



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

7 October 2019

WDID: 5A320704005

Daniel Lovato – Forest Supervisor
USDA Forest Service Plumas National Forest
159 Lawrence Street
Quincy, CA 95971-9489

**CERTIFIED MAIL:
7018 1130 0001 8555 8346**

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY, WATER QUALITY ORDER 2014-0153-DWQ-R5317, FRENCHMAN LAKE RECREATION AREA, PLUMAS COUNTY

On 23 October 2018 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff inspected the wastewater treatment and disposal facilities at Frenchman Lake Recreation Area (hereafter “Facility”) located on Frenchman Lake Road, Plumas County. The Facility is owned and operated by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Plumas National Forest (hereafter “Discharger”). Based on the site inspection and case file review, the facility treats and disposes of less than 100,000 gallons of wastewater per day, and is therefore eligible for coverage under the general and specific conditions of State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality 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 facility and the wastewater discharge described below. You are hereby assigned General Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5317 for your facility.

You can also find the General Order on the [State Water Board’s Adopted Orders Web Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf).

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments enclosed with this letter, which prescribes 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). This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached *Technical Memorandum*.

KARL E. LONGLEY SCD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 94-354 were adopted for this facility by the Central Valley Water Board on 9 December 1994. The Monitoring and Reporting Program requires weekly visual monitoring of freeboard in the ponds; monthly precipitation monitoring; frequent monitoring of ponds from 1 May through 31 October; this is to include visual observations for seepage through pond dikes, excessive or odors, excessive weed growth in the ponds, windblown spray extending beyond the ponds, and lift station pumps; and reporting of septage removed from the septic tanks, including volume, septage pumper's name, and location of disposal.

FACILITY AND DESCRIPTION

The Facility is located approximately 40 miles east of Quincy in Plumas National Forest, Plumas County. Included in Frenchman Lake Recreation Area is a work center and five campgrounds.

Frenchman Work Center houses employees in the summer months; the work center is in use throughout the year but does not provide housing in the winter. Frenchman Work Center is permitted to discharge up to 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) of domestic wastewater. The disposal system includes a septic tank and leach field. There was a pond built for wastewater disposal at the work center, but the pond has never been in use and has been decommissioned.

Big Cove Campground is comprised of 38 campsites and is permitted to discharge up to 5,000 gpd into a two-cell 900,000-gallon evaporation/percolation pond. Cottonwood Creek Campground is comprised of 20 campsites and 2 large group campsites and is permitted to discharge up to 3,000 gpd into a 725,000-gallon evaporation/percolation pond. The ponds at both Big Cove and Cottonwood Campgrounds are underlain by well-draining soil; given the volume of discharge and well-draining soils the ponds do not retain water.

Chilcot Campground includes 35 campsites, the campground is equipped with a septic tank and leach field for the disposal of domestic wastewater. Additionally, both Frenchman Campground and Spring Creek Campground are equipped with vault toilets that are pumped by a septic pumping service.

The campgrounds are open for approximately six months; however, the Facility sees the largest flows during Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekend, otherwise the Facility sees minimal flow.

This is an existing facility; therefore, enrollment under the General Order is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 which applies to ongoing or existing projects.

FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger will maintain exclusive control over the discharge and shall comply with the terms and conditions of this NOA and the General Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5317, with all attachments.

The General Order states in Section B.1.L that the discharger shall comply with the setbacks as described in Table 3. The following applicable setback requirements from Table 3, for which the Discharger shall comply, are summarized below:

Summary of Wastewater System Setbacks

The following table has been adapted from Table 3 of the General Order and only include setback requirements for specific equipment or activities applicable to the subject facility. Table notes are not in alphabetical order due to the way they were formatted in the General Order.

N/A denotes Not Applicable, as the defined feature is not found within the general area of the facility.

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream (see a below)	Ephemeral Stream Drainage (see b below)	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir (see d below)
Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System (see e below)	150 feet (see y below)	50 feet (see c below)	50 feet	5 feet (see c below)	200 feet (see w below)
Leach Field (see f below)	100 feet (see o and c below)	100 feet (see c below)	50 feet	5 feet (see c below)	200 feet (see w below) 100 feet (see c below)
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water) (see i below)	150 feet (see s below)	150 feet	150 feet	50 feet	200 feet

Table Notes:

- a) A flowing stream shall be measured from the ordinary high-water mark established by fluctuations of water elevation and indicated by characteristics such as shelving, changes in soil character, vegetation type, presence of litter or debris, or other appropriate means.
- b) Ephemeral Stream Drainage denotes a surface water drainage feature that flows only after rain or snowmelt and does not have sufficient groundwater seepage (baseflow) to maintain a condition of flowing surface water. The drainage shall be measured from a line that defines the limit of the ordinary high-water mark (described in “a” above). Irrigation canals are not considered ephemeral streams drainage features. The ephemeral stream shall be a “losing stream” (discharging surface water to groundwater) at the proposed wastewater system site.
- c) Setback established by California Plumbing Code, Table K-1.
- d) Lake or reservoir boundary measured from the high-water line.
- e) Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System addresses equipment located below ground or that impedes leak detection by routine visual inspection.
- f) Leach Field includes all subsurface dispersal systems, including mound systems except seepage pits.
- i) Undisinfected secondary recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.900
- o) California Well Standards, part II, section 8. Site-specific conditions may allow reduced setback or require an increased setback. See discussion in Well Standards.
- s) Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(d).
- w) Setback established by the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, section 7.5.5.
- y) Setback established by Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, section 7.5.6.

Failure to comply with the requirements in the documents 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.

Facility Information

Facility Name;	Frenchman Lake Recreation Area
Program;	WDR
Order Number;	R5-2014-0153-R5317
WDID;	5A320704005
Design Flow;	0.01 MGD
Threat and Complexity;	3B
Monitoring Requirements;	Semi-Annual

Billing Information

Name;	Beckworth Ranger District
Contact;	Debra Fryberger-Eby
Email;	dfrybergereby@fs.fed.us
Address;	P O Box 7, Blairsden, CA 96103
Phone;	(530) 836-7120

The Central Valley Water Board has gone to a Paperless Office System. All regulatory documents, MRPs, 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 the following email address: centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov.

Documents that are 50MB or larger should be transferred to a disc and mailed to the appropriate regional water board office, in this case 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002.

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

WDID: 5A320704005

Facility Name: Frenchman Lake Recreation Area **Order:** 2014-0153-DWQ-R5317

Please note that WDRs Order 94-354 is proposed to be rescinded at the 5/6 December 2019 meeting of the Central Valley Water Board. Upon rescission of your individual WDRs, coverage for your facility under the General Order shall become applicable subject to this Notice of Applicability.

If you have any questions regarding submitting an updated report of waste discharge, making changes to your permitted operations, compliance or enforcement please contact Valerie Rasmussen by phone at (530) 224-6130, by email at Valerie.Rasmussen@waterboards.ca.gov, or at the footer address located on the first page of this correspondence.

Original signed by Bryan J. Smith for
PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

VMR: ck

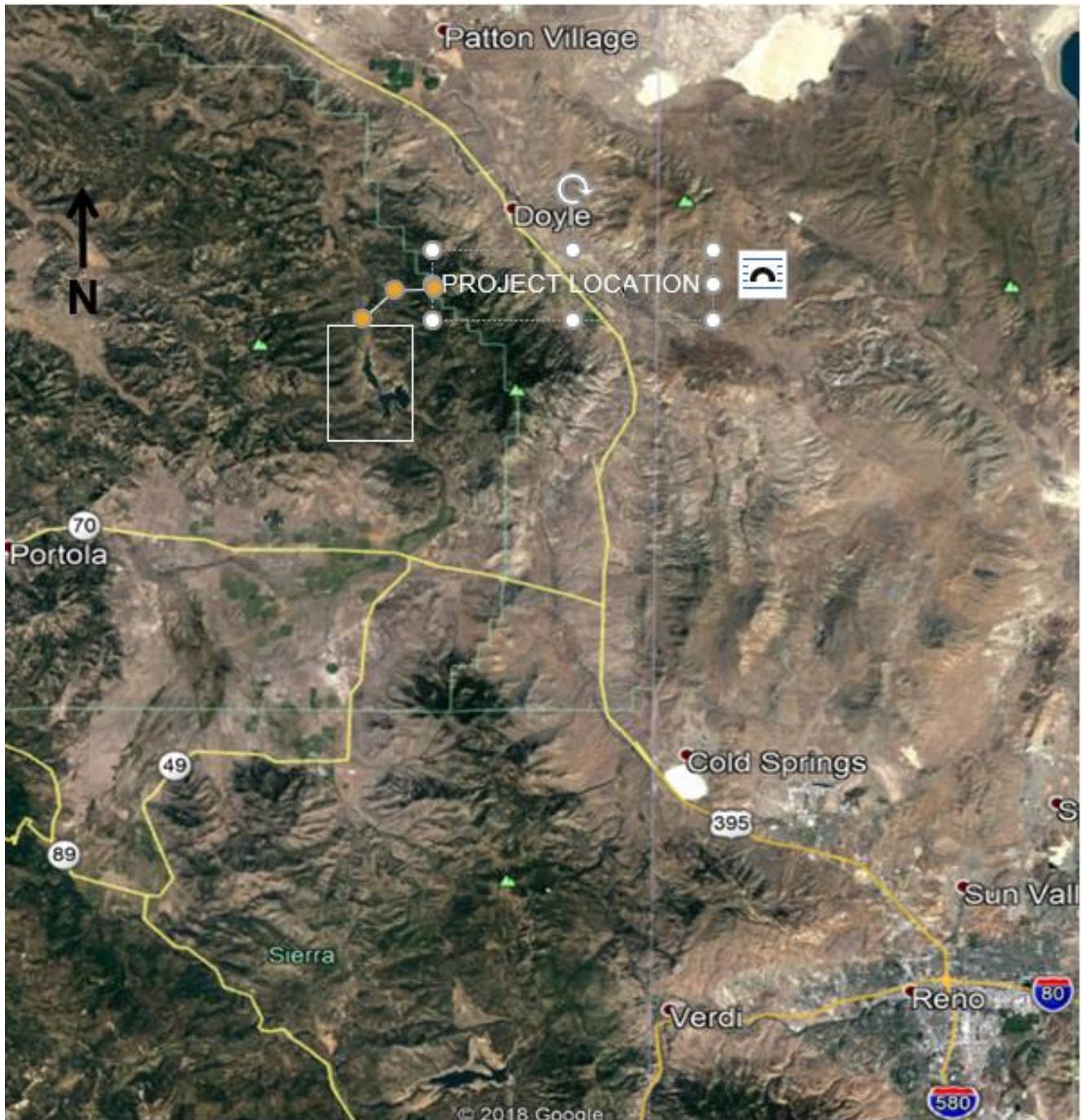
Attachments: Attachment A – Site Location Map
Attachment B – Facility Map
Technical Memorandum
Monitoring and Reporting Program
WQO-2014-0153-DWQ

cc without
attachments: Tim O'Brien, State Water Board, Sacramento
Plumas County Environmental Health Department, Quincy
David Lancaster, SWRCB, Office of Chief Counsel, Sacramento

FRENCHMAN LAKE RECREATION AREA
WASTEWATER TREATMENT/DISPOSAL FACILITIES
PLUMAS COUNTY

ORDER R5-2014-0153-R5317

ATTACHMENT A - LOCATION MAP



DRAWING REFERENCE:
GOOGLE EARTH
MAP DATA: © 2018
GOOGLE
NO SCALE

LOCATION MAP

FRENCHMAN LAKE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT/DISPOSAL FACILITIES
PLUMAS COUNTY

FRENCHMAN LAKE RECREATION AREA
WASTEWATER TREATMENT/DISPOSAL FACILITIES
PLUMAS COUNTY

ORDER DWQ 2014-0153-R5317

ATTACHMENT B – FACILITY MAP



DRAWING REFERENCE:
GOOGLE EARTH
MAP DATA: © 2018
GOOGLE
NO SCALE

FACILITY MAP
FRENCHMAN LAKE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT/DISPOSAL FACILITIES
PLUMAS COUNTY



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: George Low, PG
Senior Engineering Geologist

