30 December 2021

Pleasant Ridge Union School District
Pleasant Ridge Elementary School WWTF
22580 Kingston Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95949

**CERTIFIED MAIL**
**7020-1810-0002-0569-5581**

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY**

**GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ**
**FOR**
**PLEASANT RIDGE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**
**PLEASANT RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WWTF**
**NEVADA COUNTY**

Pleasant Ridge Union School District submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) dated 13 November 2017 describing the Pleasant Ridge Elementary School wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) in Nevada County. The WWTF provides treatment and disposal service for domestic wastewater generated from the Pleasant Ridge Elementary School. The WWTF discharge has been regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order 98-135 which was adopted on 5 June 1998. Based on information provided in the RWD, the wastewater treatment system and discharge are consistent with the requirements of 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) serves as formal notice that upon rescission of Order 98-135 at an upcoming Board meeting, the discharge shall be regulated pursuant to the General Order and this NOA. You are hereby assigned Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5363 for the discharge. A copy of the Waiver is enclosed and also available at the State Water Board's Adopted Orders webpage, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/2014-0153-dwq_noas/).

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) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5363. The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements that exist in the General Order and this NOA.

## FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Pleasant Ridge Elementary School (School) WWTF is owned and operated by Pleasant Ridge Union School District (hereafter "Discharger") and is located at 16229 Duggans Road, Grass Valley in Nevada County, assessor's parcel number 55-060-10 Section 8, Township 14N, Range 8E, MDM. The Discharger leases the school to other educational entities but is fully responsible for the operation and maintenance of the physical plant and the WWTF. The School location is shown on Attachment A, which is attached hereto and is made part of this NOA by reference. The School is located approximately 4 miles from the nearest regional wastewater collection and treatment system, therefore, wastewater is collected and treated on-site. Surrounding land uses include rural residential parcels. The nearest natural surface water is Long Hollow, approximately 5,000 feet to the south, which is tributary to Wolf Creek and the Bear River. There is a reservoir and tank providing irrigation and fire protection water located approximately 350 feet northeast of the main campus area.

The WWTF provides treatment and disposal of wastewater generated at the elementary school. Wastewater is generated by students and staff, with markedly decreased flow rates typical during school holidays and vacation periods. The system was originally designed for a total population of approximately 600 students and staff. Currently, the population is less than 200 students and staff. The school does serve food, however there is no commercial food preparation.

A groundwater well serving domestic potable water to the school is located to the east of the campus, upgradient approximately 400 feet from the septic tanks and 630 feet from the ponds and leach field areas. The domestic wastewater flow volume is determined using domestic water meter records. Since the water system is only used for domestic purposes, it is reasonably assumed that most water used goes through to the wastewater system.

The WWTF has a design capacity of 5,190 gallons per day (gpd) and consists of two 1,500-gallon septic tanks, an aerated oxidation pond, a settling pond, and a leach field disposal system. All treatment operations, with the exception of a small emergency leach field, are located on the school property as shown in the site plan on Attachment B, which is attached hereto and is made part of this NOA by reference. The small emergency leach field area is located across Duggans Road, to the west and down-gradient from the school.

Wastewater flows by gravity from the various school buildings to the septic tanks, which are located side by side. Septic tank sludge depth is measured annually. Each tank is pumped out as needed, generally every two or three years.

From the septic tanks, wastewater flows by gravity to an aerated oxidation pond and then to a settling pond. A floating aerator operates on a timer to provide aeration in the oxidation pond. From the oxidation pond wastewater flows to the settling pond. Pond levels are controlled by manually operated telescoping valves. Both the aeration pond and settling pond have base areas of approximately 63 feet (ft) by 24 ft, with 3:1 sloped sides. Each pond has a capacity of approximately 152,000 gallons (approximately one acre foot) while maintaining 2 ft of freeboard. Sludge removal from the ponds is very infrequent.

The primary leach field is approximately 20,000 square ft, and consists of five leach lines of 300 ft each (1,500 ft total) with a distribution header. Leach lines are on a 10 ft spacing and include a series of connecting lines to distribute the flow. There is a standpipe at the end of each line for inspection. Leach line trenches are 2 ft wide with 1½-inch crushed rock set a minimum of 12 inches below the perforated leach line. The primary leach field's design capacity is 2,580 gpd. In addition to the main leach field, there is an emergency leach field across Duggans Road (design capacity of 2,150 gpd), and an older, typically unused, leach field above the main leach; both of which are connected to the system and available as backup. There are also undeveloped areas on the school property adjacent to the primary leach field which could be used as repair area(s) if necessary.

Under current operating and drought conditions, with flow rates well below the design capacity of the WWTF, the evaporation occurring in the two ponds is sufficient for disposal of wastewater, and it has not been necessary to utilize the leach field system for the past few years.

