

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**TENTATIVE ORDER No. R2-2013-00XX**

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DEVIL'S SLIDE TUNNEL PROJECT  
SAN MATEO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS** the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter "Regional Water Board"), finds that:

1. The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) owns and operates State Route 1 and the surrounding right of way. CalTrans constructed two tunnels through the mountains between the community of Montara and City of Pacifica to bypass a geologically unstable stretch of State Route 1 known as Devil's Slide. CalTrans constructed the tunnels by blasting rock, removing debris, and fortifying the rock walls.

During the construction, a large amount of groundwater was released from the surrounding rock. The groundwater could have come into contact with construction-related pollutants, including concrete, sediment, and hydrocarbons. This groundwater was collected in a sump and treated prior to discharge to the Pacific Ocean. The treatment processes included settling and clarification, pH adjustment with sulfuric acid and ferrous sulfate, flocculation with alum, and filtration through activated-carbon.

2. Prior to this work on September 14, 2011, the Regional Water Board issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0038831 to Caltrans through Order No. R2-2011-0056. The order permitted one million gallons per day of treated groundwater to be discharged into the Pacific Ocean at two discharge locations, Discharge Point 001 and Discharge Point 002. Discharge Point 001 consisted of up to 500,000 gallons per day of treated groundwater, comingled with construction-related materials (including dirt, oil, and cement). Discharge Point 002 consisted of up to 500,000 gallons per day of post-construction groundwater captured by a new tunnel drainage system.
3. In late 2011, CalTrans completed construction activities and stopped discharging treated groundwater associated with construction activities at Discharge Point 001.
4. Discharges of post-construction groundwater at Discharge Point 002 continued through 2012. One potential concern in this discharge was elevation of pH from the curing of concrete. Provision VI.C.3 of Order No. R2-2011-0056 allows post-construction discharges at Discharge Point 002 not to be subject to the permit requirements if monitoring data shows compliance with all effluent limitations for a

minimum of one year. On November 28, 2012, CalTrans submitted data showing compliance with limitations, including the limits for pH. The Executive Officer concurred that the requirements for termination were met on December 31, 2012.

5. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13389, rescissions of waste discharge requirements are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
6. The Regional Water Board notified CalTrans, and other interested agencies and persons, of its intent to rescind these waste discharge requirements and provided an opportunity to submit written comments and participate in a public hearing.
7. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the rescission of the waste discharge requirements.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to the Clean Water Act and Division 7 of the California Water Code and the regulations, plans, and policies adopted thereunder, that, except for enforcement purposes, effective immediately, Order No. R2-2011-0056 (NPDES Permit No. CA0038831) is rescinded.

I, Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region, on **DATE**.

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Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer