructed as part of the RSWSP. The test water used during disinfection, start-up and testing from the Ceres FWTM to the City of Ceres will also be discharged to the Ceres Main Canal. Test water used during disinfection, start-up and testing from the Turlock FWTM to the City of Turlock will be discharged to the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Upper Lateral 2 Canal, the TID Upper Lateral 2.5 Canal, and/or the TID Upper Lateral 3 Canal. All canals and laterals are conveyed to irrigation water users or are eventually discharged downstream to either the San Joaquin River or Tuolumne River. A dechlorination treatment system will be implemented for the Project to both monitor and treat waste discharges to ensure there is no chlorine residual.

The project is expected to take 12-16 weeks beginning in June 2023. The expected maximum daily discharge for each part of the project as follows; discharge to the Ceres Main Canal from WTP commissioning via Ceres Main outfall structure is expected to be 15 MGD. The discharge to the Ceres Main Canal from Ceres FWTM is expected to be 15 MGD. The discharge to the Turlock Canals from the Turlock FWTM is expected to be 6 MGD.

Jacobs Engineering Group was originally identified as the Facility operator and Discharger in the permit application materials and Notice of Applicability R5-2022-0006-012. Following the completion of the water treatment plant acceptance testing on 22 December 2023, ownership was transferred to SRWA. Due to the minimum design capacity of the water treatment plant and short term limitations on how much water may be accepted by the cities of Ceres and Turlock, SRWA will

continue discharging to the Ceres Main Canal and Turlock Canal through approximately March 2024.

DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

Discharge prohibitions are specified in Section IV Discharge Prohibitions of the Limited Threat General Order. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the following discharge prohibitions are applicable to this discharge:

- Prohibition IV.A
- Prohibition IV.B
- Prohibition IV.C
- Prohibition IV.D. The flow rate shall not exceed 40 MGD.

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 parameter identified in items 1-X, below:

1. **pH (Section V.A.1.b.i).** 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.
2. **Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chronic (Section V.A.2.a).** There shall be no chronic toxicity in the discharge.
3. **Temperature.** For discharges within the legal boundaries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the maximum temperature of the discharge shall not exceed the natural receiving water temperature by more than 4°Fahrenheit (°F).
4. **Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos.** For water bodies as specified in Table 3-4 of the Basin Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin, effluent diazinon and chlorpyrifos concentrations shall not exceed the sum of one (1.0) as identified below:
 - i. **Average Monthly Effluent Limitation (AMEL)**
 $SAMEL = CD\ M\text{-avg}/0.079 + CC\ M\text{-avg}/0.012 \leq 1.0$
CD M-AVG = average monthly diazinon effluent concentration in µg/L
CC M-AVG = average monthly chlorpyrifos effluent concentration in µg/L
 - ii. **Maximum Daily Effluent Limitation (MDEL)**
 $SAWEL = CD\ W\text{-avg}/0.16 + CC\ W\text{-avg}/0.025 \leq 1.0$
CD W-AVG = average weekly diazinon effluent concentration in µg/L
CC W-AVG = average weekly chlorpyrifos effluent concentration in µg/L

Table 1. Effluent Limitations

Parameter	Units	AMEL	MDEL	Section
Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.01	0.02	V.A.1

The San Joaquin River (Merced River to Tuolumne River) is listed for Mercury, DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), Group A Pesticides, Toxicity, Temperature, Electrical Conductivity, DDE (Dichlorodipenyldichloroethylene), Specific Conductivity, Total Dissolved Solids, alpha-BHC (Benzenehexachloride or alpha-HCH) on the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired water bodies. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has not yet been established for Receiving Water. Therefore, no additional 303(d) based effluent limitations or monitoring requirements are included in this NOA (R5-2022-0006-012-02).

The Tuolumne River (Don Pedro Reservoir to San Joaquin River) is listed for Group A Pesticides, Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, Mercury, Toxicity, and Temperature on the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired water bodies. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has not yet been established for Receiving Water. Therefore, no additional 303(d) based effluent limitations or monitoring requirements are included in this NOA (R5-2022-0006-012-02).

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.b);
- 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 and receiving water at the specified location as follows:

Table 2. 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 discharging to Ceres Main Canal.
--	RSW-001	Ceres Main Canal, approximately 200 feet upstream from EFF-001.
--	RSW-002	Ceres Main Canal, approximately 200 feet downstream from EFF-002.
002	EFF-002	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to TID Lateral No. 2 Canal.
--	RSW-003	TID Lateral No. 2 Canal, approximately 200 feet upstream from EFF-002.
--	RSW-004	TID Lateral No. 2 Canal, approximately 200 feet downstream from EFF-001.
003	EFF-003	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to TID Lateral No. 2.5 Canal.
--	RSW-005	TID Lateral No. 2.5 Canal, approximately 200 feet upstream from EFF-003.
--	RSW-006	TID Lateral No. 2.5 Canal, approximately 200 feet downstream from EFF-003.
004	EFF-004	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to TID Lateral No. 3 Canal.
--	RSW-007	TID Lateral No. 3 Canal, approximately 200 feet upstream from EFF-004.
--	RSW-008	TID Lateral No. 3 Canal, approximately 200 feet downstream from EFF-004.

Effluent Monitoring – When discharging to surface water, the Discharger shall monitor the effluent at EFF-001, EFF-002, EFF-003, and EFF-004 in accordance with Table C-3 of the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA. The applicable monitoring requirements are as follows in Table 3 and subsequent Table 3 Notes:

Table 3. Effluent Monitoring Requirements

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency
Discharge Flow Rate	MGD	Calculated	1/Day
Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Week
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Week
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	1/Week
Temperature	°F	Grab	1/Week
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	mg/L	Grab	1/Week
Chlorine Residual	mg/L	Grab	1/Week
Chronic Toxicity	--	Grab	1/Project Term

Table 3 Notes

- Electrical conductivity, pH, turbidity, temperature, and DO.** 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.
- All parameters, except flow.** 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.
- Chronic toxicity.** Chronic toxicity testing shall be conducted within 3 months of initiation of discharge. See the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order) for toxicity monitoring requirements.

Receiving Water Monitoring - When discharging to surface water, 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 4 and subsequent Table 4 Notes:

Table 4. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	1/Month
Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Month
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Month
Temperature	°F	Grab	1/Month
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	1/Month

Table 4 Notes

1. **All parameters.** 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. **All parameters except for hardness.** 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 **Second Quarter 2023**. This report shall be submitted on **1 August 2023**. All Monitoring Reports shall specify the dates during the monitoring period the discharge did or did not occur. If discharge 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 5, 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 5. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

Monitoring Period for All Sampling Frequencies	Quarterly Report Due Date
First Quarter (1 January through 31 March)	1 May
Second Quarter (1 April through 30 June)	1 August
Third Quarter (1 July through 30 September)	1 November
Fourth Quarter (1 October through 31 December)	1 February of the following year

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 of the Limited Threat General Order). 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

We have transitioned to a paperless office; therefore, please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf). 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 and Enforcement Unit, Attention: Mohammad Farhad at centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov and mohammad.farhad@waterboards.ca.gov. Mr. Farhad may also be reached by phone at (916) 464-1181.

Please include the following information in the body of the email:

- Attention: NPDES Compliance Unit
- Discharger: Stanislaus Regional Water Authority
- Facility: Regional Surface Water Supply Project
- County: Stanislaus County
- CIWQS place ID: 841350

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".

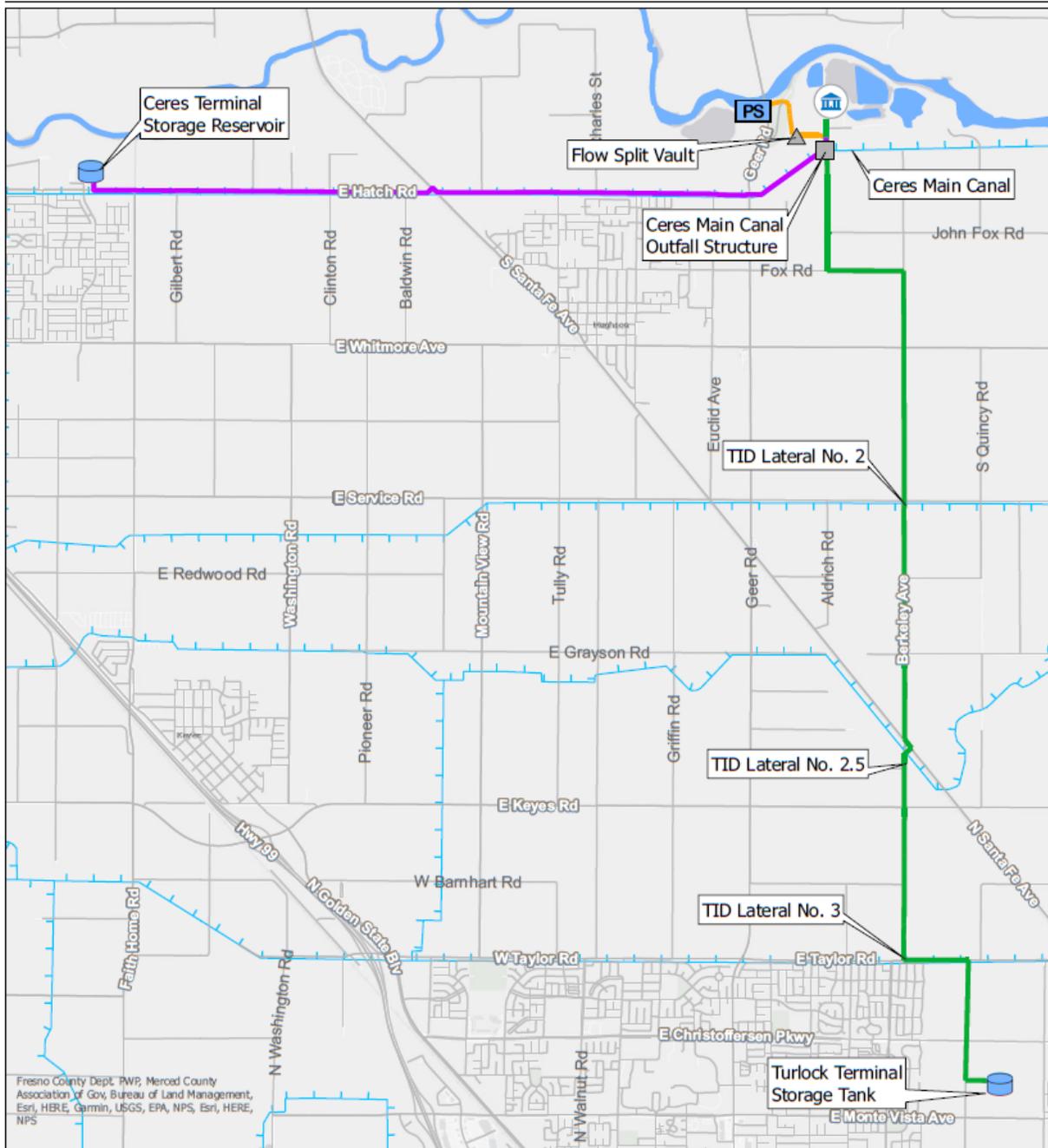
Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition 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. Links to the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the [Petitions Home Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer

Enclosures (2): Attachment A - Project Location Map
Monitoring Report Transmittal Form (Discharger only)

cc: Elizabeth Sablad, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)
Peter Kozelka, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)
Prasad Gullapalli, U.S. EPA Region IX, San Francisco (email only)
Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento (email only)

ATTACHMENT A – PROJECT LOCATION MAP



- Water Treatment Plant
- Raw Water Pump Station
- Terminal Tank
- Raw Water Transmission Main
- Turlock Finished Water Transmission Main
- Ceres Finished Water Transmission Main
- Canal
- River

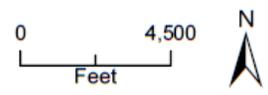


Figure 1
System Overview and Laterals
 Stanislaus Regional Water Authority
 Surface Water Supply Project

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