



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
**Central Valley Region**  
**Katherine Hart, Chair**

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114  
(916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>



**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

10 November 2011

Jeff Smyly, Water Quality Manager  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
3401 Crow Canyon Road  
San Ramon, CA 94583

CERTIFIED MAIL  
7010 3090 0001 4843 1445

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LIMITED THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0082; PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE TO TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT ALMOND PLANT NO. 2 PROJECT, STANISLAUS COUNTY**

Our office received a Report of Waste Discharge application on 3 October 2011 from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Discharger) for the Gas Transmission Pipeline to Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Almond Plant No. 2 Project. On 23 June 2011, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) approved coverage under the General Order for Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharge to Surface Waters (Low Threat General Order). The project was assigned Low Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0081-099. However due to the flow restrictions in the Low Threat General Order, and in order to complete the project, the Discharger has requested coverage under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order). Based on the application packet and subsequent information submitted by the Discharger, we have determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the Limited Threat General Order.

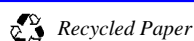
This NOA rescinds the existing coverage identified as General Order No. R5-2008-0081-099, except for purposes of enforcement. The last quarterly monitoring report required under Order No. R5-2008-0081-099 is to cover the time period from 10 October 2011 through 10 November 2011.

This project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0082-024 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995002. Please reference the unique Order No. R5-2008-0082-024 in correspondences and documents.

The Limited 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/r5-2008-0082.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2008-0082.pdf). You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the

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entire document. The Limited Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Limited Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Dischargers.

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

The Limited 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).

Screening levels for the priority pollutants constituents are found in Attachment B of the Limited Threat General Order No. R5-2008-0082. The Discharger obtained groundwater samples from three existing TID groundwater monitoring wells located near the proposed gas pipeline. Review of the monitoring data analytical results in comparison to the screening values showed no reasonable potential to impact the receiving water.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project consists of the installation of 1.8 miles of 24-inch pipeline extending PG&E Gas Line-215 along Prune Avenue, easterly of Sycamore Avenue and then northerly towards the San Joaquin River within the Patterson Irrigation District (PID) service area, and the installation of 11.61 miles of 16-inch pipeline that will connect to the Almond Power Plant No. 2. The Discharger is proposing to discharge groundwater associated with the dewatering activities for the placement of thirteen miles of gas pipeline, into TID and PID irrigation canal systems. After dewatering activities are complete, surface water from both TID and PID will be used for the hydrostatic testing of the newly constructed pipeline and discharged back into the same canal systems, therefore no treatment of the hydrostatic test waters is currently planned. Groundwater will be placed in Baker Tanks and treated as necessary to meet the effluent requirements found in the Limited Threat General Order R5-2008-0082 prior to discharging into either PID or TID's irrigation canal systems. The project will be six months in duration with dewatering activities to be intermittent. The duration of the hydrostatic test is estimated to be from one to three months. Groundwater flows are not expected to exceed 0.25 million gallons daily, however the maximum flow of one million gallons daily is estimated for the discharge of the hydrostatic water. TID and PID irrigation canal systems are both tributary to the San Joaquin River.

### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff: 1) 24 hours before the start of each new discharge, 2) as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and 3) when the discharge ceases. The Discharger 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. Monthly monitoring reports required by this Order shall be submitted beginning with the November 2011 report. The Discharger must comply with the following sections contained in Attachment E, Monitoring and Reporting Program of the Limited Threat General Order;

- I. General Monitoring Provisions,
- II. Monitoring Locations,
  
- IV. Effluent Monitoring Requirements
  - A. Monitoring Location EFF-001 (Table E-2),
- V. Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Requirements, and
- X. Reporting Requirements

The other sections not identified above do not apply to this discharge.

### **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 submitted until the discharge is terminated. To terminate coverage under the Low Threat General Order, the Dischargers must submit written notification to the Central Valley Water Board that the discharge regulated by this Limited Threat General Order has ceased and is no longer necessary. If a timely written request is not received, then the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

Failure to comply with the Limited Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which may include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation. Late reports may be subject to an MMP of \$3,000 for each period of 30 days late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly monitoring period, the Dischargers must still submit a quarterly report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

### **COMMUNICATION**

All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Victor Vasquez of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Compliance and Enforcement Unit. Mr. Vasquez can be reached at (916) 464-4623 or [vvasquez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:vvasquez@waterboards.ca.gov).

Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and written notification for termination of coverage under this Order, shall be directed to Mike Negrete of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Permitting Unit. Mr. Negrete can be reached at (916) 464-4662 or [mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mnegrete@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original Signed By Kenneth D. Landau for*  
Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: General Order No. R5-2008-0082 (Discharger only)

Jeff Smyly, Water Quality Manager  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Gas Transmission Pipeline  
Turlock Irrigation District Almond Plant No. 2 Project

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10 November 2011

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