20 April 2023

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48415 Hampshire Rocks Road
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via email only

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ
FOR
SUN NG CISCO GROVE RV LLC
CISCO GROVE CAMPGROUND WWTP
PLACER COUNTY

On 18 October 2022 Robertson-Bryan, Inc. submitted on behalf of Sun NG Cisco Grove RV LLC (Discharger) a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) dated 17 October 2022. The RWD describes the Cisco Grove Campground's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Placer County. The WWTP provides treatment and disposal service for domestic wastewater generated from on-site restroom and shower facilities including park-model RVs, RV hook-up campsites, and RV dump stations. The WWTP discharge has been regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order 96-016, which was adopted on 26 January 1996. 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 96-016 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-R5365 for the discharge. A copy of the General Order is enclosed and also available at the State Water Boards 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-R5365. The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements that exist in the General Order and this NOA.

EXISTING FACILITY

Facility and location

The Cisco Grove Campground (Campground) is owned and operated by the Discharger. The Campground is located at 48415 Hampshire Rocks Road, Emigrant Gap in Placer and Nevada Counties, on the northern bank of the South Yuba River, as shown on Attachment A. The Campground is located in an area without a regional wastewater collection system; therefore, wastewater is collected and treated on-site in a WWTP which is wholly located in Placer County. The site plan is presented on Attachment B. The following description of the WWTP and its operations is based on information provided in the RWD.

The Campground, covering approximately 134 acres total, is divided into nine sections labeled A through I as shown on Attachment B. Sections A and B of the campground (33.5 acres and 8.5 acres, respectively) consist of park-model RVs, RV campsites, two RV waste disposal stations, tent campsites and supporting amenities including three restroom facilities, a day lodge, two park-model RV units for employee housing (for a maximum of 12 people total), a restaurant, and a swimming pool. An existing six-unit motel is planned for demolition in 2023 and will be replaced by a general store. Wastewater from Sections A and B is conveyed to the WWTP, located in Section A, for treatment and subsequent disposal via a leach field. The park-model RVs and RV hook-up campsites are directly connected to the sewer collection system, as are the RV waste disposal stations.

Sections C through I of the Campground (approximately 92 acres total) consist of park-model recreational vehicles (RVs), RV campsites, tent campsites and some supporting amenities including restroom facilities and a swimming pool. Wastewater from Sections C through I is treated by independent septic systems and disposed of in associated local leach fields. Those systems will be regulated separately under the appropriate local agency.

Treatment and Discharge Description

The self-contained WWTP that was originally regulated under WDRs 96-016 was installed in the 1970s and at the present time has reached the end of its useful life. The Discharger has implemented a project to replace the outdated WWTP with a new self-contained treatment system in the same location as the original WWTP, approximately 200 feet (ft) north of South Yuba River. The new WWTP is expected to be operational in early 2023. Its design capacity as an average daily flow rate is 27,500 gallons per day (gpd), with peak hourly design flow of 68,750 gpd.

Both the original and the new WWTP are described as extended aeration activated sludge package wastewater treatment plants. The influent is pumped from the various sources via grinder pumps, then is passed through a bar screen within the single-unit WWTP where the first chamber is for flow equalization. From the equalization chamber the wastewater undergoes anoxic (anaerobic) denitrification, followed by extended aerobic biological treatment in the aeration chamber, and finally, solids are settled out in a clarification chamber before the undisinfected treated effluent is discharged to the leach field disposal system. Activated sludge is recycled from the clarification chamber to the denitrification chamber, and waste activated sludge (WAS) is periodically transferred from the clarification chamber to an aerated sludge storage tank for eventual offsite disposal to a licensed treatment facility.

Treated water from the WWTP is discharged via underground distribution piping to a leach field system. Effluent distribution with the leach field is via pressurized perforated distribution laterals. As part of the Campground's redevelopment project a new leach field system will be constructed to replace the original leach field. Until the new leach field is operational, the WWTP will discharge to the original leach field at the original leach field's design effluent disposal flow rate capacity of 15,360 gpd, at an application rate of 1.6 gpd/square ft. Once the new leach field is installed, effluent lines will be plumbed to the new system, allowing the original leach field to be taken offline and decommissioned once discharge is switched over to the new leach field.

