Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 June 2025

Eltahir Ataelgeed
California Department of Transportation
1325 West Olive Ave
Fresno, Ca 93728
(email: eltahir.ataelgeed@dot.ca.gov)

CERTIFIED MAIL
7020 2450 0000 6785 9113

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY, STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ-2014-0153-DWQ, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TEJON PASS SAFETY ROADSIDE REST AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, KERN COUNTY

On 26 December 2024, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for the California Department of Transportation (Discharger) Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area (Tejon Pass SRRA) Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The RWD requests amended coverage under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ-2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order) due to proposed changes to the WWTF. Notice of Applicability (NOA) 2014-0153-R5353 was issued to the Discharger on 14 June 2021, which enrolled the WWTF under the General Order.

A revised RWD was submitted on 3 March 2025 in response to a request from Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) to address inconsistencies identified during review of the initial RWD. A completed and signed Form 200 was received on 25 April 2025. Based on the information provided in the revised RWD, the WWTF will treat and dispose less than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) of domestic wastewater and remains eligible for coverage under the general and specific conditions of the General Order. However, the proposed changes to the WWTF described in the RWD necessitate a revised NOA to reflect the changes in wastewater treatment at the site. This letter serves as formal notice that the General Order will continue to be applicable to your system and the wastewater discharge described below.

You are hereby assigned enrollee number **2014-0153-DWQ-R5424** for the Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF. This NOA, and the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)

effectively supersede and terminate NOA 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353 and MRP 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353.

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 sections of the General Order and the attached **MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424**. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Discharger owns and operates the Tejon Pass SRRA and the WWTF. The Tejon Pass SRRA is located adjacent to Interstate 5 (I-5), approximately 35 miles south of Bakersfield in Kern County as shown on Attachment A, Site Location Map. The Tejon Pass SRRA was constructed in 1981 as a pond disposal system and upgrades to the WWTF were made in 1992, 2005, and 2008 that included replacement of the primary pond liner, installation of septic tanks, and updating the facility to comply with requirements specified by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Tejon Pass SRRA consists of two individual comfort stations on either side of I-5 (one northbound and one southbound) that are served by a single WWTF as shown on Attachment B, Site Plan. The Tejon Pass SRRA has an estimated daily use of about 11,830 visitors that generate domestic wastewater at the comfort stations. Each comfort station includes a sanitary station that accepts recreation vehicle (RV) waste. Source water is provided to the comfort stations by the Lebec County Water District, and water usage at the Tejon Pass SRRA has historically consisted of toilet flushing, handwashing, and landscape irrigation.

EXISTING WWTF

The WWTF system currently contains 10 septic tanks that discharge wastewater into an effluent pond disposal system. There are four 9,000-gallon septic tanks that serve each of the comfort stations, and each comfort station parcel includes a RV sanitary station with an additional dedicated 9,000-gallon septic tank. The effluent from the septic tanks at the southbound comfort station flows by gravity through an existing six-inch sewer underneath I-5 to the northbound parcel. The effluent from both the comfort stations is combined in a distribution box and distributed by gravity flow to wastewater treatment ponds located onsite and northeast of the northbound comfort station. The RWD indicates the combined average daily flow from the comfort stations is 22,400 gallons per day (gpd), with a peak flow of 42,900 gpd, calculated using water meter readings from 2015 through 2018, and 2024.

There are five wastewater ponds used for treatment and disposal at the WWTF, as shown in Attachment C, Effluent Disposal Ponds. All of the ponds were constructed in 1981 and have a reported depth of five feet. The primary facultative treatment pond (primary pond) was constructed with a 30-millimeter Hypalon liner, has an area of about 115,500 square feet, and is equipped with three stationary aerators. The main function of the primary pond is to remove heavy and suspended solids and lower biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in the effluent. From the primary pond, effluent gravity flows into four unlined infiltration ponds with areas ranging from about 15,500 to 28,470 square feet for disposal.

