



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Katherine Hart, Chair**



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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

1 February 2011

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Department of Fish and Game
Feather River Fish Hatchery
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**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
COLD WATER CONCENTRATED AQUATIC ANIMAL PRODUCTION FACILITY
DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS; DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, FEATHER
RIVER FISH HATCHERY, BUTTE COUNTY**

The State of California Department of Water Resources owns the Feather River Fish Hatchery (hereafter Facility). The Facility is operated by the State of California Department of Fish and Game. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) are hereafter designated as the Discharger.

On 29 January 2010, General Order No. R5-2010-0018, (NPDES No. CAG135001), Waste Discharge Requirements for Cold Water Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Facility Discharges to Surface Waters (General Order) was adopted by the Central Valley Water Board. The General Order regulates the discharge of pollutants from Cold Water Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production facilities (CAAP facilities) to surface waters in the Central Valley Region. The Discharger submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) dated 22 December 2010 to comply with the terms of the General Order.

The Facility discharge meets the conditions for coverage under the General Order. The Central Valley Water Board has determined that discharges from the Facility are more appropriately regulated under the General Order than by your existing individual permit, Order No. R5-2008-0038 (NPDES No. CA0004570). Therefore, your existing Order is scheduled for rescission by a separate action of the Central Valley Water Board at a future regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The Discharger has been assigned an enrollee number of R5-2010-0018-015. Administrative information for the Facility is provided in Attachment A, a part of this Notice of Applicability (NOA).



The CAAP facility operations and discharge shall be managed in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order, this NOA, and with the information submitted by the Discharger. The General Order (enclosed) may also be viewed at the following web address:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2010-0018_npdes.pdf

You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire General Order. Attachment C of the General Order prescribes mandatory monitoring requirements.

FACILITY INFORMATION/DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Facility is located on the north side of the Feather River approximately four miles downstream from the Oroville Dam in Section 7, T19N, R4E, MDB&M as shown in Attachment B, a part of this NOA. The Facility consists of an office and maintenance building, two hatchery buildings, ten concrete raceways, one concrete rearing channel, a gathering tank, four holding tanks, an aeration tower, an ultraviolet treatment building, several storage sheds, and the fish ladder. The main Facility building houses the spawning operations and the egg incubators. Based on information in the NOI the Facility has an annual production of 451,000 pounds (lbs) of cold water species (Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and steelhead trout).

The Facility receives source water from the Feather River at the Thermalito Diversion Dam and distributes it to the hatchery buildings and fish rearing areas. The Facility has a maximum flow rate of 71 million gallons per day (mgd) of flow-through water. Raw intake water is gravity fed to an aeration tower where it is aerated and piped through the entire Facility. Currently, more water is being gravity fed to the aeration tower than can be used throughout the entire Facility. The minimum operational flow through the Facility is estimated to be 26 mgd during which time approximately 45 mgd of aerated water is discharged directly to the Feather River through the aeration overflow pipe. The maximum flow through the facility is 71 mgd during which time no aerated water is discharged through the aeration overflow pipe. Flow rates vary depending on the amount of fish in the hatchery. This discharge consists strictly of aerated water and contains no chemicals or Facility wastes. When the fish ladder is in use during the migration and spawning season, raw water from the fish ladder, a gathering tank and four holding tanks, discharges directly to the Feather River. These direct discharges contain minimal quantities of fish fecal material, but no chemicals or unconsumed fish food is present, as the fish are not fed or treated in these locations.

Wastewater from the Facility discharges to two settling basins (approximately 300 feet long by 30 feet wide and 15 feet deep) located near an embankment on the Feather River as shown in the Facility schematic, Attachment C, a part of this NOA and described as follows:

Discharge Point 001 and Discharge Point 002 – The two settling basins are constructed with overflow pipes, which are capable of discharging directly to the Feather River (Discharge Points 001 and 002). However, no direct discharges have occurred from Discharge Points 001 or 002 since completion of the settling basins in 1984 because the basins are constructed in permeable gravels resulting in the percolation of wastewater through the settling basins into the Feather River via seepage. Water from the hatchery building flows to a sump. Water from the sump is pumped and combined with water from the rearing channel and eight of the ten raceways. The combined water is discharged to one or both of the settling basins. Water from the two newer raceways located on the western portion of the Facility is discharged directly to Settling Basin 002.