FROM: Valerie Rasmussen
Water Resource Control
Engineer

DATE: 7 October 2019

SIGNATURE: Original signed by V.Rasmussen

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF NITRATE, SETBACK CONDITIONS, AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR FRENCHMAN LAKE RECREATION AREA, PLUMAS COUNTY, GENERAL ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ ENROLLMENT

Staff has reviewed the case file and the 23 October 2018 Inspection Report for Frenchman Lake Recreation Area's wastewater treatment and disposal system, which assesses the general condition of the systems.

The Facility is located approximately 40 miles east of Quincy in Plumas National Forest, Plumas County. Included in Frenchman Lake Recreation Area is a work center and five campgrounds.

Frenchman Work Center houses employees in the summer months; the work center is in use throughout the year but does not provide housing in the winter. Frenchman Work Center is permitted to discharge up to 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) of domestic wastewater. The disposal system includes a septic tank and leach field. Previously there was a pond built for disposal at the work center, but the pond has never been in use and has been decommissioned.

Big Cove Campground is comprised of 38 campsites and is permitted to discharge up to 5,000 gpd into a two-cell 900,000-gallon evaporation/percolation pond. Cottonwood Creek Campground is comprised of 20 campsites and 2 large group campsites and is permitted to discharge up to 3,000 gpd into a 725,000-gallon evaporation/percolation pond.

Chilcot Campground includes 35 campsites, the campground is equipped with a septic tank and leach field for the disposal of domestic wastewater. Additionally, both Frenchman Campground and Spring Creek Campground are equipped with vault toilets that are pumped by a septic pumping service.

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The campgrounds are open for approximately six months; however, the Facility sees the largest flows during Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekends, otherwise the Facility sees minimal flow.

POTENTIAL THREATS TO WATER QUALITY

The Big Cove Campground ponds are located less than a quarter mile northwest of a private drinking water well according to a well log obtained from the GeoTracker database, this well log indicated that groundwater was first encountered at 80 feet below ground surface. In the area of Big Cove Campground, the soils consist of Badenaugh-Beiber complex, which is well drained.

The Cottonwood Creek Campground ponds are located approximately 1-mile northwest of a private drinking water well according to a well log obtained from the GeoTracker database, this well log indicated that groundwater was first encountered at 116 feet below ground surface. The soils underlying Cottonwood Creek Campground are Franktown-Statley families complex, which is well draining.

Completion of the Nitrate Checklist in Attachment 1 of Order 2014-0153-DWQ indicates the following flow and rationale:

A1 Exceed 20,000 gallons per day? No

Conclusion: No nitrogen removal is required. In the future, if nitrogen becomes a concern, effluent monitoring for nitrogen may be required. Additional measures such as nitrogen removal and installation of a groundwater monitoring well network may also be required

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Given the depth to groundwater, high percolation rate, low flow, and seasonality of the campgrounds staff recommends semiannual monitoring reports that include all constituent monitoring included in the General Order Monitoring and Reporting Program except five-day biochemical oxygen demand. The General Order Monitoring and Reporting Program requires facilities that discharge more than 400 gallons per day to monitor influent for five-day biochemical oxygen demand, given that the campgrounds are discharging minimally for three months with little flow due to only being toilet facilities discharging to the ponds and the work center only supporting live-in staff for the summer months, the average daily flow over the course of the year would be less than 400 gallons per day. Staff recommends not including influent testing of five-day biochemical oxygen demand in the monitoring and reporting requirements.

In summary, Staff recommends semiannual reporting of septic tank monitoring; daily flow rate; pond monitoring that includes dissolved oxygen, freeboard, odors, and berm conditions; leach field monitoring; and solids disposal monitoring. To protect water quality General Order monitoring requirements will be adequate.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM 2014-0153-DWQ-R5317
FOR
FRENCHMAN LAKE RECREATION AREA
PLUMAS 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. The Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) Executive Officer.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Regional Water Boards are transitioning to the paperless office system. In some regions, Dischargers will be directed to submit reports (both technical and monitoring reports) to the State Water Board's Electronic Content Management (ECM) database via email in portable document format (pdf). The email address for the ECM submittal is:

centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov

Water Code section 13267 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.”

Water Code section 13268 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 any 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.”

The Discharger owns and operates the wastewater system that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) of Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ. The reports 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 Regional 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 Board California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program 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.

SEPTIC TANK MONITORING

Monitoring of septic tank shall include the following:

Septic tanks shall be inspected and/or pumped at least as frequently as described below (except as noted below). Inspections of sludge and scum depth are not required if the tanks are pumped at least annually.

Table 1. Septic Tank Monitoring Frequency

Parameter	Units	Measurement Type	Inspection/Reporting Frequency
Sludge depth and scum thickness in each compartment of each tank	Feet	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually

Septic tanks shall be pumped when any one of the following conditions exists:

1. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment.
2. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.
3. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

If a septic tank is pumped during the year, the pumping report shall be submitted with the annual report. All pumping reports shall be submitted with the next regularly scheduled monitoring report. At a minimum, the record shall include the date, nature of service, service company name, and service company license number.

POND SYSTEM MONITORING

Influent Monitoring

Influent samples shall be taken from a location that provides representative samples of the wastewater and flow rate. At a minimum, influent monitoring shall consist of the following:

Table 2. Influent Monitoring Frequency

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow Rate: At a minimum, the total flow shall be measured monthly to calculate the average daily flow for the month. Average daily flow rate for the month can be estimated using pump run time.	Gallons per day (gpd)	Meter	Continuous	Semi-Annual

Wastewater Pond Monitoring

All wastewater and treated wastewater storage ponds (lined and unlined) shall be monitored as specified below:

Table 3. Wastewater Pond Monitoring Frequency

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Dissolved Oxygen: In the event of insufficient water level in the ponds to perform constituent testing the Discharger shall indicate in monitoring reports	Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)	Grab	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual
Freeboard	0.1 feet	Measurement	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual
Odors		Observation	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual
Berm condition		Observation	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual

SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL AREA

Subsurface disposal areas may be configured many different ways (e.g. traditional leach field, pressure-dosed, drip system, mound/at grade, gravel less, etc.). In general, 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 shall include, at a minimum, the following:

Table 4. Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring Frequency

Constituent	Inspection Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Pump Controllers, Automatic Valves, etc.: All pump controllers and automatic distribution valves shall be inspected for proper operation as recommended by the manufacturer.	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual
Nuisance Odor Condition	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual
Saturated Soil Conditions: Inspect disposal area for saturated conditions.	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual
Plant Growth: Shallow-rooted plants are generally desirable, deep-rooted plants such as trees shall be removed as necessary.	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual
Vectors or Animal Burrowing: Evidence of animals burrowing shall be immediately investigated, and burrowing animal populations controlled as necessary.	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual

SOLIDS DISPOSAL 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 discernible. 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.

During the life of this General Order, the State Water Board or Regional Water Board may require the Discharger to electronically submit monitoring reports using the State Water Board's California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) program Internet web site or alternative database. Electronic submittal procedures will be provided when directed to begin electronic submittals. Until directed to electronically submit monitoring reports, the Discharger shall submit hard copy monitoring reports.

Semi-Annual Monitoring Reports

Semi-annual reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board on June 1st and October 1st for monitoring performed at the beginning and close of the campgrounds each year. The reports shall bear the certification and signature of the Discharger's authorized representative. At a minimum, the quarterly reports shall include:

1. Results of all required monitoring.
2. A comparison of monitoring data to the discharge specifications, applicable effluent limits, 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. If requested by staff, copies of laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody form(s).

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 the 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 as of the date of this MRP.

Ordered by:

Original signed by Bryan J. Smith for
PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

7 October 2019
(Date)