Fact Sheet #7

Watershed-Based Permitting Case Study: Final Permit

Discharges of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Industrial Activities and Maintenance Dredging at Marinas in the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit El Dorado and Placer Counties

NPDES General Permit No. CAG616003 Board Order No. 6-00-36

Watershed
Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit

Permitting Authority
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6a)

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Permit Information
www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/files/00-03.pdf

Date Issued
May 10, 2000

Background

- Several of the marinas in the Lake Tahoe Basin were regulated by both the NPDES General Industrial Activities Storm Water Permit and individual Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)[1] issued by the Regional Board.
- Complying with two separate but similar permits and their respective monitoring and reporting requirements had been complicated and costly for most marina operators.

Permit Type

General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Industrial Activities and Maintenance Dredging at Marinas in the Lake Tahoe Basin Hydrologic Unit.

Permitting Strategy

- Developed to combine the requirements and monitoring needs of each of the previous existing permits into one permit that should be more manageable for Regional Board staff and the regulated marina operators.
- Regulates potential pollutant discharges at the marina including storm water runoff, waste from maintenance activities, vessel sewage, bilge water wastes, and pollutants associated with maintenance dredging.

Permit Overview

- Marina operators must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and an annual fee to the Lahonton Regional Board.
- Marina operators are required to comply with the water quality standards outlined in the Lake Tahoe Basin Plan and amendments[2].

[1] As per the state's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, any person discharging or proposing discharge within a region is required to apply for and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements. They can be adopted for individual or general permits. These requirements can be waived by the Regional Board. WDRs are in addition to NPDES requirements where applicable.

[2] Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahonton Region, North and South Basins. Lahonton Regional Control Board. 10/94.

Permit Limits

- The Basin Plan contains numeric effluent limitations for pollutants in storm water (e.g., total nitrogen, total phosphorus, turbidity, grease/oil, total iron) and requires a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) as well.

Parameter	Effluent Limits for Discharge to:	
	Land Treatment Systems	Collection Systems and Surface Waters
Total Nitrogen	5 mg/L (as N)	0.5 mg/L (as N)
Total Phosphorus	1 mg/L (as P)	0.1 mg/L (as P)
Total Iron	4 mg/L	0.5 mg/L
Turbidity	200 NTU	20 NTU
Suspended Solids	—	50 mg/L
Grease and Oil	40 mg/L	2 mg/L

- Must comply with existing WDRs that require marinas to regulate point sources, maintain a vessel pumpout facility, and install best management practices (BMPs) to treat runoff from a 20-year, 1-hour design storm from all impervious surfaces.

Monitoring Requirements

- Facilities were required to develop a Monitoring and Reporting Program by June 15, 2000, under Section 13267 of the California Water Code.
- Required to monitor the runoff discharging from the facility and inspect BMPs installed.

Special Conditions

- None.

Measures of Success

- All 12 Lake Tahoe, California-side marinas are permitted and have installed fixed or portable sewage pump-outs, depending on marina size.
- Monitoring and reporting requirements provide data about the presence and magnitude of gasoline constituents at marinas and sediment and nutrient in stormwater runoff.
- Allows a streamlined permitting process for dredging projects
- Annual Reports provide Regional Board with information regarding fueling practices, sewage pump-out volumes, fertilizer application, irrigation practices, and motorized watercraft usage.
- Reduces time and resources Regional Board staff and dischargers must commit to the program because one permit has replaced two permits.

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