Discharge Point 003 – If the main sump pumps are overwhelmed or fail, wastewater will discharge directly to the Feather River via the sump overflow pipe (Discharge Point 003). Wastewater from the holding tanks adjacent to the Main Hatchery Building also discharges directly to the sump over flow pipe.

Chemicals currently used at the Facility on a routine basis include PVP Iodine, formalin (as a 37% formaldehyde, methanol-free solution), potassium permanganate, hydrogen peroxide, Chloramine T, and salt (sodium chloride). The Discharger also uses the antibiotics Terramycin® (Oxytetracycline) and Penicillin G as therapeutic agents for short periods of time during episodes of acute disease outbreak at the Facility.

Domestic wastewater is discharged to the City of Oroville sewage system.

The Facility has two 1,000-gallon Convault® aboveground storage tanks (AST). One tank contains diesel fuel. The other split 1,000 gallon AST contains gasoline and diesel fuel. Both concrete and unpaved areas surround these tanks. Minor vehicle maintenance is performed on-site.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The General Order requires that dischargers comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program that is incorporated as Attachment C to the General Order. Influent, effluent, and receiving water monitoring requirements are based on the pounds of fish produced. This Facility is in the category of production greater than 100,000 lbs of fish.

The Discharger conducted priority pollutant metals monitoring on 22 February 2003. The data show that there is no reasonable potential for priority pollutant metals to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives. The Discharger reports that the Facility does not use copper sulfate or chelated copper compounds.

The receiving waters are listed under the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired water bodies for chlorpyrifos, diazinon, group A pesticides, mercury, and unknown toxicity. The Discharger reports that the Facility does not use pesticides or materials that contain

pesticides; therefore, no additional monitoring is required in this NOA for pesticides. The Facility's operations are not expected to contribute mercury to the Feather River. Monitoring for priority pollutant metals, including mercury, is only required once during the term of the General Order. This NOA requires additional monitoring for mercury at the intake (INF-001), the effluent at monitoring locations EFF-001, EFF-002, and EFF-003 or the alternative locations PND-001 and PND-002.

Site-specific monitoring locations for influent, effluent and receiving water monitoring are shown in Attachment C to this NOA (Facility schematic), and as described in the following table:

Monitoring Location Descriptions

Point Name	Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description
Influent	INF-001	At a location representative of influent water to the Facility.
Discharge Point 001	EFF-001	At a location representative of the effluent discharge from Settling Basin 001 to the Feather River.
Discharge Point 002	EFF-002	At a location representative of the effluent discharge from Settling Basin 002 to the Feather River.
Discharge Point 003	EFF-003	At a location representative of the effluent discharge from the main sump to the Feather River.
Receiving Water Upstream	RSW-001	At a location immediately below the dam at the entrance of the fish ladder.
Receiving Water Downstream	RSW-002	At a location 50 feet downstream from the end of Settling Basin 002 at the lower access road.
	PND-001	Settling Basin 001.
	PND-002	Settling Basin 002.

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY REQUIREMENTS

Based on the information provided in the ROWD, the Discharger is hereby authorized to discharge to the Feather River under the terms and conditions of General Order R5-2010-0018. In addition to the requirements contained in the General Order, the following shall also apply:

1. **Discharge Flow Rates:** The discharge from the Facility shall not exceed 71 mgd during the effective period of the General Order.
 - a. When effluent is discharged to the settling basins, flows at PND-001 and PND-002 shall be recorded.
 - b. When effluent is discharged from the settling basins via EFF-001 and/or EFF-002, flows at EFF-001 and EFF-002 shall be recorded.
 - c. When effluent from the sump overflows to the river, flows at EFF-003 shall be recorded.

Flows shall be reported in millions of gallons per day (mgd) and shall be recorded daily. Flows at PND-001, PND-002 and EFF-003 shall be calculated or measured. Flows at EFF-001 and EFF-002 may be estimated.

2. The Discharger is required to comply with all the Monitoring and Reporting Requirements contained in Attachment C, Table C-4, to the General Order for facilities with production greater than 100,000 lbs of fish when there is a Discharge to the Feather River at either Discharge Point 001 or Discharge Point 002.

When there is no direct discharge to the Feather River through Discharge Point 001 or Discharge Point 002 to the Discharger shall monitor the water quality in the settling basins at PND-001 and PND-002 for the constituents and frequencies contained Attachment C, Table C-4, to the General Order facilities with production greater than 100,000 lbs of fish as follows:

- a. When the same water is being discharged to both settling basins, the Discharger may collect a representative grab sample of the water in either PND-001 or PND-002. Influent to the pond(s) is considered representative of pond water if the facility is being operated at a steady state. Sampling is only required in one settling basin for each sampling event.
 - b. When operations are occurring in the hatchery building, the Discharger may collect a grab sample of the inflow to the settling basin receiving effluent from the hatchery building.
3. The Discharger shall monitor at INF-001, receiving water at RSW-001 and effluent at EFF-001 and EFF-002. Alternatively, when there is no direct discharge to the Feather River and the same water is being discharged to both settling basins the Discharger shall collect a representative grab sample of either PND-001 or PND-002 instead of EFF-001 and EFF-002. Influent to the pond(s) is considered representative of pond water if the facility is being operated at a steady state. Sampling is only required in one settling basin for each sampling event. The samples shall be analyzed for mercury using a detection limit <1.0 nanograms per liter (ng/L). The Discharger shall use Ultra-Clean Aqueous Sample collection and Preservation Techniques (FGS-008 and EPA Method 1669). The frequency of the monitoring shall be annually. The results shall be submitted as part of the Discharger's monthly monitoring report.
 4. The Discharger shall electronically submit Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs) using the State Water Board's California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) Program website (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/index.html>). The CIWQS website will provide directions for SMR submittal in the event there will be service interruption for electronic submittal.

5. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has determined that individual or general permits for aquaculture activities defined in 40 CFR 122.25(b) will be subject to the same annual fee, which currently is \$1,000 (State Water Board Resolution 2002-0150), but may be subject to change.
6. The General Order expires on 1 January 2015, and enrollees will continue to be authorized to discharge until coverage becomes effective under a reissued Order or until Central Valley Water Board staff formally terminates your coverage. Only those CAAP facilities authorized to discharge and who submit a Notice of Intent at least 180 days prior to the expiration date of General Order No. R5-2010-0018 will remain authorized to discharge under administratively continued permit conditions.

Failure to comply with the General Order and this NOA may result in enforcement actions, which could include administrative civil liability. Effluent limitation violations and some late reporting violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation [California Water Code Sections 13385(h) and (i)]. If you have no discharge during a monitoring period, you must submit a report indicating that no discharge occurred. You must notify the Central Valley Water Board staff within 24 hours of noncompliance or anticipated noncompliance.

Please reference your enrollee number, R5-2010-0018-015, in all your correspondence and submitted documents.

If you have any questions regarding this NOA, monitoring reports submittals, discharge notifications, compliance and enforcement, please contact, Kevin Kratzke at (530) 224-4850, or kkratzke@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Robert A. Crandall

(for) Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

KEK: knr

NOA Attachments: Attachment A - Administrative Information
Attachment B – Location Map
Attachment C – Facility Schematic

