



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region**

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14 January 2010

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0081; VINEYARD SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 22 September 2009 from the Sacramento County Water Agency and Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Inc., (Dischargers) for the Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant 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. R5-2008-0081-054 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0081-054 in all future correspondence and documents.

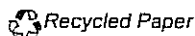
The Low Threat General Order (enclosed) may also be viewed at the following web address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2008-0081.pdf. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order 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 Dischargers.

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 Dischargers qualified for

California Environmental Protection Agency



the SIP exception in Section 5.3 and are 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 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 Dischargers propose to conduct hydrostatic testing of the eleven various components (i.e., chlorine contact tank, homogenizing tank and pipelines) of the newly constructed Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant (VSWT). The VSWT is located northeast of the intersection of Florin Road and Vineyard Road in Sacramento County. Groundwater from an onsite well is the water source for the testing. Each facility/component will be re-tested until completion of a successful hydrostatic test.

The flow for one hydrostatic test of all the components is approximately 5 million gallons a day for a period of 1 to 3 days. All the groundwater used for hydrostatic testing will be contained in three large basins onsite.

The project proposes to begin on 15 January 2010. If necessary, the groundwater will be treated in order to meet the effluent requirements of General Order No. R5-2008-0081, prior to discharging into surface waters. The groundwater from the basins will be discharged directly into Gerber Creek.

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 Dischargers 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. 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.



for Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

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

cc: Mr. Dave Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco
Mr. Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento