

## ATTACHMENT J

### DEWATERING REQUIREMENTS

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED  
WITH CONSTRUCTION AND LAND DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES  
(GENERAL PERMIT)

#### A. AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING DISCHARGES

- A.1. Dischargers with dewatering activities subject to a separate NPDES permit for dewatering activities are not subject to the provisions in this Attachment, and shall obtain separate NPDES coverage as required by the State or Regional Water Board. Dischargers shall include in its Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), the separate NPDES permit coverage it holds for dewatering discharges.
- A.2. Dewatering discharges authorized by this General Permit include mechanical pumping or syphoning of non-potable water from sources including, but not limited to: excavations, trenches, foundations, vaults, groundwater removal specifically related to the construction activities, and/or water collected in impoundments (e.g., ponds, puddles, low points on the active site, or other similar accumulation points).
- A.3. This General Permit does not limit the State or Regional Water Boards' authority to modify dewatering discharge requirements upon providing written notice to the discharger, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Adding constituents to be monitored;
  - b. Adding or modifying frequency of monitoring;
  - c. Adding or modifying sampling locations;
  - d. Requiring all or part of the discharge to be treated by an active treatment system (in accordance with Attachment F) prior to discharge; and/or
  - e. Revoking authorization of dewatering dischargers under this General Permit and requiring the discharger to obtain different NPDES permit coverage for dewatering discharges to waters of the United States.

#### B. GENERAL DEWATERING DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

- B.1. Dischargers shall comply with the following dewatering discharge requirements:
  - a. The discharge complies with receiving water limitations in Section IV.D of this General Permit's Order;

- b. The discharge is absent of pollutants in quantities that threaten to cause pollution or a nuisance<sup>1</sup>;
- c. The dewatering activity takes place in an area without known (including, but not limited to information from: Geotracker, local permitting authorities, Water Boards, etc.) soil and/or groundwater contamination where that contamination could cause an exceedance of receiving water limitations;
- d. The discharger shall utilize outlet structures that withdraw water from the surface when conducting dewatering activity from sediment basins or similar impoundments, unless infeasible; and
- e. The discharger shall cease discharge if necessary, as follows:
  - i. Through an automated sampling device capable of ceasing the discharge if a single sample concentration/level exceeds the numeric action level(s); or
  - ii. By a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) or trained delegate who is present during the operation of the mechanical pumping and/or syphoning of the dewatering activity and is able to halt dewatering if a numeric action level is exceeded for a single sample.

### **C. DEWATERING DISCHARGE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

- C.1. The discharge shall be analyzed for pH and turbidity at the discharge location within the first hour of discharge and daily for continuous dewatering discharges. Each sample must instantaneously comply with the numerical action levels for pH (within 6.5 – 8.5 standard pH units) and turbidity (250 nephelometric turbidity units);
- C.2. Dewatering discharge(s) exceeding the numeric action levels for pH and turbidity shall immediately cease until the dewatering discharge complies with the requirements in Sections B.1.a through e and D.5 and 6.

### **D. DEWATERING DISCHARGE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- D.1. At least 24 hours prior to the beginning of a dewatering discharge, the discharger shall notify the applicable Regional Water Board stormwater staff via email<sup>2</sup> of the anticipated dewatering discharge.
- D.2. The discharger shall notify the corresponding Regional Water Board and the applicable municipal separate storm sewer system within 24 hours of a discharge occurring if an exception to the requirement to cease discharge, as outlined in Section B.1.e, is necessary to protect human life and health or prevent severe property damage.

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<sup>1</sup> 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 131.12, and State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16.

<sup>2</sup> Regional Water Board stormwater staff contacts listed in Attachment C of this General Permit.

- D.3. The Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) shall update the site-specific SWPPP on-site at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of a dewatering discharge and upload the amended SWPPP to SMARTS within 14 days with current information required in Section D.4 below, if necessary. The revised SWPPP shall be uploaded as part of a Change of Information through SMARTS.
- D.4. The QSD shall include the following site-specific SWPPP updates to address dewatering discharges:
- a. On-site BMPs that are selected and implemented:
    - i. To prevent the dewatering discharge from contacting construction materials or equipment;
    - ii. That do not use waters of the United States as part of the treatment area, at all areas or points where dewatering is discharged; and
    - iii. To decelerate the velocity of dewatering discharge (e.g., check dams, sediment traps, riprap, and grouted riprap at outlets);
  - b. Cleaning and maintenance plan for all dewatering devices and filter media when the pressure equals or exceeds the manufacturer's specifications (if applicable);
  - c. Site-specific dewatering sampling protocols used to comply with requirements in Section B.1; and
  - d. A site map depicting the dewatering activity discharge area location(s).
- D.5. The discharger shall enter results of all numeric action level (e.g., turbidity and pH) exceedances through SMARTS within 10 days of the field measurements demonstrating the exceedance.
- D.6. The QSD shall revise the SWPPP to incorporate immediate corrective actions to prevent further exceedances of the numeric action levels for pH and turbidity, within 10 days of the exceedance.