November 22, 2016

To All Active Permittees – Lake Tahoe Construction General Permit, Board Order No. R6T-2011-0019: Expiring General Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity in the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit, Counties of Alpine, El Dorado, and Placer

This letter is to notify you that the above-cited Lake Tahoe Construction General Permit (Tahoe CGP), Board Order No. R6T-2011-0019 (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/storm_water/docs/tahoe_cgp.pdf) will expire on December 31, 2016, and will be replaced by an updated Tahoe CGP effective on January 1, 2017. In March 2016, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board) adopted Board Order No. R6T-2016-0010 (link at Tahoe CGP), which replaces the current Tahoe CGP. Permittees under Board Order No. R6T-2011-0019 have two options prior to January 1, 2017: 1) request approval for permit termination under Board Order No. R6T-2011-0019 because your project meets the termination requirements of that Order; or 2) recertify your intent to comply with general requirements in the reissued Tahoe CGP as application for continued coverage under Board Order No. R6T-2016-0010. Either option must be completed through the State Water Board’s Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS). A link to SMARTS may be found on the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/. Lahontan Water Board staff recommends to act before December 20, 2016 to allow time to process your recertification and prevent lapses in coverage (e.g., if your request for coverage termination is denied).

Discharges of construction-related pollutants in storm water are prohibited in the absence of a Water Board permit. Failure to terminate your existing permit or recertify your project for coverage under the updated Tahoe CGP before the current Tahoe CGP expires would be in violation of the California Water Code and could subject you to significant civil liability or other enforcement actions.

Enclosed is a summary of the key changes to the Tahoe CGP (Enclosure 1) and SMARTS recertification guidance from the State Water Board (Enclosure 2). To recertify project coverage under the updated Tahoe CGP, the permittee must prepare and upload a QSP Management Plan, which is described in sections VII.B.5. and IX.C.2. of
Board Order No. R6T-2016-0010. Additionally, the project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan must be amended and uploaded to SMARTS to account for the changes summarized in Enclosure 1.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the State Water Board’s Storm Water Help desk (see Enclosure 2) or me at (530) 542-5430 (alan.miller@waterboards.ca.gov).

for
Alan Miller, P.E.
Lahontan Region Storm Water Program Manager
Chief, North Basin Regulatory Unit

Enclosures: 1) Summary of Key Changes
2) SMARTS Recertification Guidance

BA/ma/T: Cover Letter and Key Changes Table aem-ba
File Under: ECM / CAG616002
Enclosure 1

Summary of Key Changes
Construction General Permit for Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit

1. **Attachment C.IV.C.1.a.** - Eliminated the over winter requirement to sample two rain events. Visual inspections are still required as specified in the General Permit.

2. **Attachment C, Section I.H.** - Eliminated the requirement to collect samples outside of active working/business hours (e.g., holidays, weekends). The requirement to visually inspect during daylight hours on any day is still included.

3. **General Permit Section III. and Attachment F** - Basin Plan prohibitions and exemptions have been updated. New prohibitions and exemption criteria, including new exempted low threat discharges, were adopted as amendments to the Basin Plan in 2014.

4. **General Permit Sections VII.B.5. and IX.C.2.** - Added language to require a written Qualified Storm Water Practitioner (QSP) management plan to promote better onsite management by the QSP. There have been problems with QSPs not actively managing SWPPP activities due to lack of attendance at the site or lack of appropriate communication with on-site personnel.

5. **General Permit Sections VII.B.5. and IX.C.2.** - Strengthened language to require documentation of weekly training of site personnel. Training documentation is necessary to ascertain whether the QSP is providing appropriate storm water training to ensure all personnel operate consistent with the SWPPP.
Enclosure 2
Lake Tahoe Construction General Permit Recertification Guidance

Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS)
Storm Water Help Desk: E-mail: Stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov
Phone Number: 866-563-3107
Lake Tahoe CGP Recertification Process

1) LRP logs in.

2) Click on Recertification in main menu.

3) Click on Construction.

4) Click on the Application ID to recertify.

5) Upload the required attachment. Click Upload Attachment and select QSP Management Plan as the attachment file type.
6) Check the three certification statement boxes.

7) Enter the Security Question answer & Password.

8) Click Recertify to complete the process.

9) The discharger or RWQCB staff can verify if the Recertification was complete by going to the NOI attachment tab. A “Recertification COR zip” file is created to document the submittal. The NOI Certified date will also be updated to the date the recertification occurred.