The existing original 9,600 square-ft leach field is located toward the western end of Section A, on the east side of Rattlesnake Creek and north of the WWTP. The new leach field is to be located to the east-southeast of the WWTP, however, the leach field is not expected to be operational until late 2023 or 2024. The new leach field's effluent disposal design flow rate capacity is 27,500 gpd based on a total leach field area of approximately 16,000 square ft which will provide full capacity for disposal of wastewater treated in the new WWTP.

The Discharger conducted site-specific percolation rate testing in the new leach field area in November and December of 2021. Based on the findings from that testing, the new leach field will be operated at the application rate of 1.7 gpd/square ft. A 100% reserve area is located just south of the original leach field; it will be expanded as part of the redevelopment project to maintain 100% reserve for the new leach field. Both the original and new leach fields are set back further than the minimum setback requirements of the General Order, as presented in Table 3, below.

As required by the General Order, the leach fields, both original and new, are registered with the EPA as Class V injection wells for sanitary waste.

Groundwater Monitoring

Four shallow groundwater monitoring wells are located on site, around the original leach field near Rattlesnake Creek, as shown in Attachment B. These monitoring

wells (MWs) were installed in accordance with Order 96-016 to monitor groundwater quality in the proximity of the original leach field. The MWs were deepened in 2017 due to repeated dry well conditions. The depth to groundwater when the wells were installed in the summer of 2017 ranged from approximately 7.75 to 10.92 ft below ground surface (bgs) (Sauers Engineering, Inc. 2017). The depth to groundwater in June 2022 ranged from 11.40 to 15.25 ft bgs (Cranmer Engineering, Inc. 2022). The 2017 monitoring well work was documented in a Monitoring Well Installation Report submitted to the Regional Board on 28 November 2017.

With the Campground closed to the public due to ownership changes and the pandemic, the original WWTP treatment and disposal systems have been essentially shut down since approximately 2019. Monthly effluent monitoring data from operations between October 2015 through December 2017 show elevated nitrate nitrogen (nitrate N), ranging from 0.12 to 88 mg/L, with an average of 34.3 mg/L, and elevated total dissolved solids (TDS), ranging from 12 to 1436 mg/L, with an average of 432 mg/L). Effluent pH concentrations were slightly acidic, ranging from approximately 3.82 to 7.70, with an average of 6.12. Groundwater monitoring in that time period was limited due to the monitoring wells frequently being dry or inaccessible due to snow. When ground-water samples were taken, all wells had nitrate N concentrations of less than 1 mg/L, TDS between 44 and 116 mg/L, and pH between 6.1 and 6.7.

The new owners have been complying with the requirements of Order 96-016, conducting regular groundwater sampling since June of 2021, despite the Campground being closed and the WWTP and disposal systems being inactive. Quarterly monitoring data collected since the new owners took over operations in June 2021 show native groundwater conditions, without influence from treated wastewater discharge, having slightly low pH (5.3 – 7.1), and iron and manganese concentrations greater than the Basin Plan water quality objectives, as shown in Table 1, below. This is typical of metals-rich soils in the area. Data averages from five sampling events as reported in the discharger's SMRs are presented here. Often the monitoring wells did not have enough water present to collect an analytical sample, resulting in no reportable data.

Table 1. Groundwater monitoring data since June 2021

Parameter	Units	MW-1	MW-2	MW-3	MW-4
		upgradient		downgradient	
Depth to groundwater	ft	16.03	11.11	12.09	14.54
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)	mg/L	1.59	0.38	0.36	no data
Nitrate nitrogen	mg/L	no data	0.57	no data	no data
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	mg/L	133	59	47	46
Electrical conductivity (EC)	µS/cm	no data	199	209	no data
pH	s.u.	6.73	5.95	6.04	6.04

Parameter	Units	MW-1	MW-2	MW-3	MW-4
		upgradient		downgradient	
Iron	µg/L	138	3970	5349	1638
Manganese	µg/L	0.46	209	134	167

Groundwater monitoring from the existing monitoring wells will continue at least until the new leach field is fully operational. This will allow for the evaluation of groundwater data based on discharge from the new WWTP. Because the new WWTP will produce higher quality treated effluent with maximum total nitrogen concentration of 10 mg/L or less, and because the historic discharge does not appear to have negatively impacted first-encountered groundwater quality, groundwater monitoring at the new leach field location is not required at this time under this NOA.

Water Supply

There are four (4) potable water supply wells on site providing drinking water for the Campground. These supply wells pump to an 80,000-gallon potable water tank at the north end of the site. This main water tank supplies potable water to the entire campground, including to a 25,000-gallon potable water tank located in Section A of the campground, which is used as an intermediate storage tank for potable water supply to Section A. All of the water supply wells are effectively up- or crossgradient from the leach fields (original and new) and are more than 100 ft away from the leach fields.

Sludge Management

No sludge is stored on-site. Waste activated sludge remains in the WAS storage tank until a licensed sludge hauling contractor is called to haul the material for treatment to a licensed sludge-handling facility per the Discharger's *Sludge Management Plan* as submitted with the 2022 RWD:

<u>Sludge Management Plan</u>

Waste sludge generated in the WWTP is estimated to be approximately 270 gpd. This sludge will be stored in a dedicated 5,500-gallon aerated sludge holding chamber within the WWTP. The sludge holding chamber provides approximately 20 days of storage time and will be emptied, as needed, by a septic pumping contractor for off-site disposal at an appropriately permitted facility.

The aerated sludge holding chamber will be cleaned by rinsing the chamber with a hose or pressure washer. The wash water generated through this cleaning process will either be pumped out by the septic pumping contractor for off-site disposal at an appropriately permitted facility or recycled back into the WWTP treatment process for treatment as part of the site's domestic wastewater stream.

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

All Wastewater Systems (Section B.1 of General Order)

This section applies in its entirety to the Cisco Grove Campground WWTP with the following site-specific requirements.

1. Effluent flow limits (Section B.1.a of General Order). The monthly average effluent flow rate may be based on the influent flow rate or on the actual effluent flow rate to the leach field.

Table 2. Flow limits

Treatment Unit	Flow Limit as Monthly Average
Effluent from the WWTP	27,500 gpd

2. Groundwater monitoring from the existing monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, and MW-4 is required to continue until a *Monitoring Well Abandonment Plan* (discussed below) is approved.
3. Wastewater system setbacks (Section B.1.l of General Order) measured from the nearest high-water limit (bottom of freeboard) in the ponds, or from mean yearly high-water levels in other bodies of water must be at least as described in in Table 3, below.

Table 3. Wastewater System Setbacks

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir
Septic Tank, Treatment System, & Collection System	150 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.	5 ft.	200 ft.
Leach Field	100 ft.	100 ft.	50 ft.	5 ft.	200 ft.

B.3 Aerobic Treatment Units

The WWTP utilizes an aerobic treatment unit; therefore Section B.3 of General Order applies in its entirety.

B.4 Activated Sludge Systems

The WWTP utilizes an activated sludge system; therefore Section B.4 of General Order applies in its entirety.

B.6 Subsurface Disposal Systems

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

B.8 Sludge/solids Disposal

The WWTP generates sludge and solids that must be disposed of; therefore Section B.8 of General Order applies in its entirety.

Effluent Limitations, Section D of General Order

This section applies in its entirety to the Cisco Grove Campground WWTP and shall include the following site-specific limitations.

Effluent Limitations

The following limits apply to effluent from the wastewater treatment unit to the leach field.

Table 4. Effluent limitations

Constituent	Units	Limit	Basis
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	mg/L	30	Monthly average
BOD	mg/L	45	7-day average
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	30	Monthly average
TSS	mg/L	45	7-day average
Total nitrogen (TN)	mg/L	10	7-day average
Electrical conductivity (EC)	µS/cm	900	7-day average

Effluent Limit Rationale

Staff evaluated the need for limitations on BOD and TSS based on technology performance and determined that a limit is required as specified in the General Order.

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 required because the monthly average flow can be greater than 20,000 gpd.