Drainage channels on site convey storm water to a county-maintained roadside ditch along Duggans Road where it is conveyed off site. There is no groundwater monitoring at this site because the depth to groundwater is estimated to be more than 140 feet below ground surface (ft bgs) and the discharge does not pose a threat to groundwater. The depth to groundwater is based on the facility's existing domestic drinking water well, shown on Attachment B, which was drilled to 200 ft bgs and is screened from 140 to 200 ft bgs.

## SITE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND EFFLUENT LIMITS

Note that the General Order contains prohibitions and specifications that apply to all wastewater treatment systems as well as those that only apply to specific treatment and/or disposal systems. The specific requirements and effluent limits for your treatment system are summarized below.

The wastewater treatment operator must be certified and familiar with the requirements contained in the General Order, this NOA, and the MRP.

### Requirements by Wastewater System Type, Section B of General Order

This section applies in its entirety to the Pleasant Ridge Elementary School WWTF with the following site-specific requirements.

B.1 All Wastewater Systems

a. Influent flow limits (Section B.1.a of General Order):

**Table 1. Influent flow limits**

| Treatment Unit | Flow Limit as Monthly Average |
|---|---|
| Septic tank influent | 5,100 gpd |

b. Wastewater system setbacks (Section B.1.l, Table 3 of General Order), measured from the nearest high-water limit (bottom of freeboard) in the ponds must be at least as described in Table 2, below.

**Table 2. Wastewater system setback requirements**

| Equipment or Activity | Domestic Well | Flowing Stream | Ephemeral Stream Drainage | Property Line | Lake or Reservoir |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Septic Tank, Collection System | 50 ft | 50 ft | 50 ft | 5 ft | 200 ft |
| Treatment ponds (note 1) | 150 ft | 150 ft | 150 ft | 50 ft | 200 ft |
| Leach Field | 100 ft | 100 ft | 50 ft | 5 ft | 100 ft |

Table 2 note 1: Requirement for wastewater treatment and impoundment of undisinfected secondary recycled water.

B.2 Septic Systems

The WWTF utilizes a septic tank; therefore Section B.2 of General Order applies in its entirety.

B.5 Pond Systems

The WWTF utilizes a pond system; therefore Section B.5 of General Order applies in its entirety.

B.6 Subsurface Disposal Systems

The WWTF utilizes a subsurface disposal system; therefore Section B.6 of General Order applies in its entirety.

B.8 Sludge/Solids Disposal

The WWTF includes septic tanks and ponds that may accumulate sludge; therefore Section B.8 of the General Order applies in its entirety.

Sections B.3, B.4, and B.7 are not applicable because the WWTF does not use an aerobic treatment unit, an activated sludge system, nor land application.

**Effluent Limitations, Section D of General Order**

This section applies in its entirety to the Pleasant Ridge Elementary School WWTF and shall include the following site-specific limitations.

a. Effluent Limitations:

The following limit applies to effluent from the Oxidation Pond.

**Table 3. Oxidation Pond Effluent Limitations**

| Constituent | Limit |
|---|---|
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) | 90 mg/L |

b. Effluent Limit Rationale:

Staff evaluated the need for a total nitrogen effluent limit using the method contained in the General Order and determined that a nitrogen effluent limit is not required because the monthly average flow will be less than 20,000 gpd, and all ponds maintain a minimum of 3 feet separation from groundwater.

**Technical Report Preparation Requirements, Section E.1 of General Order**

The following technical reports shall be submitted as described below:

1. By **15 June 2022**, the Discharger shall submit a *Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan* (Response Plan) consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.a.
2. By **15 June 2022**, the Discharger shall submit a *Sampling and Analysis Plan* consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.b.
3. **At least 90 days prior** to any removal, drying, treatment, or disposal of sludge for pond maintenance, the Discharger shall submit a *Sludge Management Plan* consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.c.

**CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY ALTERNATIVES FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY (CV-SALTS) 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 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. Within one year of the effective date of the amendments dischargers of record received a Notice to Comply with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program. This Discharger, with **CV-SALTS ID 2386** has submitted a Notice to Intent to comply with the Salt Control Program Option 2, participation in a Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study).

For nitrate, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take an alternate compliance approach that involve providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. The WWTF is located at least 10 miles outside of demarcated groundwater basin 05-021.61,

the Sacramento Valley – South Yuba River Basin. This nearby groundwater basin is listed as "not prioritized" for the CV-SALTS nitrate control program.

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 Programs are met. 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).

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

Upon rescission of WDRs 98-135, the Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5363, which is attached hereto and made part of this NOA by reference.

## 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 or generation rate, or to the method of waste disposal, you must contact the Central Valley Regional Water Board to determine if submittal of an RWD is required.

Pleasant Ridge Union School District will generate the waste subject to the terms and conditions of WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5363 and will maintain exclusive control over the discharge. As such, Pleasant Ridge Union School District 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.

## ANNUAL FEES

The annual fee is based on the discharge's threat to water quality and treatment system complexity rating of 3-C. The fee is due and payable on an annual basis until coverage under the General Order is formally rescinded. Please note that the annual fees are reviewed each year and may change. You must provide written notice if and when the wastewater discharge ceases, so that we can terminate coverage under the General Order and no longer bill you.

## DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

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.

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: Pleasant Ridge Elementary School WWTF, Nevada County
Program: Non-15 Compliance
Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5363
CIWQS Place ID: 248713

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

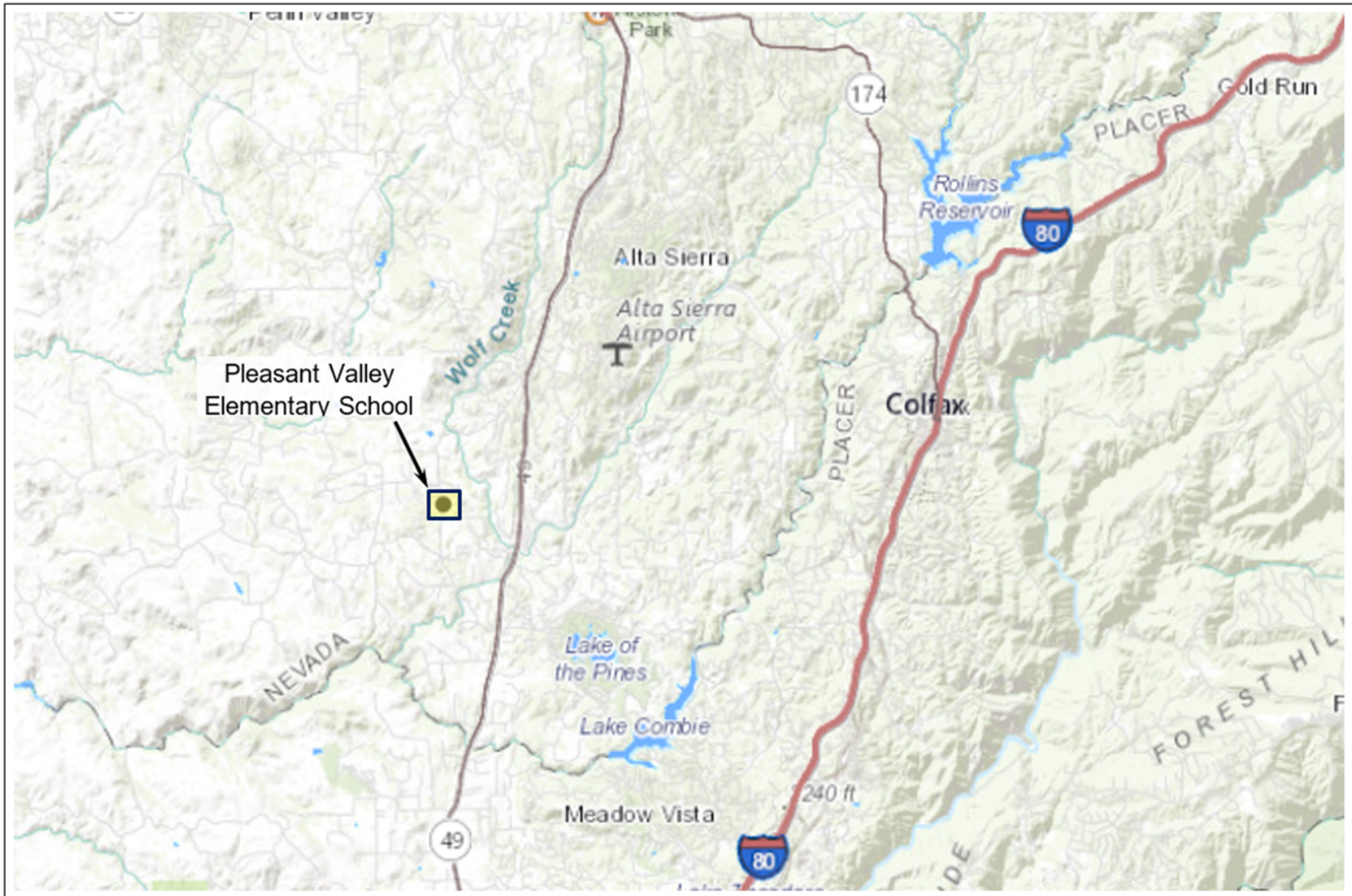
Now that the Notice of Applicability has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Guy Childs is your point of contact for any questions about the Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Guy will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact him at (916) 464-4648 or at Guy.Childs@waterboards.ca.gov.

