



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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30 December 2009

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## **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; WET INTEGRATION AND SYSTEM OPERATIONAL READINESS TEST (SORT) PROJECT, SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 1 September 2009 from the Freeport Regional Water Authority (Discharger) for the Wet Integration and System Operational Readiness Test (SORT) Project. Based on the information in the NOI, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters (Low Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Low Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0081-049 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-049 in all future correspondence and documents.

The Low Threat General Order (enclosed) may also be viewed at the following web address: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf). You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Low Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Discharger.

### **CALIFORNIA TOXIC RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING**

The Low Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxic Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxic Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP).

Section 5.3 of the SIP allows "exceptions from meeting the Priority Pollutant criteria/objectives if determined to be necessary to implement control measures..." The Discharger qualified for the SIP exception in Section 5.3 and is not required to conduct Priority Pollutant (CTR constituent) sampling. Dischargers authorized to discharge under this Low Threat General Order who have been granted an exception to the priority pollutant criteria and objectives in

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the SIP, must provide certification by a qualified biologist that the beneficial uses of the receiving water have been restored upon completion of the discharge.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Discharger proposes to pump raw water from the Sacramento River, near the community of Freeport, to the Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant (VSWTP), located northeast of the corner of Florin and Knox Roads, one mile east of Bradshaw Road, in order to test intake and diversion components of the pipeline. The wet integration test, planned for a minimum duration of five days, consist of testing the control VSWTP system's ability to divert water to: 1) the VSWTP only, 2) to VSWTP and Folsom South Canal (FSC), and 3) to the FSC only.

The Discharger proposes to chlorinate the raw water at its system intake facility to eradicate quagga mussel larvae that may be present, and dechlorinate at the VSWTP with sodium bisulfate. The test water will be discharged into a 13.6 million-gallon concrete-lined flushing and settling basin prior to being discharged into Gerber Creek, which is located adjacent to VSWTP. After the system flushing basin is emptied, the SORT, similar to the wet integration test, will be performed for a temporary duration of ten days.

The Discharger proposes to adjust the pH, if necessary, by placing primary and secondary muriatic acid feed points at the flow control outlet and flushing basin inlet.

The Discharger may also add a cationic polymer to maintain turbidity at or below 10 NTUs. Water decanted from the settling basin will then be routed through skid-mounted pressure sand filters, and monitored for total chlorine, pH and turbidity. If treated water does not meet the effluent requirements, it will be re-circulated back into the settling basin for further treatment prior to being discharged into Gerber Creek.

The estimated peak flow rate to Gerber Creek during the wet integration test and SORT will be 7.7 cubic feet per second.

The project proposes to begin on 31 December 2009.

### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

All Dischargers must notify Central Valley Water Board staff 24 hours before the start of each new discharge, as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and when the discharge ceases.

Effluent and receiving water analytical monitoring shall be conducted and the results submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis unless specified otherwise. The Dischargers must submit quarterly reports, as described in Attachment E, Section X, even if there is no discharge or receiving water flow during the reporting quarter, until the Discharger formally requests that coverage under this Order be terminated.

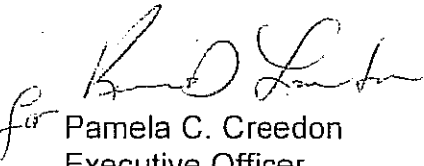
### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be due and payable until the discharge is terminated. The Dischargers must notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing if the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order is no longer necessary, so we may terminate applicability of this Low Threat General Order and avoid additional and unnecessary billing.

**ENFORCEMENT**

Failure to comply with the Low Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. ~~Late reporting and effluent limitation violations are subject to a~~ Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation [California Water Code Section 13385(h) and (i)]. If there is no discharge during a quarterly monitoring period, a report indicating that no discharge occurred must be submitted to avoid the monetary penalties.

All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Spencer Joplin at (916) 464-4660 or [sjoplin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sjoplin@waterboards.ca.gov). Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and requests for termination of coverage under this Order, may be directed to Michael Negrete at (916) 464-4662 or [mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov).

  
for Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: General Order No. R5-2008-0081 (Discharger)

cc: Mr. Dave Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco  
Mr. Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento (via email)  
Regional Manager, Department of Fish & Game, Rancho Cordova