CV-SALTS requires that a limitation on electrical conductivity is imposed on this discharge.

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

The following technical reports shall be submitted as described below:

1. By **1 August 2023**, 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 **1 August 2023**, the Discharger shall submit a *Sampling and Analysis Plan* consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.b.

The Discharger has submitted, as part of the 2022 RWD, a *Sludge Management Plan* consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.c. The *Sludge Management Plan* is presented above.

LEACH FIELD ABANDONMENT

The original leach field may continue to be used with the new WWTP, provided that the leach field is operated according to the requirements of the General Order and there is no surfacing of water in the leach field area. Within **90 days** before the new leach field is ready for operation, the Discharger must notify the Regional Water Board in writing that WWTP treated effluent will be discharged to the new leach field, and with that notification, submit a *Leach Field Abandonment Plan.* The *Leach Field Abandonment Plan* at a minimum must detail the work that will be done to properly abandon the original leach field and to ensure that the abandoned leach field does not pose a threat to groundwater.

Following the submittal of the *Leach Field Abandonment Plan*, the Discharger may request to discontinue groundwater monitoring by submitting a *Monitoring Well Abandonment Plan* to the Central Valley Water Board for approval.

MONITORING WELL ABANDONMENT

The determination of whether groundwater monitoring is required to continue in the existing location and or whether new groundwater monitoring wells will be needed near the new leach field will be determined based on continued monitoring results from the existing MW network. It is expected that discharge from the new WWTP to the original leach field should not result in groundwater degradation , given the historical record of groundwater at that site. The addition of groundwater monitoring at the new leach field area is at the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board and may result in revising or replacing this NOA and associated MRP.

Once groundwater monitoring is no longer required, the Discharger must appropriately abandon the existing groundwater monitoring wells according to Placer County well

abandonment guidelines and the requirements of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 74-90, Part III, Section 23. You may access well destruction and abandonment information on the DWR Combined Well Standards website (https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Wells/Well-Standards/Combined-Well-Standards/Water-Destruction)

Within **90 days** after completion of the abandonment of existing groundwater monitoring wells, the Discharger shall submit a Monitoring Well Abandonment Report consistent with the requirements of the DWR Combined Well Standards referenced above.

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).

a. 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. The Discharger, with CV-SALTS ID 1900, has opted to participate in the Prioritization and Optimization (P&O) Study.

b. For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility falls outside of any prioritized Groundwater Basin, so no action is required at this time.

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 PROGRAM

Upon recission of WDRs 96-016, the Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5365, 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.

At least **90 days** prior to termination or expiration of any lease, contract, or agreement involving disposal or recycling areas or off-site reuse of effluent, the Discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board in writing, describing the situation and what measures have been taken or are being taken to assure full compliance with the General Order and this NOA.

Sun NG Cisco Grove RV LLC will generate the waste subject to the terms and conditions of WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5365 and will maintain exclusive control over the discharge. As such, Sun NG Cisco Grove RV LLC 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 corresponding to the assigned threat to water quality and complexity category is due and payable on an annual basis until this 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 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.

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:

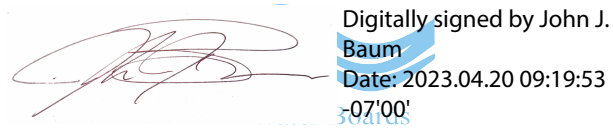
Facility Name:	Cisco Grove Campground, Placer County
Program:	Non-15
Order:	2014-0153-DWQ-R5365
CWIQS Place ID:	214575

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be copied 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 continue management of your case. Guy Childs is your point of contact for any questions about the General Order. 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 Guy at (916) 464-4648 or at guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov



for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A – Location Map
Attachment B – Site Plan

Enclosures: Monitoring and Reporting Program 2015-0153-DWQ-R5365
Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ
MRP Transmittal Form

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

Source:
USGS National Boundaries Dataset
(apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer)

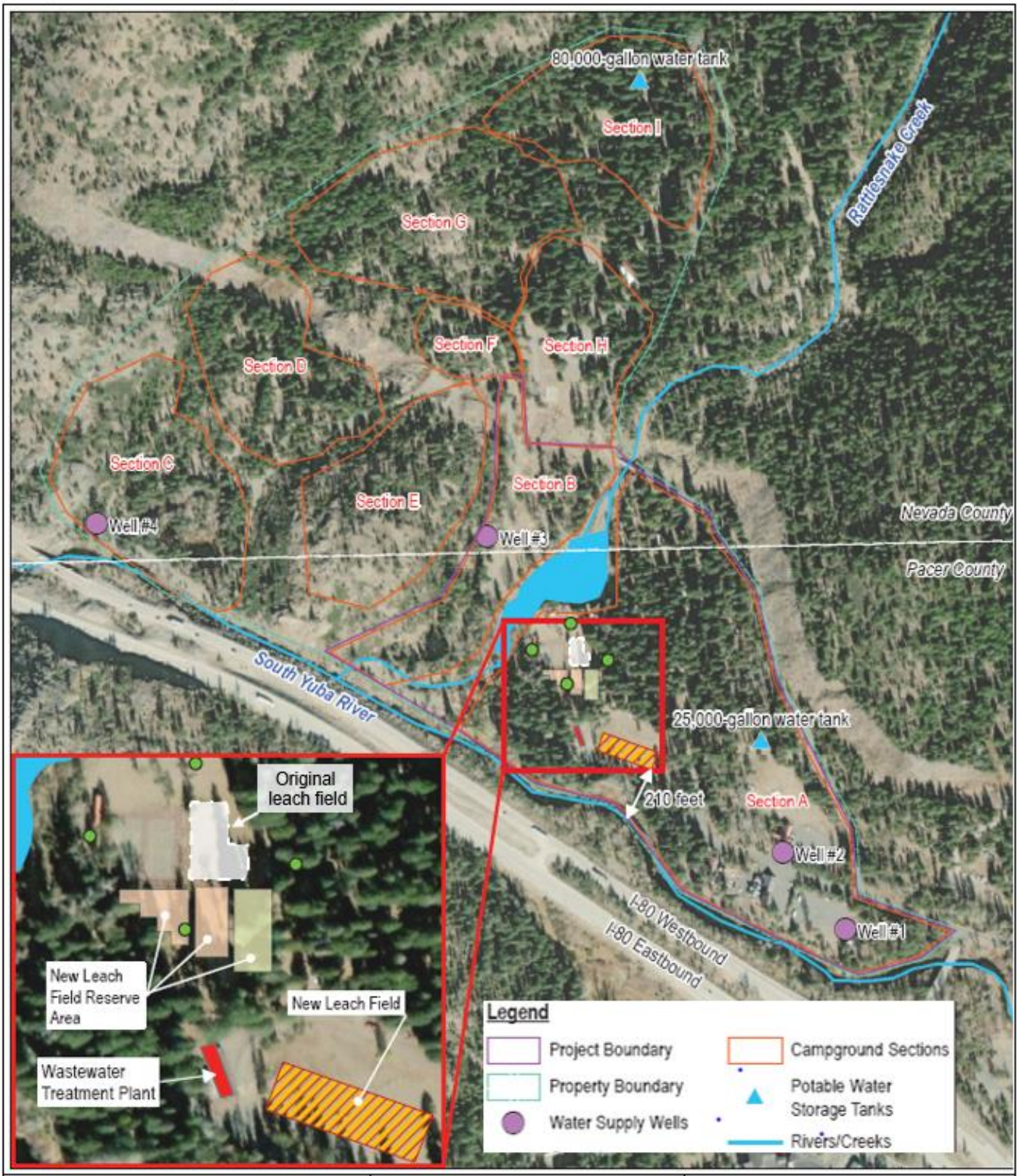
SITE LOCATION MAP

Cisco Grove Campground
Placer and Nevada Counties

N
W E
S

Scale:

2 miles
(approximate)



Source:
Project Conditions Site Map,
Report of Waste Discharge
(Robertson-Bryan, Inc. 13/10/22)

SITE PLAN

Cisco Grove Campground
Placer County

N
W E
S

Scale:
~ 500 feet