John J. Baum
Digitally signed by John J. Baum
Date: 2021.12.30 23:36:05 -08'00'
Water Boards

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Monitoring and Reporting Program 2014-0153-DWQ-R5363
Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ
Notice of Public Hearing for the Tentative Rescission of 98-135
Tentative Rescission Order 98-135

cc w/out enc: Laurel Warddrip, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento
Amy Irani, Nevada County Environmental Health Dept., Nevada City
Guy Childs, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova

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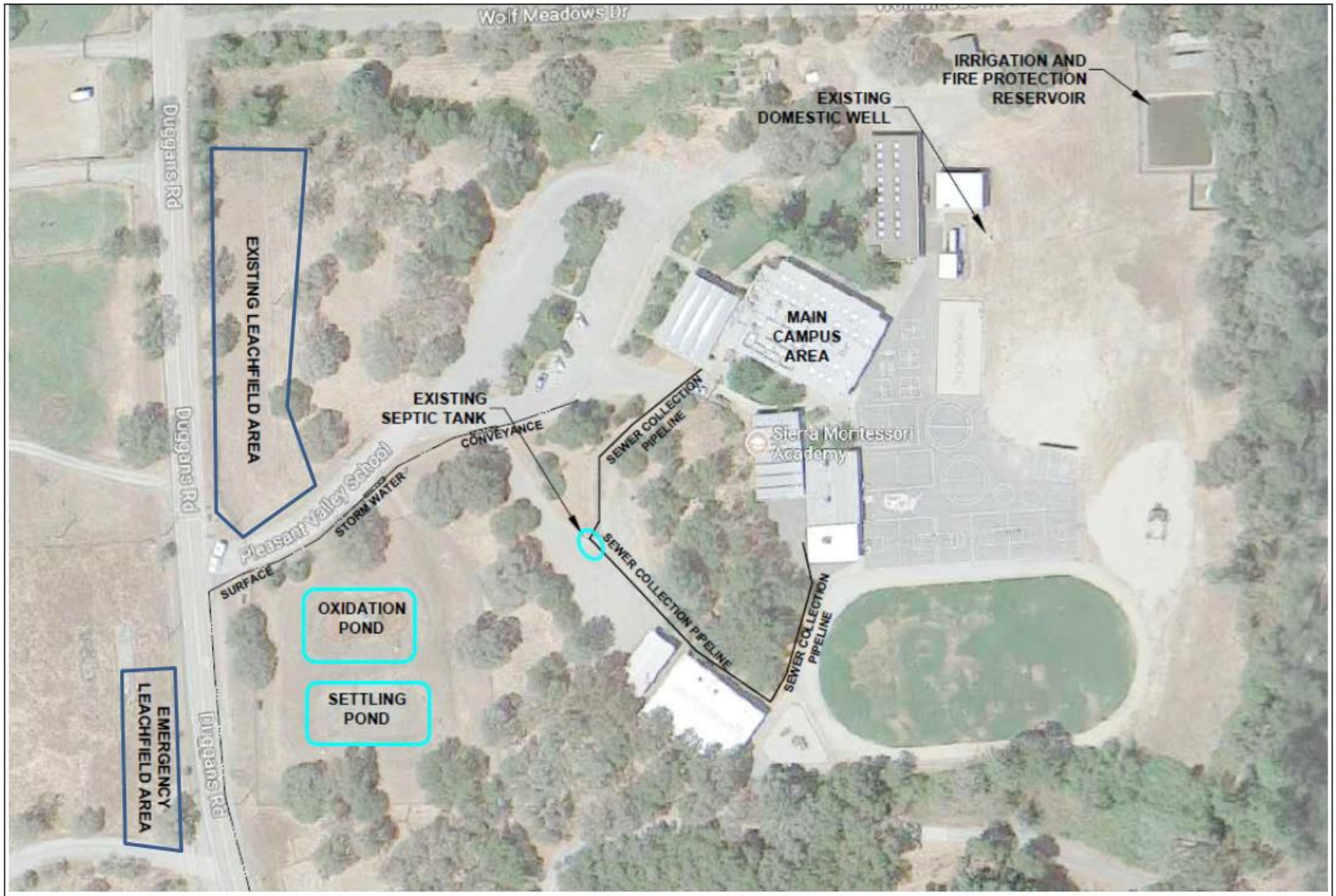
|---|---|---|
| Source:<br>USGS Topographic Map | **SITE LOCATION**<br>Pleasant Ridge Elementary School WWTF<br>Placer County | N<br>Scale (approximate):<br>3 miles |




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Source:<br>RWD Figure 2<br>(Sauers Engineering, Inc.) | **SITE MAP**<br>Pleasant Ridge Elementary School WWTF<br>Placer County | N ↑ Not to scale |