

---

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

25 August 2020

Greg Pryor  
Recology Ostrom Road  
5900 Ostrom Road  
Wheatland, CA 95692

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7020 0640 0000 7627 2528**

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY**  
**WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ**  
**STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND**  
**WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY**  
**RECOLOGY OSTROM ROAD,**  
**AQUIFER PILOT TEST PROJECT**  
**YUBA COUNTY**

On 25 June 2020, Recology (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for aquifer testing activities for the Ostrom Road Groundwater Aquifer Pilot Test Project. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff reviewed the NOI and requested additional information from the Discharger about the proposed scope of work and discharge. A revised NOI was submitted on 11 August 2020. The revised NOI included an application for coverage under the General Order, a completed Form 200, an application fee, and a discharge monitoring plan (DMP). The submittal contains all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order; therefore, the revised NOI is considered complete. Based on the information provided in the revised NOI, the discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) General Order 2003-0003-DWQ-0212. Please include this reference number on all correspondence related to this discharge, including the submittal of a Notice of Termination at the completion of aquifer testing activities.

A copy of the General Order is enclosed with this notice and is also available at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) [Adopted Orders Website](#)

([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf)).

## PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Recology Ostrom Road facility is a solid waste disposal site, currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2018-0007, adopted on 1 February 2018. The WDRs require separation between groundwater and the base of landfill materials. On 2 April 2019, the Central Valley Water Board issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) for not maintaining adequate separation of groundwater from waste in the existing operable units. In order to maintain the necessary separation, on-going groundwater dewatering is required to bring the facility into compliance with the WDRs. In response to the NOV, the Discharger submitted a *Dewatering Well Work Plan* on 18 October 2019 (the Workplan) detailing the proposed approach to install and test up to three pairs of aquifer testing wells around the landfill. The Workplan was approved in a letter issued by the Central Valley Water Board on 12 November 2019.

Aquifer testing will begin with the installation of an initial pair of aquifer testing wells located on the north side of the landfill (Yuba County APN 015-080-018), as shown on Attachment A. The approved Workplan envisions that two additional paired wells may be installed at locations to be determined around the landfill to expand aquifer testing activities. Once overall pilot testing activities are complete, the Discharger plans to initiate an ongoing groundwater dewatering program to maintain compliance with groundwater separation requirements in Order R5-2018-0007. The sustained groundwater dewatering program may include additional extraction wells not envisioned under this NOA. The Discharger is currently evaluating discharge permitting options for full-scale implementation of the groundwater dewatering program.

As detailed in the Workplan, preparation for aquifer testing activities will begin with the installation of two wells; a shallow well (completed to approximately 30 feet below ground surface [bgs]) and a deep well (completed to approximately 150 to 200 feet bgs), as shown on Attachment A. Once the wells are drilled and constructed per the approved Workplan, aquifer testing will be conducted to determine appropriate pumping rates and radius of influence. Initial aquifer testing activities are expected to take approximately one to three weeks. Depending on the outcome of pilot testing activities, additional pilot testing wells may be installed, if necessary, to evaluate and achieve the required groundwater drawdown. Full-scale dewatering discharge to land to maintain adequate groundwater separation is not included under this NOA.

Extracted groundwater generated during aquifer pumping test activities will be discharged to the western portion of 117 acres of pasture land owned by the Discharger east of the landfill (Yuba County APN 015-030-024 and 015-030-025), as shown on Attachment A. The proposed discharge area is a natural depression surrounded with an approximate 5-foot high berm which will prevent discharged water from migrating off-site. Based on discharge flow rates anticipated during aquifer testing, the Discharger estimates only needing approximately 10 acres for aquifer pilot testing discharge.

Discharge flow rates during aquifer pilot testing are expected to vary, but may reach upwards of 100,000 gallons per day per paired-well location. As detailed in the revised NOI, aquifer testing discharge water will be conveyed to the LAA using temporary hoses or piping and the point of discharge will include flow dispersion measures to prevent scouring, erosion, and ponding. The revised NOI states that the Discharger will monitor static groundwater levels in monitoring wells VZW-1 and VZW-2 prior to, during, and up to one week following the end of the pilot testing discharge to evaluate the potential for mounding of the shallow groundwater table, which may influence aquifer testing results. Monitoring of VZW-1 and VZW-2 will be being conducted voluntarily by the Discharger to supplement aquifer testing activities and is not required under this NOA.

Groundwater quality data are available from on-site groundwater monitoring wells located near the proposed aquifer testing location. These data represent the expected groundwater quality to be extracted and discharged during aquifer pilot testing activities. Analytical data were summarized in the NOI submitted by the Discharger. Groundwater samples collected in August 2019 were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and general water quality parameters, including sodium, chloride, total dissolved solids, nitrate as nitrogen, sulfate, pH, and specific conductance. VOC concentrations were not detected at or greater than the method detection limits. Nitrate as nitrogen, detected at 14 milligrams per liter (mg/L), was the only constituent concentration that exceeded a water quality objective (10 mg/L for nitrogen in groundwater). However, the landfill is not the source of the nitrate as nitrogen in groundwater, which is likely the result of long-term agricultural activities and cattle grazing in the surrounding area. Details of monitoring the extracted groundwater (i.e. measuring flow, sampling location(s), sampling frequency, and analytical parameters) are provided in the DMP.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, revised May 2018 (hereafter Basin Plan), designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, contains implementation plans and policies for protecting waters of the basin, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted by the State Water Board. Pursuant to §13263(a) of the California Water Code, waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

## **FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

The General Order and this Notice of Applicability (NOA) regulate aquifer testing groundwater dewatering discharge for the Recology Ostrom Road Aquifer Pilot Test Project.

1. This NOA only applies to the land discharge of extracted groundwater generated during aquifer pilot testing activities as described in the revised NOI and the Workplan.
2. Water generated during well installation, development, and aquifer testing activities shall be disposed of as described in the NOA and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.

3. Aquifer testing discharge at a location or in a manner different from that described in the revised NOI or this NOA is prohibited.
4. Aquifer testing discharge to the onsite Sedimentation Basin or nearby agricultural fields not specifically called out in the revised NOI is prohibited under this NOA.
5. The discharge of any waste to surface waters is prohibited.
6. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.
7. Monitoring results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program and the Discharger's DMP, which was included in the revised NOI. Semi-annual monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on the **15<sup>th</sup> day of the second month following monitoring** (i.e. the January through June report is due August 15 and the July through December report is due February 15). At a minimum, the semi-annual monitoring reports shall include the results of aquifer testing and discharge monitoring activities, as specified above.
8. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.
9. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including its monitoring and reporting requirements, and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

## 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](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:	Recology Ostrom Road Aquifer Pilot Test Project
Program:	Non-15 Compliance
Order:	WQO 2003-0003-DWQ-0212
CIWQS Place ID:	246287

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. Todd DelFrate is your point of contact for any questions about the Order and this NOA. All monitoring and technical reports should be submitted to him. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Todd will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Todd DelFrate at (916) 464-4737 or at [Todd.DelFrate@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Todd.DelFrate@waterboards.ca.gov).

---

for Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

enclosures: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ  
Attachment A: Site Location & Features Map  
Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements

cc w/o encl: Yuba County Environmental Health Department

