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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

13 March 2013

Ron Tollison, P.E.  
California Department of Transportation  
703 B Street  
Marysville, CA 95901

### NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

#### **WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ, STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING SUT99 (1A432) FEATHER RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT, YUBA COUNTY**

On 19 February 2013, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for construction dewatering. Additional information was received on 22 February 2013. The submittals contain all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order; therefore, the NOI is complete. Based on the information provided in the NOI, the discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under General Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ-0039. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

Caltrans is constructing a highway improvement project on State Route 99 (SR 99) between the SR99/70 Junction (wye) to Sacramento Avenue (KP 23.0/PM 14.3) in Sutter County. Bridge widening over the Feather River and Nelson Slough will include the installation of piles and piers to support roadway construction activities. Water from construction dewatering will be discharged into infiltration basins located adjacent to bridge construction, and within the floodplain near Nicholas, Sutter County; Sections 11 and 12, Township 12 North, Range 27 East of Mount Diablo B&M. This portion of Sutter County is within the Feather River Wildlife Area of the Sacramento River Basin, adjacent to the Sutter By-Pass.

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fourth Edition*, revised October 2011 (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, contains implementation plans and policies for protecting waters of the basin, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Pursuant to §13263(a) of the California Water Code (CWC), waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Bridge widening over the Feather River and adjacent floodplain will include construction dewatering during the installation of piles and pier construction. The span of new bridge will be approximately 1,300 feet and will be supported by two abutments and seven piers with fourteen piles. Each pier will consist of two 7.5-foot diameter water-tight cast in steel shell (CISS) piles. Construction of the CISS piles will involve pile driving with an impact hammer, removal of dirt from within each pile, dewatering, and then installing steel reinforcing and concrete in the piles.

Dewatering will occur as groundwater seepage is encountered during pile construction. An estimated volume of 25,000 gallons of groundwater seepage will be removed from each CISS pile location. Dewatering operations are anticipated to remove approximately 63,000 gallons per day over a 6 to 12 day period. The anticipated discharge to land from dewatering will be up to approximately 0.76 million gallons of neutralized water during this phase of roadway construction. Recovered groundwater will be discharged into nearby infiltration basins located adjacent to the bridge and within the floodplain adjacent to the Feather River.

Because uncured concrete is known to elevate pH levels, neutralization agents will be added to the groundwater as necessary. Groundwater seepage in each of the CISS piles will be tested for pH levels after the concrete seal course has been set. Seepage water accumulated in the open piles will be neutralized, as necessary, to maintain a pH range of 6.5 and pH 8.4 before discharge. The addition of muriatic acid or an equivalent solution to the open piles will be used to maintain the targeted pH range prior to dewatering and discharge to the infiltration basins.

A grab water sample of the dewatering discharge to each infiltration basin will be collected twice per shift (approximately every 4 hours) to ensure pH levels are within the limits listed above. If a grab sample is outside of the designated pH range dewatering will stop immediately, neutralizing agent will be added and mixed, and pH readings will be collected again to verify pH levels prior to restarting dewatering operations. Discharge sampling will follow Caltrans Dewatering Monitoring Plan (EA: 03-1A4321), and the Monitoring and Reporting Program, as part of the attached Order.

The infiltration basins will be regularly monitored for available freeboard and capacity during dewatering operations. Because sandy soils of the flood plain are expected to have a high permeability, discharged water to the infiltration basins is expected to infiltrate within 72 hours. If the basins approach capacity, Caltrans will construct additional infiltration basins and/or utilize temporary water storage tanks.

## FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The General Order and this NOA regulate construction dewatering from the Caltrans SUT99 Feather River Bridge Project to nearby infiltration basins located within the floodplain adjacent to the Feather River and nearby Nelson Slough.

1. Water generated during construction dewatering shall be disposed of as described in the NOI and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Construction dewatering discharge at a location or in a manner different from that described in the NOI is prohibited.



3. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.
4. Analytical results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program.
5. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.
6. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including its monitoring and reporting requirements, and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

If you have any questions regarding this NOA or related reporting requirements, please contact Scott Armstrong at (916) 464-4616 or by email at [sarmstrong@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sarmstrong@waterboards.ca.gov).

  
for PAMELA C. CREEDON  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Enclosures: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ

cc: Mr. Jan Hill, Sutter County Environmental Health Department, Yuba City