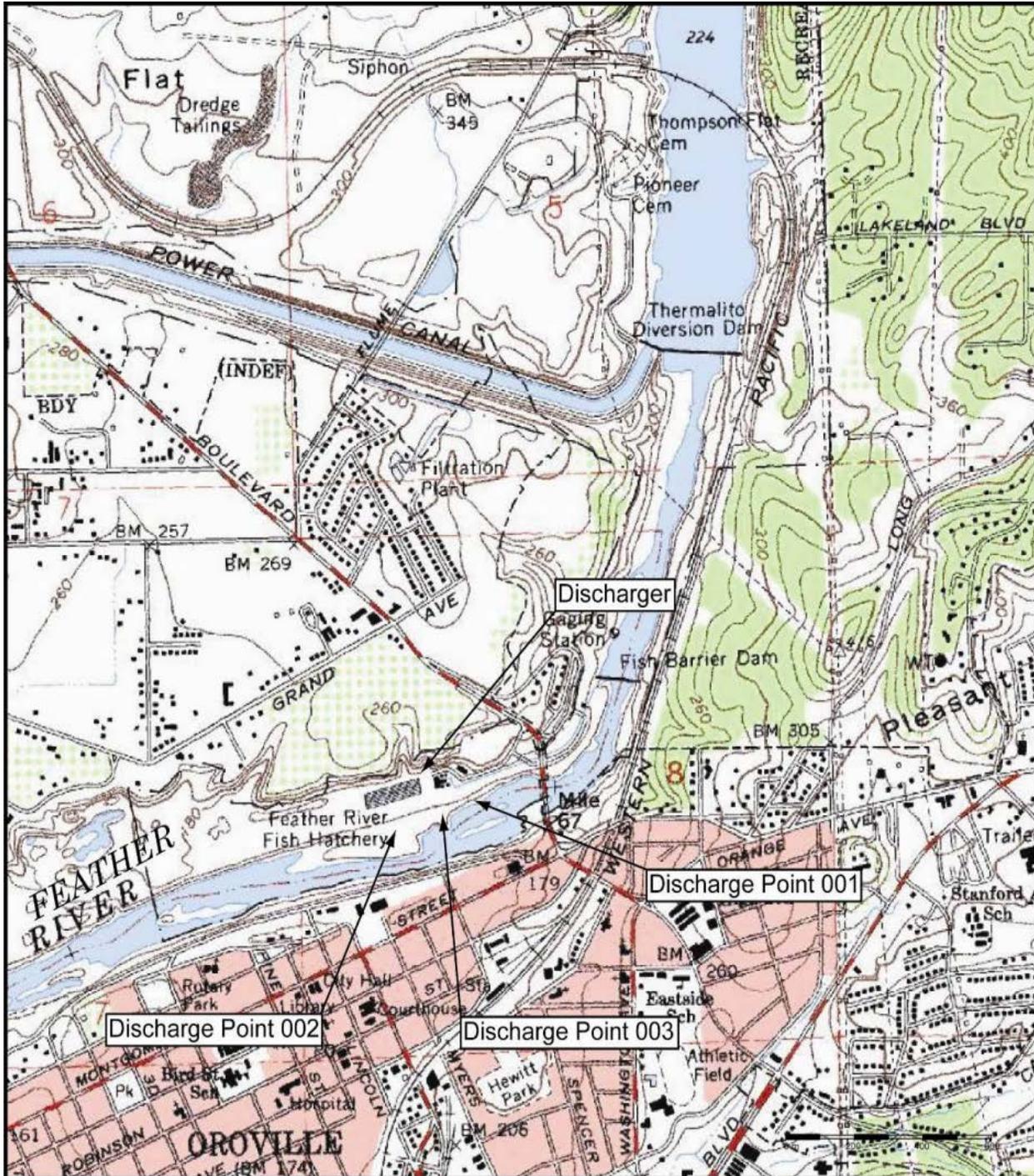
Enclosure: General Order No. R5-2010-0018 (Discharger only)

Distribution List: Mr. David Smith, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco
Mr. Phil Isorena, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento

ATTACHMENT A – FACILITY ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Facility	Feather River Fish Hatchery
Type of Facility	Cold Water Aquaculture Facility, SIC Code 0921
WDID	5A040804001
General Order NOA Enrollee Number	R5-2010-0018-015
Discharger	State of California Department of Fish and Game (Operator) and State of California Department of Water Resources (Facility and Site Owner)
Facility Address	5 Table Mountain Blvd Oroville, CA 95965
Land Owner (Address)	California Department of Water Resources 460 Glenn Oroville, CA 95966 (530) 534-2324
Facility Contact, Title and Phone	Anna Kastner, Fish Hatchery Manager II, 530-538-2222
Authorized Person to Sign and Submit Reports	Anna Kastner, Fish Hatchery Manager II, 530-538-2222
Mailing Address	5 Table Mountain Blvd Oroville, CA 95965
Billing Address	5 Table Mountain Blvd Oroville, CA 95965
Total Weight Produced (Annual)	451,000 lbs
Major or Minor Facility	Minor
Threat to Water Quality	2
Complexity	B
Facility Permitted Flow	71 mgd
Watershed	Sacramento River Basin
Receiving Water	Feather River
Receiving Water Type	Inland surface water

ATTACHMENT B – LOCATION MAP

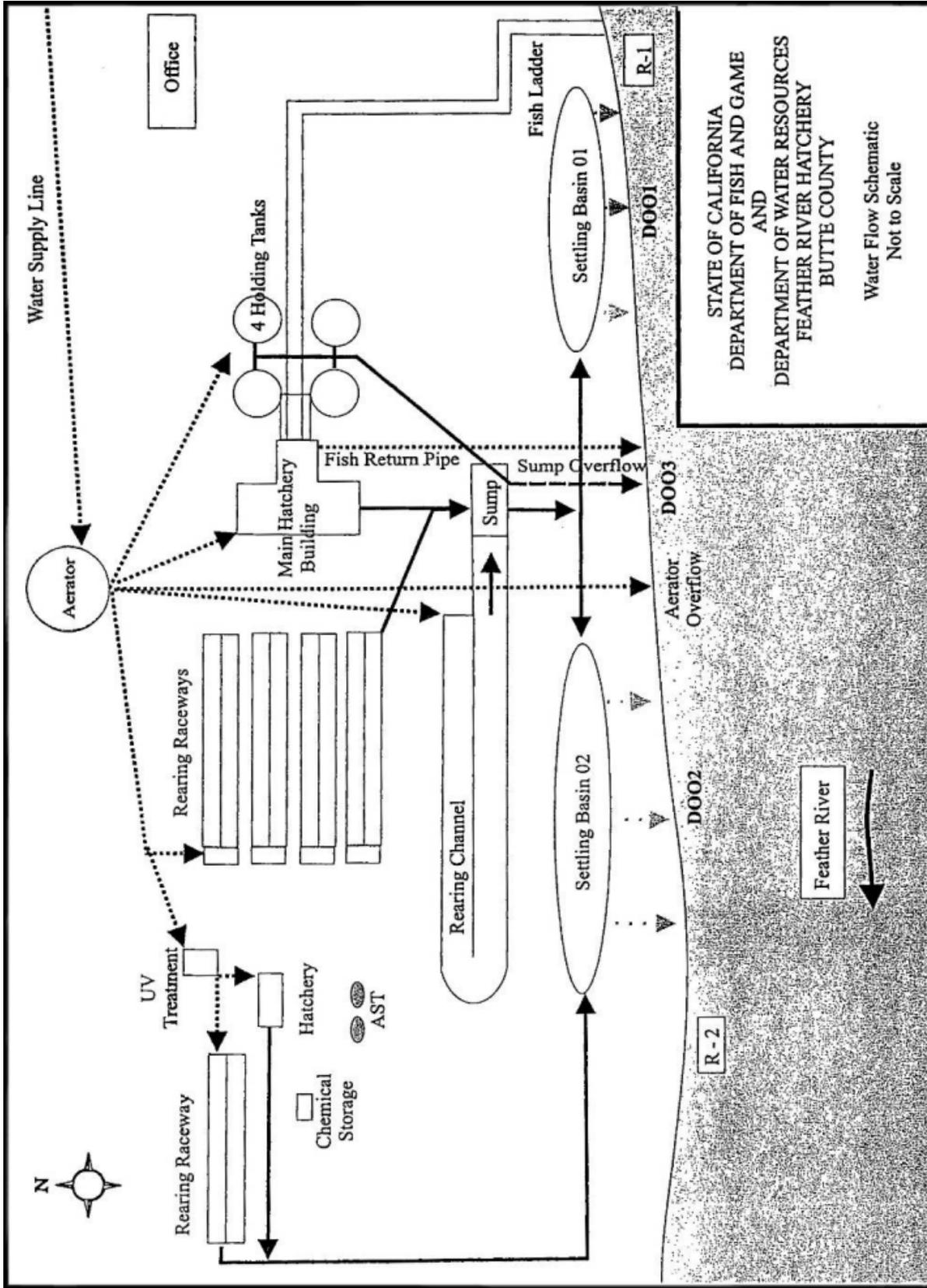


Drawing Reference:
 OROVILLE
 U.S.G.S TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
Topographic Map
 Dated 7/1/1999

SITE LOCATION MAP
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND
 DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
 FEATHER RIVER FISH HATCHERY
 BUTTE COUNTY



ATTACHMENT C – FACILITY SCHEMATIC



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 AND
 DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
 FEATHER RIVER HATCHERY
 BUTTE COUNTY

Water Flow Schematic
 Not to Scale