
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11 April 2017

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ, STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY, PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC, CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING PROJECTS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (hereafter “Discharger” or PG&E) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) dated 9 February 2017 for discharge of water from various construction dewatering projects located within the jurisdictional boundary of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board). Based on the information presented in the NOI, the discharge of water from construction dewatering projects is consistent with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality 2003-003-DWQ* (General Order).

This letter provides notice that the General Order is applicable to the discharge and is hereby covered under State Water Resources Control Board General Order 2003-0003-DWQ-0166. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge. This Notice of Applicability (NOA) provides authorization for PG&E’s short-term construction dewatering activities within the Central Valley region. This NOA does not provide authorization for other discharges described in the General Order.

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fourth Edition*, revised October 2011, and the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition, revised January 2015* (hereafter Basin Plans), 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 Plans.

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

PG&E operates and maintains hundreds of underground utilities within the Central Valley Water Board’s jurisdictional boundary. As part of operating the underground utility system, regular testing, maintenance, and/or repairs of electrical equipment are required to improve safety, effectiveness, and efficiency. PG&E often encounters groundwater and/or storm water within excavations, which include small pits, boreholes, and small trenches. PG&E pumps the water

out of the excavations into tanks, and then hauls it off site to an appropriate and licensed disposal facility; discharges it into a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) system; or discharges to land with permission from property owners. PG&E expects to conduct approximately 70-small volume construction dewatering projects per year in the Central Valley Region in the following counties:

Alameda ¹	El Dorado	Madera	Plumas	Stanislaus
Alpine	Fresno	Mariposa	Sacramento	Sutter
Amador	Glenn	Merced	San Joaquin	Tehama
Butte	Kern	Modoc	Shasta	Tulare
Calaveras	Kings	Napa ¹	Sierra	Tuolumne
Colusa	Lake	Nevada	Siskiyou ¹	Yolo
Contra Costa ¹	Lassen ¹	Placer	Solano	Yuba

¹ County where regulatory jurisdiction is shared between Regional Board offices. Please contact the Central Valley Water Board to determine whether General Order coverage is applicable under this NOA.

Typical examples of excavation projects that could potentially require dewatering include:

- Corrosion assessments: involves excavation under the pipe to investigate findings of potential corrosion or worn pipes. The investigation areas would be at discrete locations. If the pipe was found to be corroded or damaged, then trenching would be conducted to repair the pipe.
- Pole replacement: involves excavation up to five feet deep.
- Pipe maintenance or replacement work: involves removing and replacing underground piping.
- Utility tie-ins: involves small pit excavation to install tie-ins for new service areas.

Construction dewatering discharge volumes are typically less than 10,000 gallons per day (gpd), however site conditions can influence extraction rates.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

A negative declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act was adopted by the State Water Board with the General Order. The environmental impacts from new discharges authorized by the General Order were found to be less than significant. Mitigation measures were not adopted as a condition of the adoption.

SITE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The General Order and this Notice of Applicability (NOA) regulate the discharge of water to land from construction dewatering conducted by PG&E for projects located in the counties listed above. The following requirements apply for all discharges enrolled under this NOA:

1. Water generated during construction dewatering shall be disposed of as described in the Notice of Intent and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Discharge at a location outside the counties listed above or in a manner different from that described in the Notice of Intent or this Notice of Applicability 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. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the Notice of Applicability is officially terminated.
5. At least 30 days prior to a planned dewatering project within the Central Valley region, PG&E shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing of planned dewatering activities, inclusive of the location (i.e. address or latitude/longitude coordinates), approximate dewatering schedule, duration, and anticipated flow. PG&E may submit a monthly schedule notifying the Central Valley Water Board of multiple projects.
6. PG&E shall notify the Central Valley Water Board within 72 hours of initiating unplanned emergency response activities that include dewatering discharge to land.
7. 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.

Pre-Screening Site Evaluation

For each project, PG&E will conduct a pre-project evaluation to evaluate whether there is a potential to encounter contaminated soil or groundwater. The State Water Board's GeoTracker website or the mobile app, Proximity Scanner, will be used to locate nearby hazardous materials and/or petroleum release sites within 200 feet of each project site. If there is reason to believe that the water is polluted, water samples will be collected by PG&E to characterize the water quality. If the water is polluted, additional monitoring and/or sampling may be required. Water found to contain concentrations of pollutants greater than Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) will not be discharged to land but will be containerized and hauled off site to an appropriate disposal facility.

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent erosion or runoff during land discharges. If there is potential for runoff, wattles will be used to protect the surrounding area, including preventing runoff from entering storm drains. Water will not be discharged within 100 feet of a surface water body. Only low-threat water will be discharged to land.

Generally, the primary pollutant in low-threat discharges is sediment. Only low-threat water will be discharged to land. Each discharge will be filtered through a filter bag and then discharged onto nearby land. The water will flow through a filter bag prior to discharge to land. The filter bag has a very small micron size (1-3 microns), and therefore will significantly reduce sediment concentrations, as well as the flow of discharge to land. Reduced discharge flows will minimize the potential for erosion during discharge. Other constituents will be addressed based on the identification of nearby contaminated sites, known or suspected historical contamination based on land uses within the location or site history, and visual observations.

Representative Monitoring and Reporting Program

PG&E shall submit monthly dewatering progress reports to the Central Valley Water Board summarizing dewatering projects that are covered under this NOA. Reported information shall include:

- Project Name
- Discharge Location (address or latitude/longitude coordinates)
- Results of pre-screening site evaluation
- Date/s of dewatering activities
- Excavation water source (groundwater/stormwater)
- Approximate volume of discharged water (in gallons)
- Description of land application area (current land use, approximate area, perimeter control(s), and proximity to surface water)

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically to the Central Valley Water Board's Sacramento office. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to:

centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov.

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Attention: Compliance/Enforcement Section
PG&E Small/Temporary Dewatering Project
CIWQS Place ID: 834392

ENFORCEMENT

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects that discharge. If the discharge violates the terms and conditions listed, the Central Valley Water Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. Prior to allowing changes to the discharge, or if the method of waste disposal changes from that described in the NOI, you must contact the Central Valley Water Board to determine if submittal of a revised NOI is required.

PG&E will generate the waste subject to the terms and conditions of Water Quality Order 2003-0003-DWQ and will maintain exclusive control over the discharge or disposal. As such, PG&E is primarily responsible for compliance with Water Quality Order 2003-0003-DWQ and this NOA.

Failure to comply with the requirements in the General Order or this NOA could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharges of wastes other than those described in the NOI are prohibited.

ANNUAL FEES AND CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Staff has determined that the multi-location discharge described herein within the Central Valley region is a threat to water quality and complexity rating of 3-A. The annual fee corresponding to a threat to water quality and complexity rating of 3-A is currently \$8,823. The first annual payment was submitted as part of the NOI application. In future years, the fee is due and payable on an annual basis until coverage under the General Order is formally rescinded. To rescind coverage, written notice must be provided if all discharges under this NOA cease so that we may terminate coverage and avoid unnecessary billing.

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Central Valley Water Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of discharges to land under this NOA. Because this NOA covers discharges across the entire Central Valley region, please contact one of the following contacts in our regional offices:

Counties	Compliance Contact	Phone Number	Email Address
Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare, Tuolumne	Warren Gross	(559) 445-5128	warren.gross@waterboards.ca.gov
Alameda, Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Lake, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba	Howard Hold	(916) 464-4679	howard.hold@waterboards.ca.gov
Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama	George Low	(530) 224-3208	george.low@waterboards.ca.gov

PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

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

cc w/o enc: Timothy O'Brien, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento