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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 March 2022

Candi Bingham  
River Pines Public Utility District  
22900 Canyon Ave  
P.O Box 70  
River Pines, CA 95675

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7021-0950-0000-9918-5051**

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY**

GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS  
ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
FOR  
RIVER PINES PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT  
RIVER PINES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
AMADOR COUNTY

On 29 March 2021, the Amador Water Agency (AWA, operator) on behalf of River Pines Public Utility District (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for the River Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), 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 Notice of Applicability (NOA) provides notice that the General Order is applicable to the WWTP as described below. You are hereby assigned Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5362 for the discharge. After Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 85-291 has been rescinded, coverage under General Order 2014-0153-DWQ will become effective.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-R5362. The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements that exist in the General Order

and this NOA.

### EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The WWTP is located at 14450 Emigrant Trail, River Pines in Amador County as shown on Attachment A, which is incorporated herein. The WWTP is owned by River Pines Public Utility District and operated by AWA.

The WWTP provides wastewater treatment and disposal service for River Pines Community. Currently the sewer collection system has approximately 200 connections. The existing WDRs Order 85-291 contains a flow limit of 35,000 gallons per day (gpd) as a 30-day average daily dry weather discharge flow rate. The Discharger has requested to increase the discharge flow rate to 60,000 gpd. Based on information provided in the RWD, the disposal system has sufficient capacity to accommodate the flow increase. Therefore, this NOA will contain an effluent average dry weather flow limit of 60,000 gpd.

The WWTP consists of two 1.25 acre-foot aerated facultative ponds (Pond 1 and 2), a 3.2 acre-foot secondary clarification pond (Pond 3), a 14.9 acre-foot storage reservoir, a chlorine disinfection system, and 17 acres of land application areas (LAAs). The capacities of all ponds and the reservoir are based on two feet of freeboard. Pond 3 and the storage reservoir are equipped with aerators for odor control. Ponds 1, 2, and 3 are lined with chlorosulfonated polyethylene synthetic rubber. Secondary disinfected effluent is applied to the LAAs for disposal. 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: Effluent entering the LAAs shall not exceed 60,000 gpd as an average dry weather flow defined as the total flow for the months of July through September divided by 92 days.

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.
LAA's	100 ft	50 ft	50 ft	100 ft.	200 ft.
Impoundment	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	50 ft.	200 ft.

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

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

9. Provision E.2 and E.3

On 31 May 2018, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new strategies for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative. Further details of these strategies are discussed in the enclosed memorandum. As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this NOA to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Program are met.

#### MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

WDRs Order 85-291 will be rescinded at an upcoming Central Valley Water Board meeting. Effective upon the first day of the month following rescission of Order 85-291, the Discharger shall comply with MRP WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5362, 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 Water Board to determine if submittal of a Report Waste Discharge is required.

The Discharger generates the waste subject to the terms and conditions of Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5362 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: River Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Program: Non-15 Compliance  
Order: WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5362  
CIWQS Place ID: CW- 252827

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 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 Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Kenny will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Kenny at (916) 464-4676 or at [kcroyle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kcroyle@waterboards.ca.gov).

Original Digitally Signed by John J. Baum  
on Date: 2022.03.22 19:22:16-07'00'

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for Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
Monitoring and Reporting Program WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5362  
Attachment A, Location Map

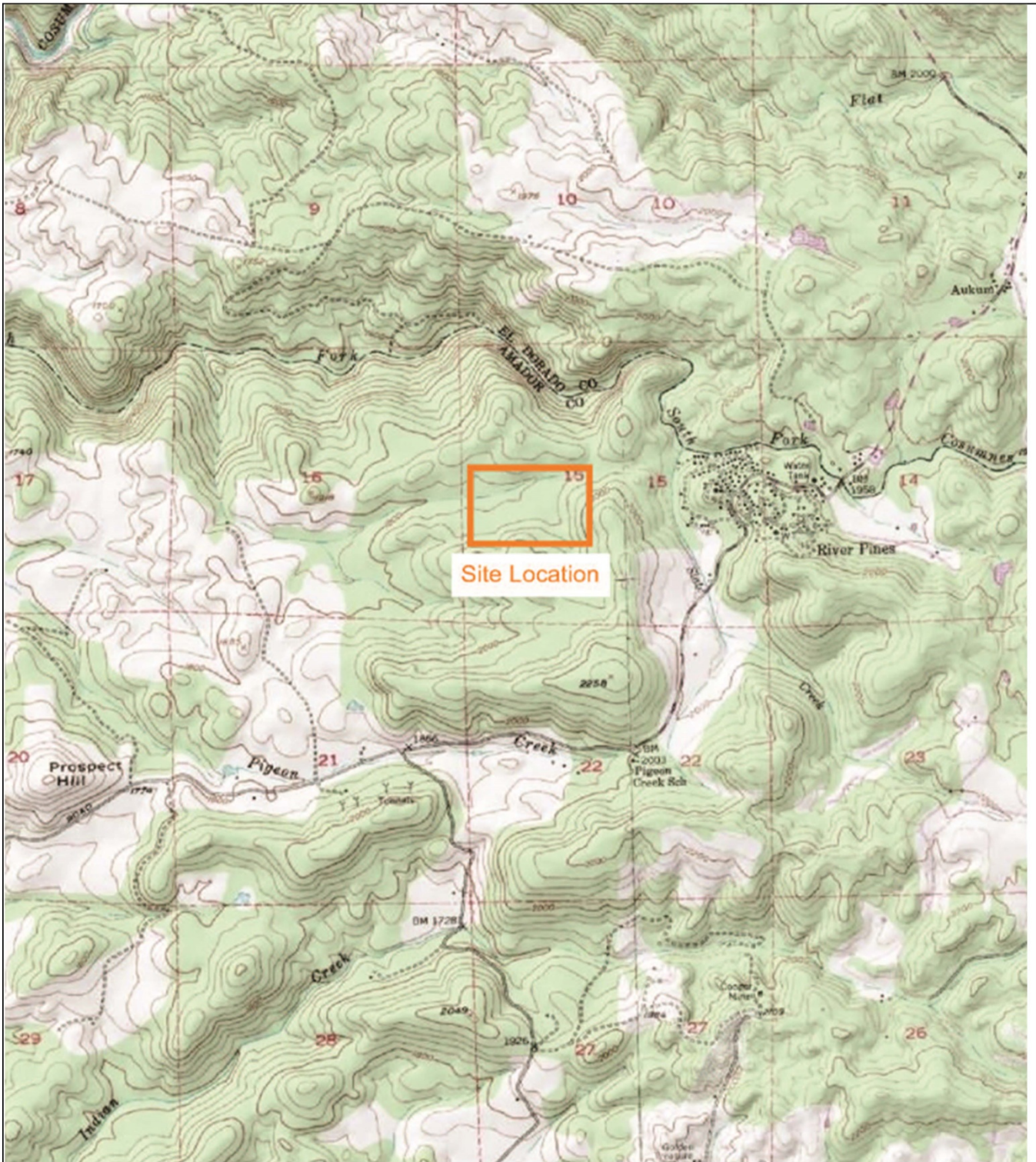
Candi Bingham  
River Pines Public Utility District

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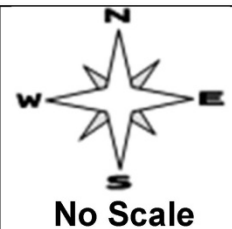
Attachment B, Site Plan  
Attachment C, Process Schematic  
Staff Review Memorandum for River Pine WWTP

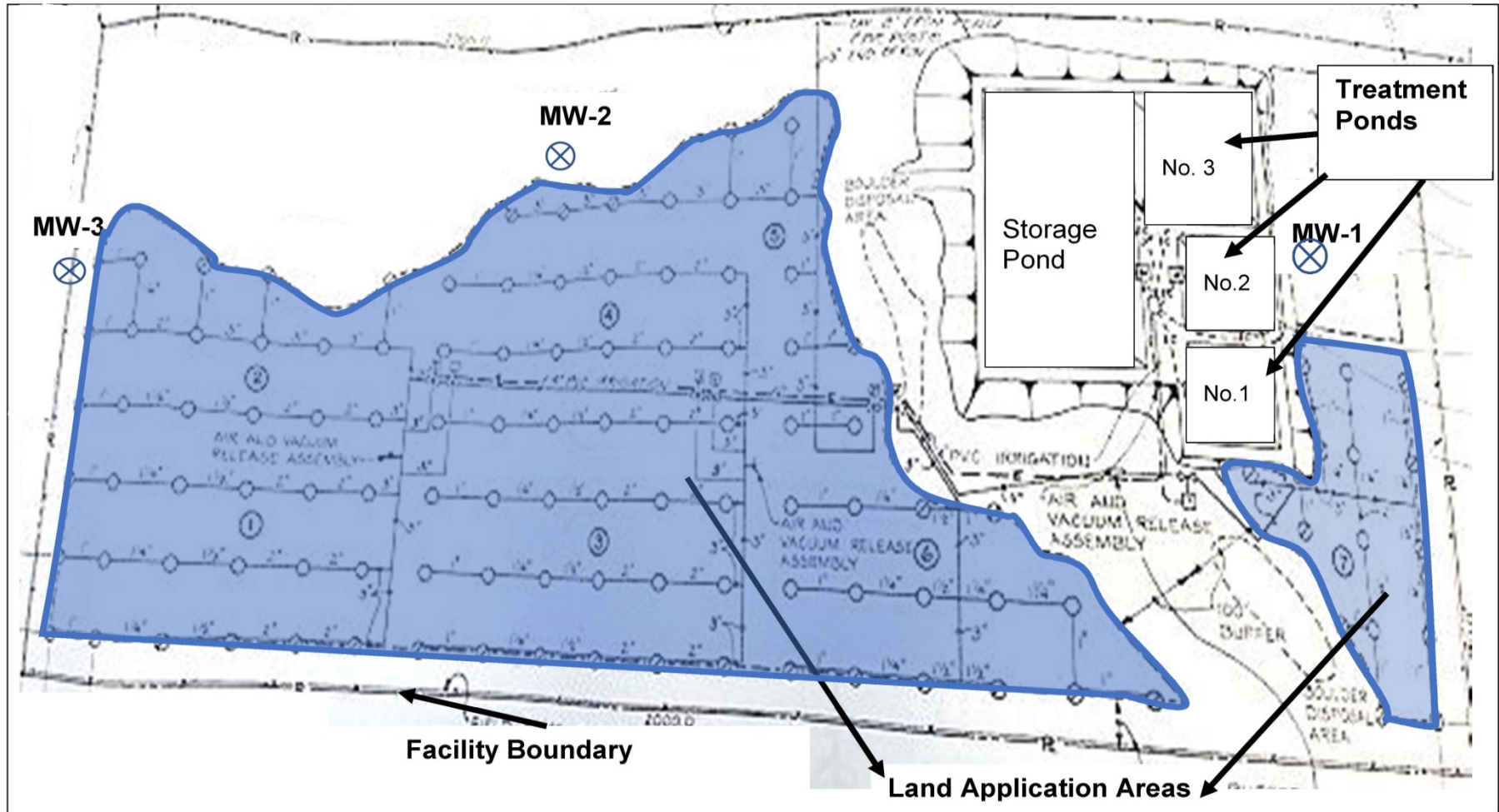
cc w/out enc: Michelle Opalenik, Amador County Environmental Health Department  
Larry McKenney, Amador Water Agency, Sutter Creek  
Howard Hold, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova



Reference:  
Groundwater Monitoring  
Report for River Pines  
Wastewater Treatment  
Plant, NV5, 2 March 2019

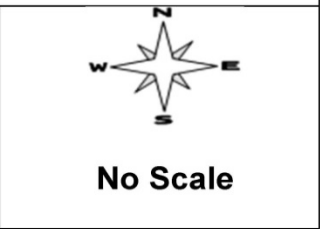
**LOCATION MAP**  
**RIVER PINES PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
**RIVER PINES WASTEWATER**  
**TREATMENT PLANT**

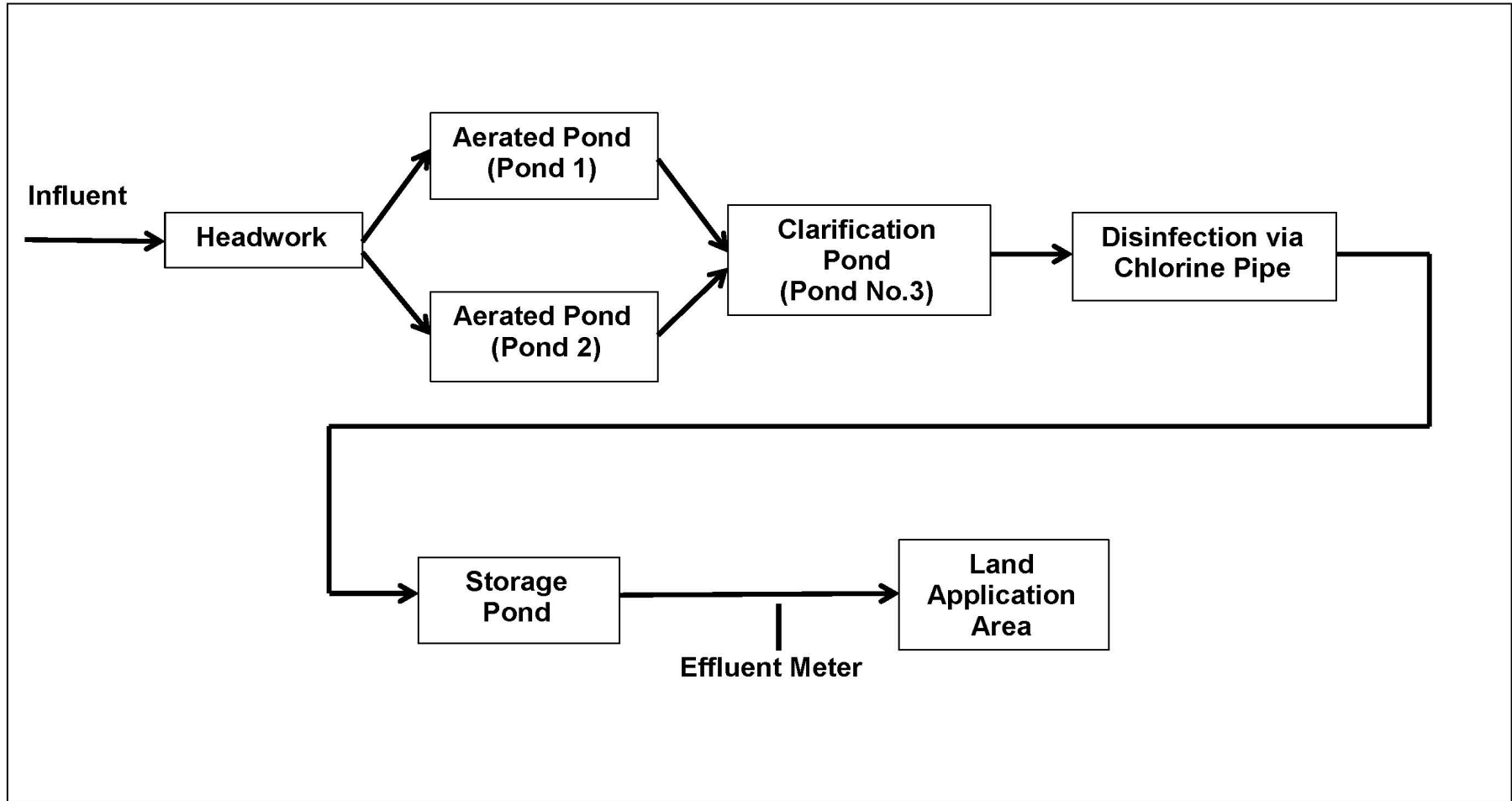




Reference:  
Report of Waste Discharge,  
Amador Water Agency, April 2021

**SITE PLAN**  
**RIVER PINES PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
**RIVER PINES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**





Reference:  
Report of Waste Discharge,  
Amador Water Agency, April 2021

**PROCESS SCHEMATIC**  
**RIVER PINES PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
**RIVER PINES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**



**TO:** Robert Busby  
Supervising Engineering Geologist

**FROM:** Scott Armstrong  
Senior Engineering Geologist

Lixin Fu  
Water Resource Control Engineer

**DATE:** 2 September 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; RIVER PINES PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT RIVER PINES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT; AMADOR COUNTY***

On 29 March 2021, the Amador Water Agency (AWA, operator) on behalf of River Pines Public Utility District (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge for River Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) 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

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) 85-291, adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 25 October 1985, prescribes requirements for River Pines WWTP, and allows a flow limit of 35,000 gallons per day (gpd) as a 30-day average daily dry weather discharge flow rate. The Discharger has requested to increase the discharge flow rate to 60,000 gpd. WDRs Order 85-291 will be rescinded at an upcoming Central Valley Water Board meeting. Effective upon rescission of Order 85-291, the discharge described in this NOA shall be regulated pursuant to the General Order.

#### EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The WWTP is located at 14450 Emigrant Trail, River Pines in Amador County. The community is situated within Section 15, T8N, R11E, MDB&M with Assessor's Parcel Number: 014-030-044-000. The surface water drainage is Little Indian Creek, a tributary of the South Fork Cosumnes River. Currently there are approximately 200 connections. The residents are mainly retirees and families, There is no RV areas or related waste discharge. There are a few commercial businesses, though most are currently closed.

River Pines community receives water supply from three drinking water wells: Well 2, Well 3R and Well 6. Wells 2 and 3R are the primary wells and Well 6 serves as backup. Based on a sampling event conducted on 2 June 2020, electrical conductance (EC) concentrations in water supply Well 2, Well 3R and Well 6 were 460, 490 and 330  $\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$ , respectively.

Wastewater entering the WWTP is treated by a pond system and effluent from the treatment ponds is disinfected by hypochlorite via a concrete pipe prior entering the storage reservoir. The secondary disinfected effluent is applied the land application areas (LAAs) for disposal. Cyclone fence and barbed wire fencing were installed around the WWTP and the LAAs, respectively. The WWTP is monitored by a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system.

Based on the RWD, the annual total influent flows are 13 million gallons in 2019 and 14 million gallons in 2020. The average dry weather effluent in 2019 was 17,120 gallons per day. Based on the monthly monitoring reports from January through June 2021, effluent BOD concentrations ranged from 3.0 to 19 mg/L. There are no effluent data available for salinity, nitrate and total kjeldahl nitrogen concentrations. Because MRP 85-291 does not contain monitoring requirements for these constituents, MRP WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5362 will include requirements for these constituent monitoring.

### GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

Based on the Discharger’s groundwater monitoring report for the Second Quarter 2021, two types of soils predominate at the site: Sierra very rocky coarse sandy loam and Placer diggings and Riverwash soils.

Three groundwater monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3 were installed in June 2019. The horizontal groundwater flow direction is generally to the west and northwest. Based on groundwater monitoring events in the first and second quarters in 2021, the groundwater monitoring data for select constituents are listed below. Monitoring Well MW-2 was dry in the first and second quarter monitoring events in 2021.

Constituents	Unit	Potential Water Quality Objective	Up-gradient Well MW-1 First Quarter 2021	Down-gradient Well MW-3 First Quarter 2021	Up-gradient Well MW-1 Second Quarter 2021	Down-gradient Well MW-3 Second Quarter 2021
Depth to Water	Feet	--	18.4	12.6	11.2	7.2
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	900	229	457	158	467
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	500-1,500 see note No.1	170	210	120	250
Chloride	mg/L	250-600 see note No.2	4.3	50	3	67
Nitrate as Nitrogen	mg/L	10 see note No.3	<0.4	<0.4	1.8	<0.4
Ammonia as Nitrogen	mg/L	--	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	--	<0.04	0.2	0.23	0.27

Constituents	Unit	Potential Water Quality Objective	Up-gradient Well MW-1 First Quarter 2021	Down-gradient Well MW-3 First Quarter 2021	Up-gradient Well MW-1 Second Quarter 2021	Down-gradient Well MW-3 Second Quarter 2021
Iron	µg/L	300 see note No.4	1,600	3,100	1,300	1,800
Manganese	µg/L	50, see note No.4	460	150	130	110

- Note: 1. TDS: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level range, Recommended level = 500 mg/L; Upper level = 1000 mg/L; Short-term level = 1,500 mg/L.  
2. Chloride: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level range, Recommended level = 250 mg/L; Upper level = 500 mg/L; Short term level = 600 mg/L.  
3. Primary Maximum Contaminant Level.  
4. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level.

Except for iron and manganese, other constituents in the above table are less than the respective Potential Water Quality Objectives. Nitrate as nitrogen concentrations in the groundwater monitoring wells are less the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 mg/L for nitrate as nitrogen. This NOA does not contain an effluent nitrogen limit because all available groundwater data for nitrate as nitrogen have not shown significant degradation due to wastewater discharge.

Iron and manganese concentrations in the upgradient well MW-1 and downgradient Well MW-2 are greater than Potential Water Quality Objectives for Iron and manganese, respectively. The elevated iron and manganese concentrations may represent naturally occurring conditions related to the bedrock and soil condition or are affected by other sources.

### 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)).