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**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

18 June 2021

Jesse Hampton  
Calaveras County Water District  
P.O. Box 846  
San Andreas, California 95249

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7020-1810-0002-0569-0098**

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY**

GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS  
ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
FOR  
CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
SOUTHWORTH RANCH ESTATES WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
CALAVERAS COUNTY

On 2 July 2020, the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD, hereafter Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for Southworth Ranch Estates Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) requesting to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order). This Notice of Applicability (NOA) provides notice that the General Order is applicable to the site as described below. You are hereby assigned Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5357 for the discharge. After Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 90-258 has been rescinded, coverage under General Order 2014-0153-DWQ will become effective. A copy of the [General Order](#) is enclosed and also available at:

([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2014/wqo2014\\_0153\\_dwq.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf))

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments, which describe mandatory discharge and monitoring requirements. The General Order contains operational and reporting requirements by wastewater system type. Sampling, monitoring, and reporting requirements applicable to your treatment and disposal methods must be completed in accordance with the appropriate treatment system sections of the General Order and the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5357. The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements that exist in the General Order

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KARL E. LONGLEY SCD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)

and this NOA.

### EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The WWTF is located at 7466 Leslie Court, Valley Springs, in the community of Southworth Ranch Estates approximately three miles southwest of Burson and seven miles west of Valley Springs in Calaveras County, as shown on Attachment A, which is incorporated herein. The WWTF provides wastewater treatment and disposal service to Southworth Ranch Estates development, which is comprised of approximately sixty single family residential properties. The Discharger owns and is responsible for operation and maintenance of the sewer collection system, treatment system, effluent storage, and land application areas (LAAs).

Wastewater is collected, and initially treated via residential septic tanks. The decant wastewater from residential septic tanks is conveyed to the WWTF for further treatment and disposal. The WWTF consists of recirculation filters and tanks, a chlorine contact basin (disinfection will be eliminated, see attached Memorandum), an effluent storage pond, 6.7 acres of LAAs, and a tailwater control system. When constructed in 1990, the WWTF was designed for an average flow of 16,000 gallons per day (gpd). The site plan and process schematic are shown on Attachments B and C, respectively, which are incorporated herein.

### SITE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger shall comply with all applicable sections in the General Order, including:

1. Requirements A. Prohibitions
2. Requirements B.1.a.

The Discharger shall comply with the following flow limit: The effluent discharged to the storage pond shall not exceed 16,000 gpd as an annual average.

3. Requirements B.1.b. through B.1.l

For Section B.1.l, the Discharger shall comply with the following setback requirements listed in in Table 3 of the General Order:

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir
Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System	150 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.	5 ft.	200 ft.
LAAs	150 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	200 ft.
Impoundment	150 ft.	150 ft.	150 ft.	50 ft.	200 ft.

4. Requirements B.2 Septic Systems

5. Requirements B.5 Pond Systems
6. Requirements B.7 Land Application Systems
7. Requirements B.8 Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal
8. Requirements C. Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations
9. Requirements D. Effluent Limitations

D.1.a. Effluent discharged to the LAAs shall not exceed BOD<sub>5</sub> of 40 mg/L as a monthly average and 80 mg/L as a daily maximum.

10. Provision E.2 and E.3

#### MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Upon activation of this NOA, the Discharger shall comply with MRP WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5357, which is incorporated herein.

#### ENFORCEMENT

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the discharge. Discharge of wastes other than those described in this NOA is prohibited. Prior to allowing changes to the wastewater strength, generation rate, or to the method of waste disposal, you must contact the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) to determine if submittal of a RWD is required.

The Discharger generates the waste subject to the terms and conditions of Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5357 and maintains exclusive control over the discharge. As such, the Discharger is primarily responsible for compliance with this NOA, MRP, and General Order, with all attachments. Failure to comply with the requirements in the General Order or this NOA could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

#### DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to:

[centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov)

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: Southworth Ranch Estates Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Program: Non-15 Compliance  
Order: WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5357  
CIWQS Place ID: CW- 258004

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
ECM Mailroom  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

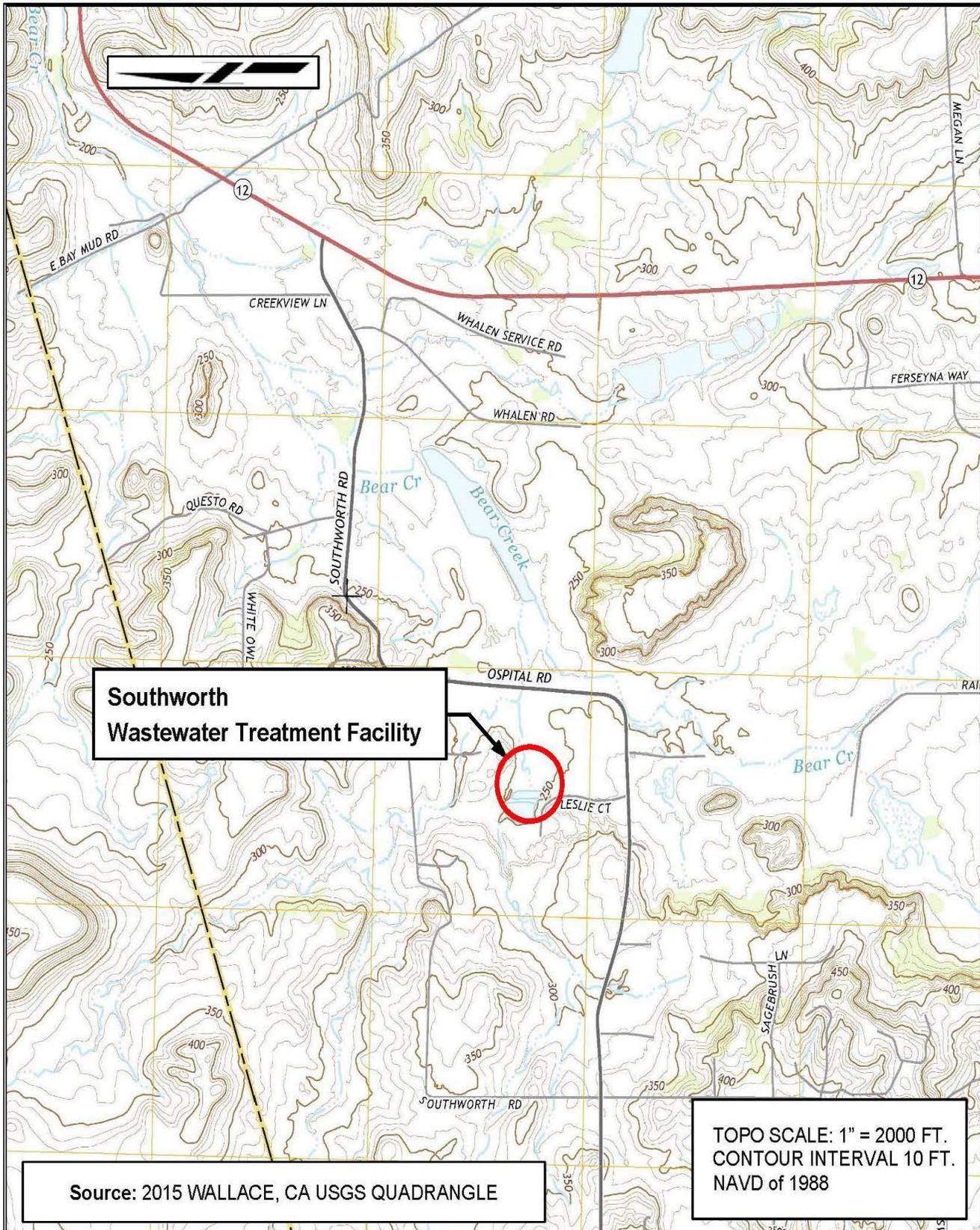
Now that the NOA has been issued, the Central Valley Water Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Kenny Croyle is your new point of contact for any questions about the General Order. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Kenny will direct you to the appropriate Permitting section staff. You may contact Kenny at (916) 464-4676 or at [kenny.croyle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kenny.croyle@waterboards.ca.gov).



for Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

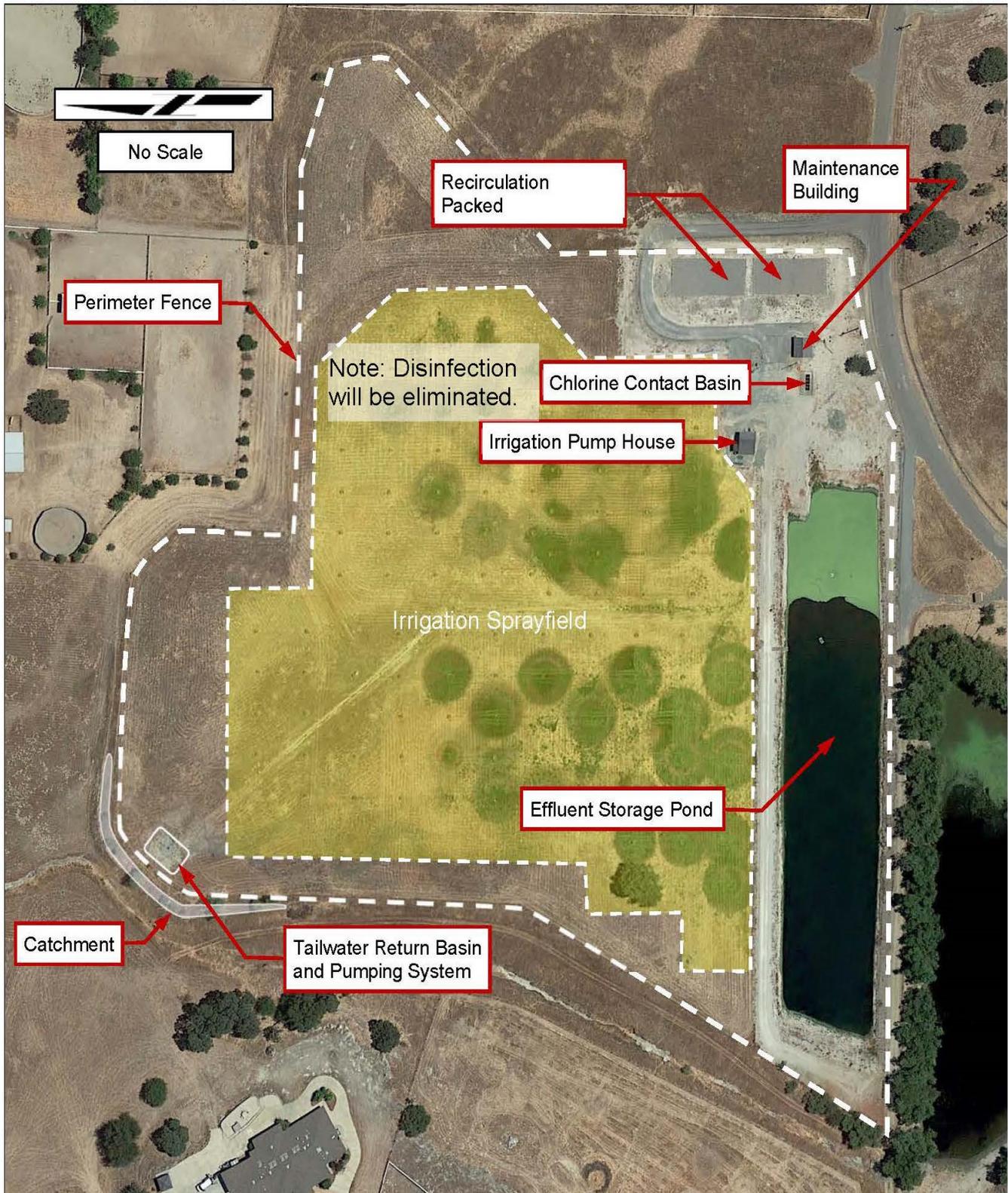
Enclosures : Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
Monitoring and Reporting Program WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5357  
Attachment A, Site Location Map  
Attachment B, Site Plan  
Attachment C, Process Schematic  
Memorandum

cc w/out enc: Brian Moss, Calaveras County Environmental Health Department  
Debbie Webster, CVCWA (via email)  
David Lancaster, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento (via email)  
Laurel Warddrip, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento (via email)  
Howard Hold, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova (via email)



Drawing Reference:  
CCWD RWD  
20 July 2020

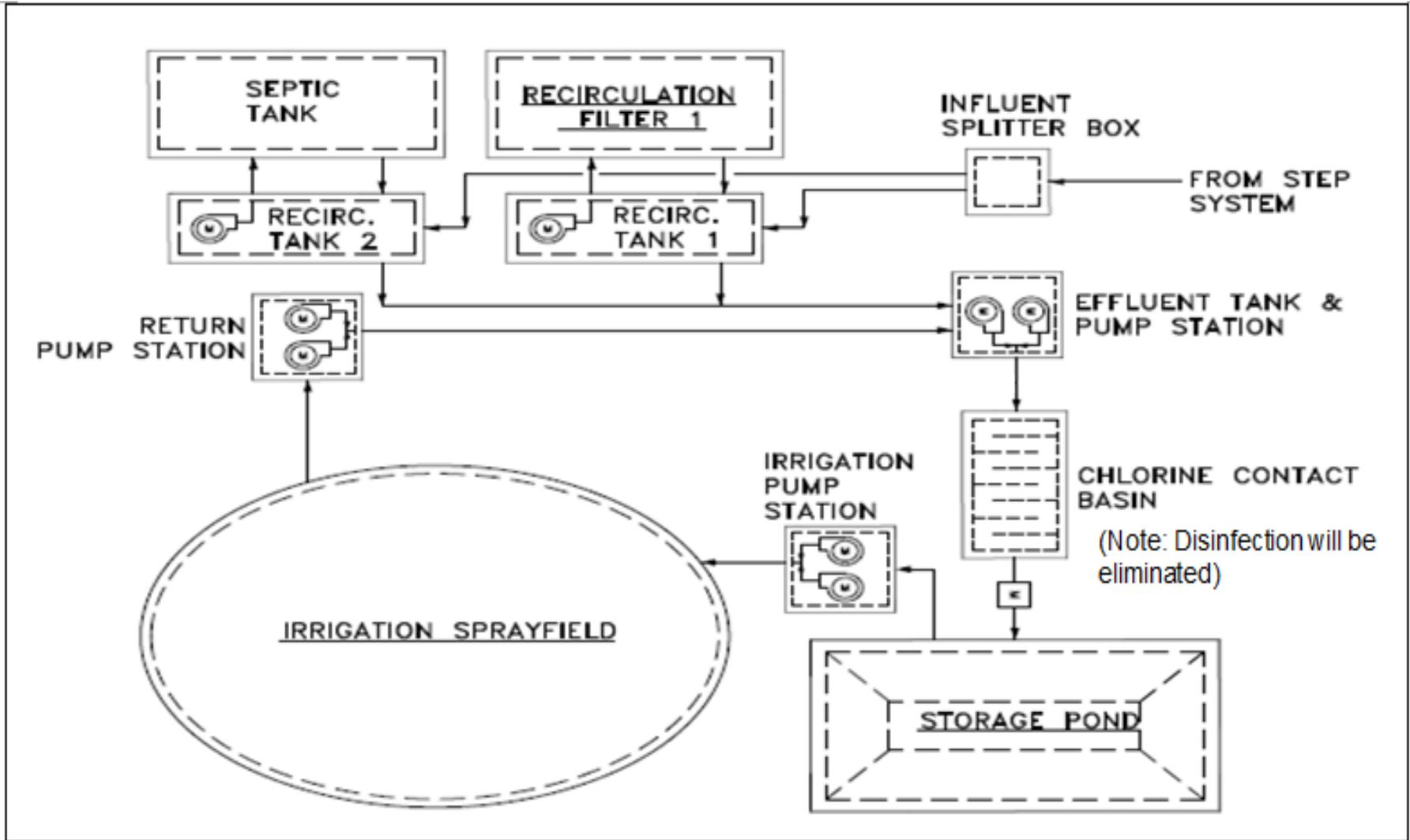
**LOCATION MAP  
CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
SOUTHWORTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
CALAVERAS COUNTY**



Drawing Reference:  
CCWD RWD  
20 July 2020

**SITE PLAN**

**CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**SOUTHWORTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**  
**CALAVERAS COUNTY**



Drawing Reference:  
CCWD RWD  
20 July 2020

**PROCESS SCHEMATIC**  
**CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**SOUTHWORTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**  
**CALAVERAS COUNTY**

ATTACHMENT C

**TO:** Robert Busby  
Supervising Engineering Geologist

**FROM:** Scott Armstrong  
Senior Engineering Geologist

Lixin Fu  
Water Resource Control Engineer

**DATE:** 10 June 2021

**APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTHWORTH RANCH ESTATES WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; CALAVERAS COUNTY**

On 2 July 2020, the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD, hereafter Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for Southworth Ranch Estates Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) requesting to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order). This memorandum provides a summary of the applicability of this discharge for coverage under the General Order.

**REGULATORY BACKGROUND**

WDRs 90-258, adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 28 September 1990, prescribes requirements for the Calaveras County Water District Southworth Ranch Estates WWTF, and allows a 30-day average dry weather discharge flow of 16,500 gallons per day (gpd). WDRs Order 90-258 will be rescinded at an upcoming Central Valley Water Board meeting. Effective upon rescission of Order 90-258, the discharge described in this NOA shall be regulated pursuant to the General Order.

**EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

The WWTF is located at 7466 Leslie Court, Valley Springs, in Calaveras County (Section T04N, R09E, Section 35, MDB&M). The Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) is 048-075-010 and 048-075-007.

The service area of the WWTF is approximately 410 acres. Each customer connection includes a 1,250-gallon, two-chamber septic tank and pump system. Customer septic systems are installed by the Discharger or by contractor per CCWD Standards and inspected by the CCWD prior to acceptance. As of late 2019, the WWTF provided treatment for 57 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) comprised of residential services. Buildout for the community is estimated at 64 connections. Influent wastewater from the residential community is biologically stabilized by two recirculation packed bed filters (RPBF). These filters include recirculation tanks, pump station, and flow splitter structure. Minimum recirculation rate is five to one versus

influent rate. Treated wastewater from RPBFB was disinfected using liquid sodium hypochlorite via a 2,000-gallon chlorine contact basin then stored at the effluent storage pond. Total effluent storage capacity is approximately 9.0 acre-feet, excluding two feet of freeboard and dead pool volume. Disposal of effluent is accomplished by a combination of pond evaporation and land irrigation with spray irrigation equipment. There are no groundwater monitoring wells at the WWTF.

The WWTF contains a tailwater control system, including a tailwater collection basin, a pump system, and a levee in the downgradient of LAAs as shown in Attachment B. The tailwater collection basin has a surface area of 144 square feet (12 feet by 12 feet). The tailwater in the basin could be returned to the effluent storage pond and recycled to the LAAs.

Average flow measured from 2015 through 2019 ranged from 9,000 to 14,200 gallons per day (gpd) as an annual average flow. Based on the 2015 through 2019 monthly monitoring reports, the effluent had an average of BOD5 concentration of 2.0 mg/L. MRP 90-258 does not contain monitoring requirements for salinity, nitrate and total kjeldahl nitrogen concentrations. Therefore, there are no effluent data for these constituents. MRP WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5357 will include monitoring requirements for these constituents.

The existing WDRs contains requirements for disinfection and an effluent limit on total coliform. Because the effluent is discharged to the LAAs for disposal, this is not considered beneficial use. In addition, the entire WWTF is fenced from public access, therefore disinfection may not be necessary since chlorine disinfection could contribute to salinity and cause disinfection by-product pollution in groundwater. The Discharger prefers to discontinue use of sodium hypochlorite for disinfection. Therefore, this NOA does not include effluent limit and monitoring requirements for total coliform.

Accumulated solids in residential septic tanks, along with tank and pump maintenance is responsibility of the Discharger. When required, typically every two to three years, solids from the customer septic tanks are removed and transported to La Contenta WWTF, which is regulated under WDRs Order R5-2013-0133-01.

The WWTF is equipped with computer telemetry system and radio for calling out alarm conditions. The telemetry system is equipped with an uninterruptible power supply to permit the telemetry and radio's operation in the event of power failure.

Privately owned groundwater wells provide drinking water to the residential homes in the Southworth Ranch Estates community. The Discharger has no information concerning quality of the groundwater supply.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated portions of the Facility property Zone A "Special Flood Hazard Area" and Zone X "Minimal Flood Hazard Area".

## SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

The Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. The Basin Plan amendments were conditionally approved by the

State Water Board on 16 October 2019 (Resolution 2019-0057) and by the Office of Administrative Law on 15 January 2020 (OAL Matter No. 2019-1203-03).

For nitrate, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take on alternate compliance approaches that involve providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. Dischargers may comply with the new nitrate program either individually or collectively with other dischargers. For the Nitrate Control Program, the facility falls within Non-Prioritized Groundwater Basins. Notices to Comply for Non-Prioritized Basins will be issued within two to four years after the effective date of the Nitrate Control Program.

For salinity, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements will instead need to meet performance-based requirements and participate in a basin-wide effort to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. Dischargers received a Notice to Comply with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program within one year of 17 January 2020, the effective date of the amendments. Upon receipt of the Notice to Comply, the discharger had no more than six months to inform the Central Valley Water Board of their choice between Option 1 (Conservative Option for Salt Permitting) or Option 2 (Alternative Option for Salt Permitting).

As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this Order to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met. This order may be amended or modified to incorporate newly applicable requirements. More information regarding this regulatory planning process can be found on the [Central Valley Water Board CV-SALTS website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity)).