

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100, Redding, CA 96002

PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements

for

CALPINE SISKIYOU GEOTHERMAL PARTNERS, L.P., AND
CPN TELEPHONE FLAT, INC., AND
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE AND
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GLASS MOUNTAIN UNIT GEOTHERMAL
EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
SISKIYOU COUNTY

Calpine Siskiyou Geothermal Partners, L.P., and CPN Telephone Flat, Inc., submitted a Report of Waste Discharge requesting a revision of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for a discharge of waste associated with the drilling and flow testing of new geothermal wells in the Glass Mountain area of the Medicine Lake Highlands. The WDRs were initially considered at the 5 May 2006 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) meeting, at which time testimony was heard from staff, the Discharger and interested parties. The Central Valley Water Board continued the matter and requested staff consider revisions to the WDRs in the areas of financial assurance, the use of steel tanks for containment of acidified geothermal fluids resulting from formation stimulation, placement of monitoring wells, and elimination of subgrade piping used to convey geothermal fluid from wells to sumps.

In addition to testing new wells, the Discharger proposes to flow test some of the existing wells in the Telephone Flat area and to use acid for "*formation stimulation*." This Order regulates discharges associated with the drilling and testing of geothermal wells including land clearing, well pad construction, sump construction, fluids discharged to sumps, and aboveground transfer of geothermal fluid in temporary pipelines from wells to sumps or injection wells. This Order prohibits the discharge of injection fluids, drilling mud, spent acids used for permeability enhancement, petroleum products, or associated wastewater to land other than to tanks and sumps designed for their containment. The requirements cover the design, construction, and operation of the sumps including specifications for closure at the completion of the exploration activities. Re-injection of geothermal fluids will be to geothermal wells approved for this purpose by U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. BLM would review any proposal for formation stimulation by well acid operations or injection under a "*sundry notice*" pursuant to 43 CFR 3261.22 and would adopt stipulations as necessary.

The hearing on this matter scheduled for 22 September 2006 has been rescheduled to the Central Valley Water Board Meeting of 27 October 2006. The written comment period for this agenda item ended on 8 September 2006 and no more written comments will be accepted. Interested persons will have an opportunity to make oral comments at the 27 October 2006

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meeting. Revisions made as a result of the comment period are shown in the WDRs in redline/strikeout. Documents relevant to this matter will be available by 13 October 2006 from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/tentative/>. After 13 October 2006, the proposed item and related documents may be inspected and copied at the Central Valley Water Board's office at 415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100, Redding, California, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Water Control Board meeting, which is scheduled for:

DATE: 27 October 2006
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Water Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Staff of Central Valley Water Board
- Calpine Siskiyou Geothermal Partners, L.P., and CPN Telephone Flat, Inc.
- Pit River Tribe
- Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

Only designated parties will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to introduce exhibits; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. All other persons wishing to testify or provide oral comments are interested persons and not designated parties. Such interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **20 October 2006**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is directly affected by the discharge.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Central Valley Water Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross-examination will be limited in time by the Central Valley Water Board Chair.

The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and is available upon request. Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_laws/index.html. Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Central Valley Water Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/board_meetings/mtgprocd.html or by contacting any

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one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 464-4804.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 464-4804 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

James C. Pedri, P.E.
Assistant Executive Officer

5 October 2006

JCP: