Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

6 January 2022

CERTIFIED MAIL
7020 0640 0002 1958 3207

Tim Cohee
59265 CA-168
Lakeshore, California 93634

CERTIFIED MAIL
7020 0640 0002 1958 3214

Elaine Locke
United States Forest Service
29688 Auberry Road
Prather, California 93651

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA), STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; TIM COHEE AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE; CHINA PEAK SKI RESORT WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM; FRESNO COUNTY

On 26 June 2019, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) on behalf of Tim Cohee, China Peak Ski Resort owner, and the United States Forest Service, the landowner for the China Peak Ski Resort Wastewater Treatment System (WWTF or Facility). Tim Cohee and the United States Forest Service are collectively referred to as Discharger. The RWD includes a Form 200 and a technical report prepared by Lui N. Zaninovich III, a California registered engineer (RCE 57769). On 8 June 2021, Central Valley Water Board staff received a nitrogen effluent limit evaluation, also prepared by Lui N. Zaninovich III. The Facility is currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 86-065.

Based on the information provided and a review of the available information, the Facility treats and disposes of less than 100,000 gallons of domestic wastewater per day and is eligible for coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's WQ Order 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order). This letter serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to your system and the wastewater discharge described below. You are hereby assigned General Order **2014-0153-DWQ-R5369** for your system. After WDRs Order 86-065 has been rescinded, coverage under General Order 2014-0153-DWQ will become effective.

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments enclosed with this letter, which describe mandatory discharge and monitoring requirements. 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) No. **2014-0153-DWQ-R5369**. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Facility is at 59265 CA-168 in Lakeshore (Section 17 Township 8 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian) in Fresno County (see Attachments A and B). The ski resort has a day lodge, four restaurants, four bars, a hotel for skiers and tourists, and employee housing near Huntington Lake in California. The Facility was previously permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 86-065, which specified a 30-day average daily dry weather flow limit of 80,000 gallons per day (gpd).

The Facility's wastewater treatment process consists of an extended aeration activated sludge process followed by chlorination. Wastewater from the treatment system is discharged to two evaporation/percolation ponds followed by a leach field system. The current contract operator reports the leach field has not received effluent during her tenure (since 2018) or the previous contract operator's tenure. Attachment C of the NOA shows a process flow diagram for the Facility. While the treatment system has a design capacity of 80,000 gpd, current wastewater flows average around 6,170 gpd as a monthly average. The Facility is operated by McMillan Mountain Services.

FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

The Discharger will maintain exclusive control over the discharge and shall comply with the terms and conditions of this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369.

In accordance with Section B.1 of the General Order, treated wastewater discharged to the leach field system shall not exceed a **monthly average daily discharge of 80,000 gpd**.

As discussed in the attached memorandum, the Discharger shall comply with the effluent limitations specified in Table 1 below when discharging to the evaporation/percolation ponds. Compliance with the effluent limitations specified in Table 1 shall be determined at the discharge point from the wastewater treatment system to the evaporation/percolation ponds as described in the enclosed MRP.

Table 1 - Effluent Limitations

Constituent	Unit	Monthly Average	7-Day Average	7-Day Median	Daily Maximum	Annual % Reduction
BOD_5	mg/L	30	45	--	--	--
TSS	mg/L	30	45	--	--	--
Total Nitrogen Reduction	%	--	--	--	--	50% (see 1 below)
Total Coliform Organisms	MPN per 100 ml	--	--	23	240	--

1. The nitrogen percent reduction value represents the minimum percent reduction compared to the untreated wastewater value. Nitrogen percent

reduction shall be calculated on an annual basis. In no case shall the reduction require an effluent lower than 10 mg/L total nitrogen.

The General Order states in Section B.1 that the Discharger shall comply with the setbacks as described in Table 3 of the General Order. This table summarizes different setback requirements for wastewater treatment system equipment, activities, land application areas, and storage and/or treatment ponds from sensitive receptors and property lines where applicable. The Discharger shall comply with the applicable setback requirements, as summarized in Table 2 below:

Table 2 - Site-Specific Applicable Setback Requirements

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir
Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System	100 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.	5 ft.	200 ft.
Leach Field	100 ft.	100 ft.	50 ft.	5 ft.	200 ft.
Impoundment (sec 23 recycled water)	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	50 ft.	200 ft.

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

1. Activated Sludge System requirements in Section B.4 of the General Order;
2. Pond Systems requirements in Section B.5 of the General Order;
3. Subsurface Disposal Systems in Section B.6 of the General Order;
4. Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal requirements in Section B.8 of the General Order; and
5. Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations specified in Section C.1 of the General Order

Provision E.1 of the General Order requires dischargers enrolled under the General Order to prepare and implement the following reports by 6 April 2022**:**

- Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Provision E.1.a.).
- Sampling and Analysis Plan (Provision E.1.b).
- Sludge Management Plan (Provision E.1.c)

A copy of the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan and the Sampling and Analysis Plan shall be maintained at the treatment facility and shall be presented to the Regional Water Board staff upon request. The sludge management plan shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board within **90 days** of the issuance of the NOA.

As stated in Section E.2.w., in the event any change in control or ownership of the Facility or wastewater disposal areas, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this General Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer.

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, the General Order, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369 could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of wastes other than those described in this NOA is prohibited. If the method of waste disposal changes from that described in this NOA, you must submit a new Report of Waste Discharge describing the new operation.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing if the discharge regulated by the General Order ceases, so that we may terminate coverage and avoid unnecessary billing.

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.

All monitoring reports and other correspondences shall be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any email used to transmit documents to this office:

Program: Non-15,
Place ID: 256981,
Facility Name: China Peak Ski Resort Wastewater Treatment Facility,
Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of the General Order has been sent only to the Discharger. Others are advised that the General Order is available on the State Water Board's website

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf).

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of General Order WQO 2014-0153-DWQ has been sent only to the Discharger. Others are advised that the General Order is available on the State Water Board's website

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf).

All documents, including responses to inspections and written notifications, submitted to comply with this NOA shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the Compliance and Enforcement Unit, attention to Russell Walls. Mr. Walls can be reached at (559) 488-4392 or Russell.Walls@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of the NOA, and notification for termination of coverage under the Small Domestic General Order, shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the WDR Permitting Unit, attention Jeff Robins. Jeff Robins can be reached at (559) 445-5976 or by email at Jeff.Robins@waterboards.ca.gov.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Resources Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at Copies of the laws and regulations applicable to filing petitions (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

WDRs Order 86-065 is tentatively scheduled to be rescinded at the 21/22 April 2022 Central Valley Water Board Meeting. Coverage under General Order 2014-0153-DWQ will become effective upon rescission of WDRs Order 86-065.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Robins by phone at (559) 445-5976 or by email at Jeff.Robins@waterboards.ca.gov.

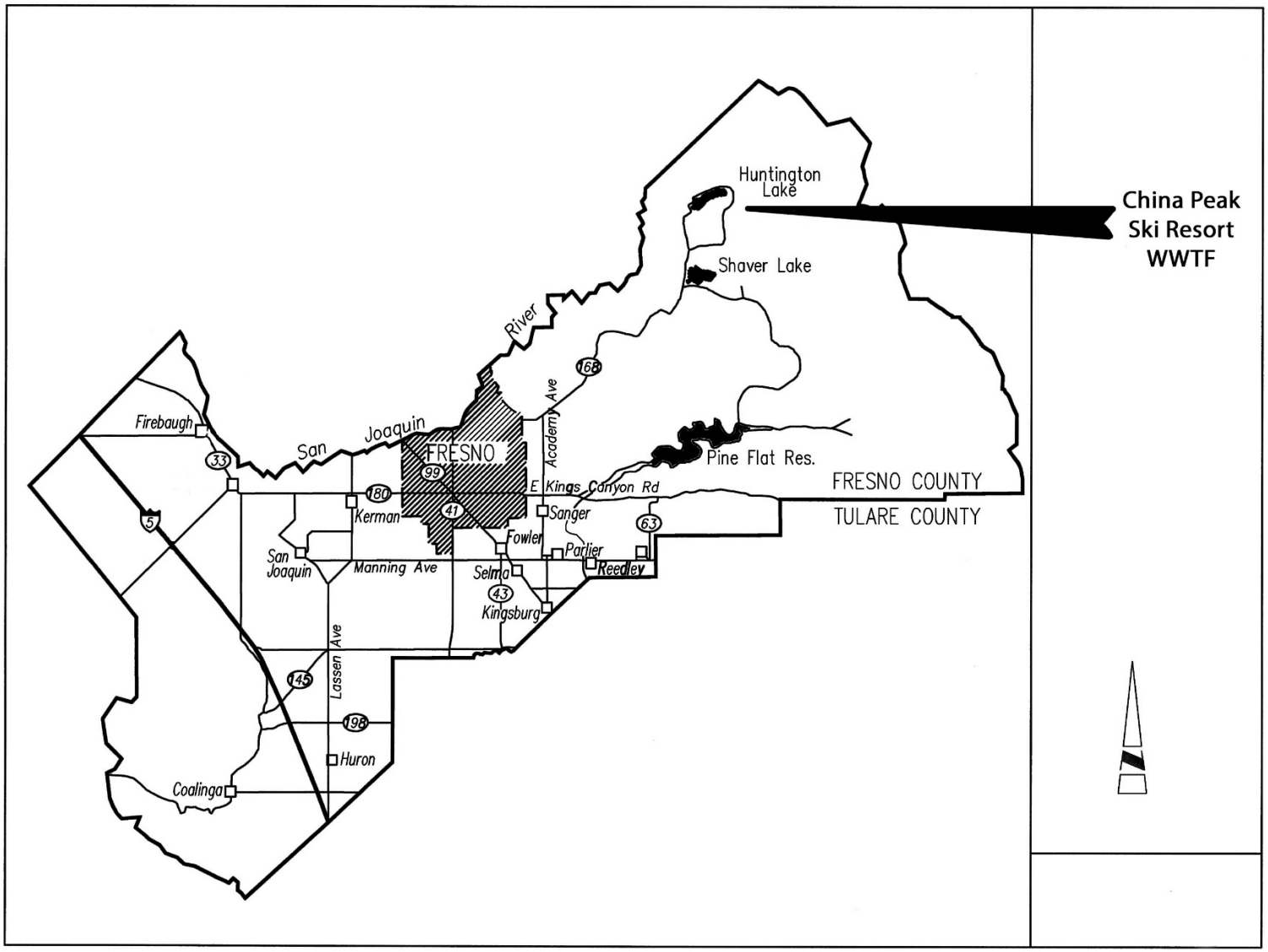
Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

(See next page for attachments, enclosures, and cc's)

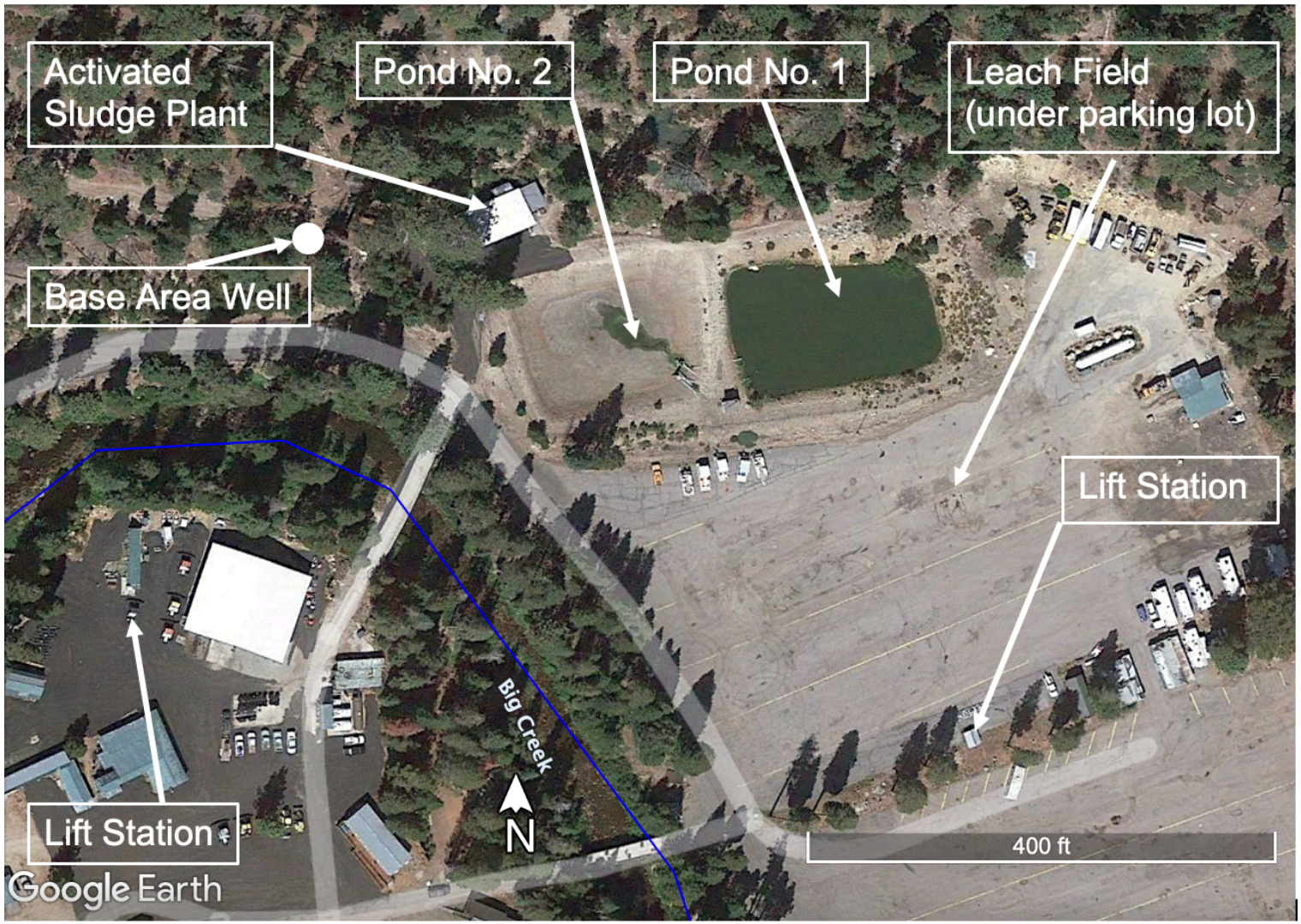
Attachments:
- Attachment A – General Location Map
- Attachment B – Site Map
- Attachment C – Process Flow Diagram

Enclosures:
- Monitoring and Reporting Program 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369
- Review Memorandum of China Peak Ski Resort
- State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ

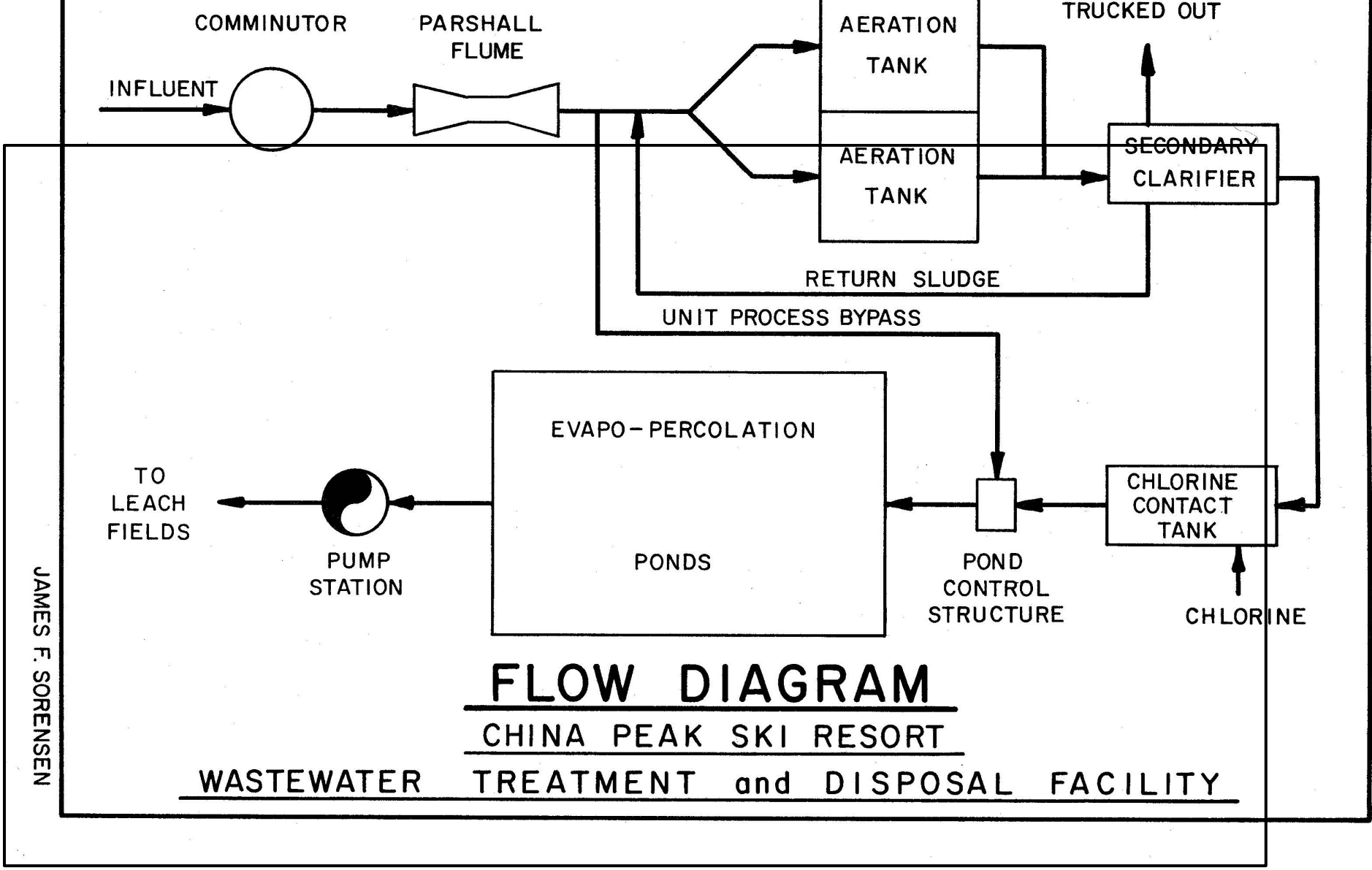
cc:
- David Lancaster, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC, Sacramento (via email)
- Laurel Warddrip, State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ, Sacramento (via email)
- Russell Walls, Central Valley Water Board, Fresno (via email)
- Jose Robledo, State Water Resources Control Board, DDW, Fresno (via email)
- Fresno County Planning Department, Fresno, CA
- Fresno County Environmental Health, Fresno, CA
- Debbie Webster, CVCWA (via email)
- Laura McMillan, McMillan Mountain Services (via email)
- Lui N. Zaninovich III, (via email)
- Tim Cohee, China Peak Ski Resort (via email)
- Elaine Locke, U.S. Forest Service (via email)



ATTACHMENT A - GENERAL LOCATION MAP
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369
SOURCE: REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE



ATTACHMENT B – SITE MAP
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369



ATTACHMENT C – PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369
SOURCE: REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369
FOR
TIM COHEE AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE
CHINA PEAK SKI RESORT WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
FRESNO COUNTY

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for monitoring a wastewater treatment system. This MRP is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267. Tim Cohee and the United States Forest Service (collectively referred to as Discharger) shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) or Executive Officer.

Section 13267 of the California Water Code states, in part:

> *"In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports."*

Section 13268 of the California Water Code states, in part:

> *"(a) Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of Section 13267, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of Section 13399.2, or falsifying and information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b).*
>
> *(b)(1) Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with Article 2.5 (commencing with section 13323) of Chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs."*

Tim Cohee owns the China Peak Ski Resort Wastewater Treatment System (Facility or WWTF), that is subject to Notice of Applicability (NOA) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369. The United States Forest Service owns the land where China Peak Ski Resort and the WWTF are located. The NOA enrolls the WWTF under State Water Resources Control

Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order) upon the rescission of the WDRs Order 86-065. The reports required in this MRP are necessary to ensure that the Discharger complies with the NOA and General Order. Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall implement this MRP and shall submit the monitoring reports described herein.

All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The name of the sampler, sample type (grab or composite), time, date, location, bottle type, and any preservative used for each sample shall be recorded on the sample chain of custody form. The chain of custody form must also contain all custody information including date, time, and to whom samples were relinquished. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.

Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided that they are used by a State Water Resources Control Board, Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certified laboratory, or:

1. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
2. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
3. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and
4. Field calibration reports are maintained and available for at least three years.

TREATMENT SYSTEM MONITORING

A. Influent Monitoring

Influent samples shall be taken from a location that provides representative samples of the wastewater and flow prior to entering the WWTF treatment system. At a minimum, influent monitoring shall include the monitoring specified in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Influent Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow	gpd	Meter	Continuous (see 1 and 2 below)	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen (as N)	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly

1. For continuous analyzers, the Discharger shall document routine meter maintenance activities including date, time of day, and duration, in which the analyzer(s) is not in operation.

2. At a minimum, the total flow shall be measured weekly to calculate the average daily flow.

B. Effluent Monitoring

Samples of effluent shall be taken at an area that represents the effluent quality distributed to Pond No. 1 (i.e., the first pond, in series, after treatment and chlorination). At a minimum, effluent monitoring shall include the monitoring specified in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Effluent Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
pH	SU	Grab	Weekly	Quarterly
EC	µmhos/cm	Grab	Weekly	Quarterly
BOD_5	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
TSS	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen (as N)	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly

DISINFECTION SYSTEM MONITORING

Disinfection shall be monitored as specified in Table 3 below. Samples shall be collected immediately downstream of the disinfection system.

Table 3 - Disinfection System Monitoring

Constituent		Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Total Coliform Organisms		MPN/100 mL	Grab	Twice per month	Quarterly
Chlorine Residual		mg/L	Grab	Daily	Quarterly
Contact Time		mg-min/L	Calculate	Daily	Quarterly
Turbidity		NTU	Grab	Daily	Quarterly

POND SYSTEM MONITORING

A. Wastewater Pond Monitoring

All wastewater treatment and disposal ponds shall be monitored as specified in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Wastewater Pond Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Dissolved Oxygen (DO) (see 1 and 2 below)	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Quarterly
Freeboard	0.1 feet	Measurement	Quarterly	Quarterly
Odors	--	Observation	Quarterly	Quarterly
Berm condition	--	Observation	Annually	Annually

1. DO shall be measured between 8:00 am and 10:00 am and shall be taken opposite the pond inlet at a depth of approximately one foot, when there is sufficient water in the pond(s). If there is insufficient water in the pond(s) no sample shall be collected and the reason provided in the quarterly monitoring report. Should the DO be below 1.0 mg/L during a monthly sampling event, the Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to correct the problem and commence daily DO monitoring in the affected ponds until the problem has been resolved.
2. Pond samples shall not be conducted when unsafe conditions are present (e.g., significant snowfall or icy conditions). The Discharger shall note the reason for not collecting the sample in the quarterly report.

SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL AREA MONITORING

Monitoring shall be sufficient to determine if wastewater is evenly applied, the disposal area is not saturated, burrowing animals and/or deep-rooted plants are not present, and odors are not present. Inspection of dosing pump controllers, automatic distribution valves, etc. is required to maintain optimum treatment in the disposal area (and any sand or media filter, if present). Monitoring for the leach field system shall include, at a minimum, the following items listed in Table 5.

Table 5 – Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring Requirements

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow	gpd	Meter (see 1 below)	Continuous (see 2 below)	Quarterly
Pump Controllers, Automatic Valves, etc. (see 3 below)	--	Observation	Quarterly	Quarterly
Nuisance Odor Condition	--	Observation	Quarterly	Quarterly
Saturated Soil Conditions (see 4 below)	--	Observation	Quarterly	Quarterly
Plant Growth (see 5 below)	--	Observation	Quarterly	Quarterly

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Vectors or Animals Burrowing (see 6 below)	--	Observation	Quarterly	Quarterly

1. The Discharger shall meter or estimate flow discharged from the ponds to the leach field. At a minimum, the total flow shall be measured/estimated weekly to calculate the average daily flow for the month.
2. For continuous analyzers, the Discharger shall document routine meter maintenance activities including date, time of day, and duration, in which the analyzer (s) is not in operation
3. All pump controllers and automatic distribution valves shall be inspected for proper operation as recommended by the manufacturer.
4. Inspect a disposal area for saturated conditions.
5. Shallow-rooted plants are generally desirable, deep-rooted plants such as trees shall be removed as necessary.
6. Evidence of animals burrowing shall be immediately investigated and burrowing animal populations controlled as necessary.

SLUDGE/BIOSOLIDS MONITORING

The Discharger shall report the handling and disposal of all solids (e.g., screenings, grit, sludge, biosolids, etc.) generated at the wastewater system. Records shall include the name/contact information for the hauling company, the type and amount of waste transported, the date removed from the wastewater system, the disposal facility name and address, and copies of analytical data required by the entity accepting the waste. These records shall be submitted as part of the annual monitoring report.

REPORTING

In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, sample type (e.g., effluent, solids, etc.), and reported analytical or visual inspection results are readily discernable. The data shall be summarized to clearly illustrate compliance with the General Order and NOA as applicable. The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the locations specified in the MRP shall be reported in the next regularly scheduled monitoring report and shall be included in calculations as appropriate.

All regulatory documents, submissions, materials, data, monitoring reports, and correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the appropriate Regional Water Board office, in this case 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any email used to transmit documents to this office:

Program: Non-15,
Place ID: 256981,
Facility Name: China Peak Ski Resort,
Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5369

A. Quarterly Monitoring Reports

Quarterly reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board on the **first day of the second month after the quarter ends** (e.g. the January-March Quarterly Report is due by May 1st). The reports shall bear the certification and signature of the Discharger's authorized representative. At the minimum, the quarterly reports shall include:

1. Results of all required monitoring.
2. A comparison of monitoring data to the requirements (including the flow limitation), disclosure of any violations of the NOA and/or General Order, and an explanation of any violation of those requirements. Data shall be presented in tabular format.
3. Copies of laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody form(s).

B. Annual Report

Annual Reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board by **March 1st following the monitoring year**. The Annual Report shall include the following:

1. Tabular and graphical summaries of all monitoring data collected during the year.
2. Calculation of the total annual nitrogen percent reduction and evaluation if the total annual nitrogen percent reduction was in compliance with the nitrogen limit. If not, the annual report shall discuss what steps the Discharger proposes to implement to ensure compliance with the annual limit the next calendar year.
3. An evaluation of the performance of the wastewater treatment system, including discussion of the capacity issues, nuisance conditions, system problems and a forecast of the flows anticipated in the next year. A flow rate evaluation, as described in the General Order (Provision E.2.c), shall also be submitted.
4. A discussion of compliance and the corrective action taken, as well as any planned or proposed actions needed to bring the discharge into compliance with the NOA and/or General Order.
5. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies/redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.

6. The name and contact information for the wastewater operator responsible for operation, maintenance, and system monitoring.

C. State Water Board Volumetric Annual Reporting

Per State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Control Policy (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/), amended in December 2018, dischargers of treated wastewater and recycled water are required to report annually monthly volumes of influent, wastewater produced, and effluent, including treatment level and discharge type. The Discharger shall submit an annual report to the State Water Board by **April 30 of each calendar year** furnished with the information detailed below. The Discharger must submit this annual report containing monthly data in electronic format via the State Water Board's Internet GeoTracker system (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/). Required data shall be submitted to the GeoTracker database under a site-specific global identification number. Any data will be made publicly accessible as machine readable datasets. The Discharger must report all applicable items listed below:

1. **Influent.** Monthly volume of wastewater collected and treated by the wastewater treatment plant.
2. **Production.** Monthly volume of wastewater treated, specifying level of treatment.
3. **Discharge.** Monthly volume of treated wastewater discharged to land, where beneficial use is not taking place, including evaporation or percolation ponds, overland flow, or spray irrigation disposal, excluding pasture of fields with harvested grounds.
4. **Reuse.** Monthly volume of recycled water distributed.
5. **Reuse Categories.** Annual volume of treated wastewater distributed for beneficial use in compliance with California Code of Regulations, title 22 in each of the use categories listed below:
    a. Agricultural irrigation: pasture or crop irrigation.
    b. Landscape irrigation: irrigation of parks, greenbelts, and playgrounds; school yards; athletic fields; cemeteries; residential landscaping, common areas; commercial landscaping; industrial landscaping; and freeway, highway, and street landscaping.
    c. Golf course irrigation: irrigation of golf courses, including water used to maintain aesthetic impoundments within golf courses.
    d. Commercial application: commercial facilities, business use (such as laundries and office buildings), car washes, retail nurseries, and appurtenant landscaping that is not separately metered.

e. Industrial application: manufacturing facilities, cooling towers, process water, and appurtenant landscaping that is not separately metered.

f. Geothermal energy production: augmentation of geothermal fields.

g. Other non-potable uses: including but not limited to dust control, flushing sewers, fire protection, fill stations, snow making, and recreational impoundments.

h. Groundwater recharge: the planned use of recycled water for replenishment of a groundwater basin or an aquifer that has been designated as a source of water supply for a public water system. Includes surface or subsurface application, except for seawater intrusion barrier use.

i. Reservoir water augmentation: the planned placement of recycled water into a raw surface water reservoir used as a source of domestic drinking water supply for a public water system, as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, or into a constructed system conveying water to such a reservoir (Water Code § 13561).

j. Raw water augmentation: the planned placement of recycled water into a system of pipelines or aqueducts that deliver raw water to a drinking water treatment plant that provides water to a public water system as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code (Water Code § 13561).

k. Other potable uses: both indirect and direct potable reuse other than for groundwater recharge, seawater intrusion barrier, reservoir water augmentation, or raw water augmentation.

A letter transmitting the monitoring reports shall accompany each report. The letter shall report violations found during the reporting period, and actions taken or planned to correct the violations and prevent future violations. The transmittal letter shall contain the following penalty of perjury statement and shall be signed by the Discharger or the Discharger's authorized agent:

> *"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."*

The Discharger shall implement the above monitoring program on the first day of the month following rescission of WDRs Order 86-065.

Ordered by:

Original Signed by Clay Rodgers for:
PATRICK PALUPA, Executive Officer

1/6/2022
(Date)

GLOSSARY

BOD_5	Five-day biochemical oxygen demand
$CaCO_3$	Calcium carbonate
DO	Dissolved oxygen
CT	The product of disinfectant residual concentration (C) and modal contact time (T).
EC	Electrical conductivity at 25° C
FDS	Fixed dissolved solids
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TKN	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen
TSS	Total suspended solids
Continuous	The specified parameter shall be measured by a meter continuously.
24-hr Composite	Samples shall be a flow-proportioned composite consisting of at least eight aliquots over a 24-hour period.
Daily	Every day except weekends or holidays.
Twice Weekly	Twice per week on non-consecutive days.
Weekly	Once per week.
Twice Monthly	Twice per month during non-consecutive weeks.
Monthly	Once per calendar month.
Quarterly	Once per calendar quarter.
Semiannually	Once every six calendar months (i.e., two times per year) during non-consecutive quarters.
Annually	Once per year.
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
mg/kg	Milligrams per kilogram
mL/L	Milliliters [of solids] per liter
µg/L	Micrograms per liter
µmhos/cm	Micromhos per centimeter
gpd	Gallons per day
gal/acre/mo	Gallons per acre per month
mgd	Million gallons per day
MPN/100 mL	Most probable number [of organisms] per 100 milliliters
NA	Denotes not applicable
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
UV	Ultraviolet
mJ/cm^2	Millijoules/cm^2
SU	Standard pH units

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER DISCHARGE SYSTEMS; TIM COHEE AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE; CHINA PEAK WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; FRESNO COUNTY

On 26 June 2019, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for the China Peak Ski Resort Wastewater Treatment System (Facility or WWTF). The RWD was submitted by Laura McMillan, with McMillan Mountain Services, on behalf of Tim Cohee, China Peak Ski Resort owner, and the United States Forest Service, the landowner. Tim Cohee and the United States Forest Service are collectively referred to as Discharger. The RWD requested coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's WQ Order 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order) for the Facility. The RWD includes a Form 200 and a technical report prepared by Lui N. Zaninovich III, a California registered engineer (RCE 57769). On 8 June 2021, the Central Valley Water Board received a nitrogen effluent limit evaluation, also prepared by Lui N. Zaninovich III.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Facility is at 59265 CA-168 in Lakeshore (37.2374° N, 119.1543° W), near Huntington Lake in Fresno County (as shown in Attachment A and B of the Notice of Applicability [NOA]). The ski resort has a day lodge, four restaurants, four bars, a hotel for skiers and tourists, and employee housing. The Facility is currently permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 86-065. This WDRs are over 30 years

old and needs to be revised. The WWTF was originally constructed in 1973 and originally regulated under WDRs Order 74-34.

DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE

The WWTF treatment system consists of an extended aeration activated sludge process with chlorination. The discharge from the system is to evaporation/percolation ponds, followed by leach fields. Attachment C of the Notice of Applicability shows a process flow diagram for the Facility.

The treated wastewater is discharged to a pair of evaporation/percolation ponds that operate in series. The pond to the east (Pond No. 1) is the primary pond and the pond to west is the secondary pond (Pond No. 2). According to the RWD, total surface area of the ponds is one acre with a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons. Excess flow is disposed of in a leach field system laid under the parking lot. The contract operator stated that the secondary pond rarely receives wastewater (estimated two times per year during wet weather or the snow melt period). Furthermore, the leach field has reportedly not received flow since at least 2018.

The Facility employs a contract operator (McMillan Mountain Services) whose staff visit the Facility two to three times per week. The contract operator employs at least one Grade 3 Operator.

POTENTIAL THREAT TO WATER QUALITY

The Discharger measures the Facility's influent flow from a Parshall flume and a digital flow meter. Flow meter totalizer readings are recorded either daily or weekly. Monthly average flows from January 2019 to August 2021 are summarized in Table 1 below. For this date range, the monthly average wastewater flow was 6,301 gpd and ranged from 1,706 gpd to 14,342 gpd (during peak ski season). The design capacity of the plant is 80,000 gpd.

Table 1 – Monthly Average Wastewater Flows (2019-2021)

Month	2019 (gpd)	2020 (gpd)	2021 (gpd)
Jan	7,887	14,342	11,019
Feb	10,039	10,272	10,709
Mar	9,552	6,104	11,094
Apr	9,480	3,391	5,682
May	4,768	2,071	4,678
Jun	3,650	3,878	7,036
Jul	2,506	4,181	7,898
Aug	2,103	4,098	6,866
Sep	1,706	2,297	--
Oct	1,798	5,944	--
Nov	3,627	4,194	--
Dec	10,989	7,764	--

Monthly average effluent BOD_5 for the same date range is summarized in Table 2 below. Generally, these results comply with the effluent limitations specified in the General Order for activated sludge systems (30 mg/L as a monthly average and 45 mg/L as a 7-day average). However, during the Creek Wildfire of late summer through the fall of 2020, the Facility was evacuated and measurements were not taken from 5 September 2020 to 6 October 2020. Subsequently, for October 2020 and November 2020, the monthly average effluent BOD_5 concentration was 84 mg/L and 35 mg/L, respectively.

Table 2 – Effluent BOD_5 Data (2019-2021)

Month	2019 (mg/L)	2020 (mg/L)	2021 (mg/L)
Jan	27	17	8.3
Feb	17	22	13
Mar	7.8	19	17
Apr	14.5	21	10
May	5.9	13	18
Jun	8.6	12.5	25
Jul	15	6.8	15
Aug	5.8	3.8	4.3
Sep	2.5	5	--
Oct	14	**84**	--
Nov	11.8	**35**	--
Dec	5.5	9.6	--

Monthly average effluent TSS measurements, since the beginning of 2019, are summarized in Table 3 below. Except for February, March, May, October and November 2020, the Facility effluent TSS concentrations were below the applicable General Order monthly average effluent limitation of 30 mg/L.

Table 3 – Effluent TSS Data (2019-2021)

Month	2019 (mg/L)	2020 (mg/L)	2021 (mg/L)
Jan	27	18	27
Feb	23	**40**	29
Mar	28	**40**	18
Apr	25	20	20
May	17	**39**	16
Jun	13	18	26
Jul	25	18	19
Aug	10	19	16
Sep	10	14	--
Oct	16	**68**	--
Nov	17	**39**	--
Dec	20	13	--

According to the RWD and the Information Sheet for WDRs Order 86-065, the percolation rates at the Facility are rapid (1.2 to 6.2 minutes per inch [MPI]). Decomposed granite is at approximately seven to ten feet below the ground surface. The 28 September 1994 Well Completion Report for the Base Area Well lists the depth to granite at nine feet with notations of fractures at various depths. The 2021 Nitrogen Effluent Limit Evaluation stated the depth to groundwater at the Base Area Well (for March 2020) was 10 feet. The 2021 Nitrogen Effluent Limit Evaluation also presented results for the 18 May 2020 percolation tests in the bottom of Pond #2 (pond was dry), which determined a percolation rate of 5 to 8 MPI.

WDRs Order 86-065 requires the Discharger to disinfect the effluent and specifies a total coliform monthly median limitation of 23 MPN per 100 mL and a daily maximum limitation of 240 MPN. Since January 2019, the Discharger has generally complied with the total coliform limitations (three reported detections since 2019). The few reported exceedances were supposedly due to chlorine equipment failure.

Finding 6 of the General Order states dischargers enrolled under the General Order must comply with the applicable Basin Plan requirements, and that between the requirements of the General Order and the Basin Plan, the more stringent requirements prevail. The San Joaquin River Basin Plan, Section 3.2.1 contains a water quality objective for bacteria requiring groundwater designated as municipal and domestic supply (MUN) have total coliform of less than 2.2 MPN/100 mL over any 7-day period. Because of the shallow depth to groundwater, rapid percolation at the site, and groundwater containing the MUN designation, it is appropriate to carryover the effluent total coliform limits of 23 MPN/100 mL over any 7-day period and a daily maximum limit of 240 MPN/100 mL.

To determine underlying groundwater quality, Central Valley Water Board staff reviewed available well data for nearby wells using the National Water Quality Monitoring Council's Water Quality Portal website (https://www.waterqualitydata.us/portal). Three wells were located within 19 miles of the discharge location (Well #1 = 009S024E35G001M, Well #2 = 008S023E33C001M, and Well #3 = 008S023E20F001M.). The data for the most recent sampling dates are summarized in Table 4 below. If there were two sample results from a single day, the results were averaged, and the number of test results is shown in parentheses to the right of the average result. For multiple pH results, the average was determined by calculating the negative log of the average hydrogen ion concentration.

Table 4 – Groundwater Quality From Nearby Wells

Constituent/Parameter	Well #1	Well #2	Well #3
Date Sampled	Sep-2018	May-2006	May 2006
Well Hole Depth (ft bgs)	120	900	900
Electrical Conductivity (µmhos/cm @ 25°C)	198	219	252
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	4.1	- -	1.3

Constituent/Parameter	Well #1	Well #2	Well #3
Nitrate as Nitrogen (mg/L)	0.499	ND	ND
Inorganic nitrogen (mg/L)	0.499	ND	ND
Ammonia and Ammonium	ND	ND	ND
Organic Nitrogen	ND	ND	ND
pH (SU)	6.3 (2)	9.3	7.8
Hardness Ca, Mg (mg/L as $CaCO_3$)	53.3	7.49	78
Sodium (mg/L)	19.2	44.1	26
Potassium (mg/L)	2.1	0.21	0.71
Chloride (mg/L)	24.3	11.4	3.78
Sulfate (mg/L)	3.26	2.7	2.5
Alkalinity (mg/L as $CaCO_3$)	76.5	76.5	123

The Safe Drinking Water Information System (https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/index.jsp), Geotracker (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov), and the RWD provided some source water quality data. China Peak has three active water supply wells (Base Area Well, Fire Bowl 1 Well, and Fire Bowl 4 Well). Most recent selected water quality results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5 – Groundwater Quality (Source Water Wells) Data

Constituent/Parameter	Base Area Well	Fire Bowl 1 Well	Fire Bowl 4 Well	Sampling Date
Well Hole Depth (ft bgs)	180	--	--	--
Electrical Conductivity (µmhos/cm @ 25°C)	100	24	58	5/19/2016
pH (SU)	8.06	7.36	7.45	3/29/2010
Nitrate (mg/L as Nitrogen)	ND (see note 1)	-- (see note 2)	-- (see note 2)	5/28/2021
Nitrate plus nitrite (mg/L as Nitrogen)	ND (see note 1)	ND (see note 1)	ND (see note 1)	10/15/2019

1. Reporting limit = 0.4 mg/L as nitrogen
2. "--" = not tested

NITROGEN LIMIT EVALUATION

The General Order requires that wastewater systems with a flow rate greater than 20,000 gallons per day be evaluated to determine if nitrogen effluent limits are required, as described in Attachment 1 of the General Order. A Nitrogen Effluent Limit Evaluation was prepared and submitted on 8 June 2021. Based on the following discharge information and site-specific conditions at the Facility, the 50% nitrogen removal limitation should be included in the NOA:

- The Facility has a design flow rate of 80,000 gpd, but historical and current flows are around 6,000 gpd;
- Groundwater depth is at approximately 10 feet;

- Areal percolation rates are rapid (ranging from 1.2 to 6.2 MPI), and percolation rates within the ponds are supposedly 5 to 8 MPI;
- Limited use of the Facility's leachfield; and
- From May 2020 to May 2021, the TKN and nitrate annual removal rates were measured at 61% and 65%, respectively.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring requirements included in the following sections from Attachment C of the General Order are appropriate for this discharge:

- Activated Sludge Monitoring (Treatment System Monitoring)
- Pond System Monitoring
- Disinfection System Monitoring
- Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring
- Solids Disposal

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability (CVSALTS) initiative, 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 (Resolution R5-2018-0034). Pursuant to the Basin Plan amendments, the Discharger was sent a Notice to Comply on 5 January 2021 (CV SALTS ID: 2496) with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program within one year of the effective date of the amendments. The Discharger submitted a Notice of Intent on 13 July 2021 and selected Option 2 (Alternative Option for Salt Permitting) and will participate in the Prioritization and Optimization Study.

For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility and disposal areas are not within a prioritized basin. Implementation within a unprioritized basin/sub-basins will occur at the direction of the Executive Officer.

More information on the Salt and Nitrate Control Program may be found on the internet (https:///cvsalinity.or/public-info).