PLANNED CHANGES TO THE WWTF

The RWD indicates that the Discharger proposes to remove the ten septic tanks, construct a lift station at the southbound comfort station to pump sewage to the primary pond, and install floating aerators in the primary pond to improve effluent aeration with fluctuating water levels, and new channel grinders at the comfort stations to improve efficiency of the piping network. Wastewater from the southbound comfort station will run through the new inline channel grinder and then be pumped to the primary wastewater pond via the new lift station. Wastewater from the northbound comfort station will pass through a new inline channel grinder, and then will gravity flow to the primary pond. Following aeration in the primary pond, treated effluent will be discharged into the infiltration ponds for disposal. Attachment D is a Process Flow Diagram showing the general system layout proposed for the Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF.

Based on similar rest area installations, the Discharger estimates that sludge accumulation in the treatment ponds will occur slowly. Regardless, sludge depth in the ponds will be measured annually and removed when necessary. When it is determined that sludge maintenance is required, the subject pond will be dewatered, the sludge will be pumped into geofabric socks for further dewatering, and then hauled off for disposal at a licensed disposal facility.

GENERAL AND FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

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, including all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424.

In accordance with Section B.1.a of the General Order, the monthly average total discharge from the WWTF to the primary pond **shall not exceed 80,000 gpd.** The discharge has a flow rate that exceeds 20,000 gpd and a nitrogen evaluation was conducted as described in Attachment 1 of the General Order (see attached memorandum). Based on the available information, the Facility does not require a nitrogen effluent limitation.

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 the Table 1 below:

Table 1 - Site Specific Applicable Setback Requirements

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well (feet)	Flowing Stream (feet)	Ephemeral Stream Drainage (feet)	Property Line (feet)	Lake or Reservoir (feet)
Septic Tank, Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System	150	50	50	5	200
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water)	150	150	150	50	200

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

- Section B.5 – Pond Systems
- Section B.8 – Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal
- Section C.1 – Groundwater and Surface Water

Provision E.1 of the General Order requires enrolled dischargers to prepare and implement the following reports **by 90 days** of issuance of the NOA:

- 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 WWTF and made available to the Central Valley Water Board staff upon request. The Sludge Management Plan shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board **within 90 days** of issuance of the NOA.

As stated in Section E.2.w., in the event of any change in control or ownership of the Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF, 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.

On 27 September 2019, Senate Bill 317 was signed by the Governor adding Section 25210.2 to the California Health and Safety Code, which contains chemical sale, use, and discharge prohibitions for recreational vehicle (RV) chemical wastes to land, as of 1 January 2022. The Discharger shall post, in a conspicuous location, a notice stating the following:

> *The State of California prohibits the use of products in RV holding tanks, including deodorizers, that contain bronopol, dowicil, formalin, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, paraformaldehyde, para-dichlorobenzene, benzene, toluene, xylene, ethylene glycol, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, or perchloroethylene. These chemicals can inhibit biological activity in onsite wastewater treatment systems and threaten groundwater and drinking water wells, and are strictly forbidden. Please use bacteria- or enzyme-based products.*

The Discharger shall certify compliance with the above notification posting in the first annual report submitted to the Water Board once the OWTS is constructed.

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and **MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424** could result in an enforcement action authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of waste 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 Programs are met.

All monitoring reports and other correspondence 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 or a flash drive 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: 236772
Facility Name: Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF
Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424

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 Omar Mostafa. Mr. Mostafa can be reached at (559) 445-5197 or Omar.Mostafa@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 Pyle. Mr. Pyle can be reached at (559) 445-5145 or by email at Jeffrey.Pyle@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 laws and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality), or will be provided upon request.

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).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Pyle by phone at (559) 445-5145 or by email at Jeffrey.Pyle@waterboards.ca.gov.

Digitally signed by Alex S. Mushegan

For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Site Location Map
- Attachment B – Site Plan
- Attachment C – Effluent Disposal Ponds
- Attachment D – Process Flow Diagram

Enclosures:

- Monitoring and Reporting Program 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424
- Staff Review Memorandum for Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF
- State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ

cc's w/enc

- Adam Forbes, State Water Resources Control Board, DDW (via email)
- Christopher Moskal, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC (via email)
- Omar Mostafa, Central Valley Water Board, Fresno (via email)
- Rb5s-cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov (via email)
- Jessica Chander, California Department of Transportation (via email)
- Kern County Environmental Health Division (via email)
- Debbie Webster, Central Valley Clean Water Association (via email)

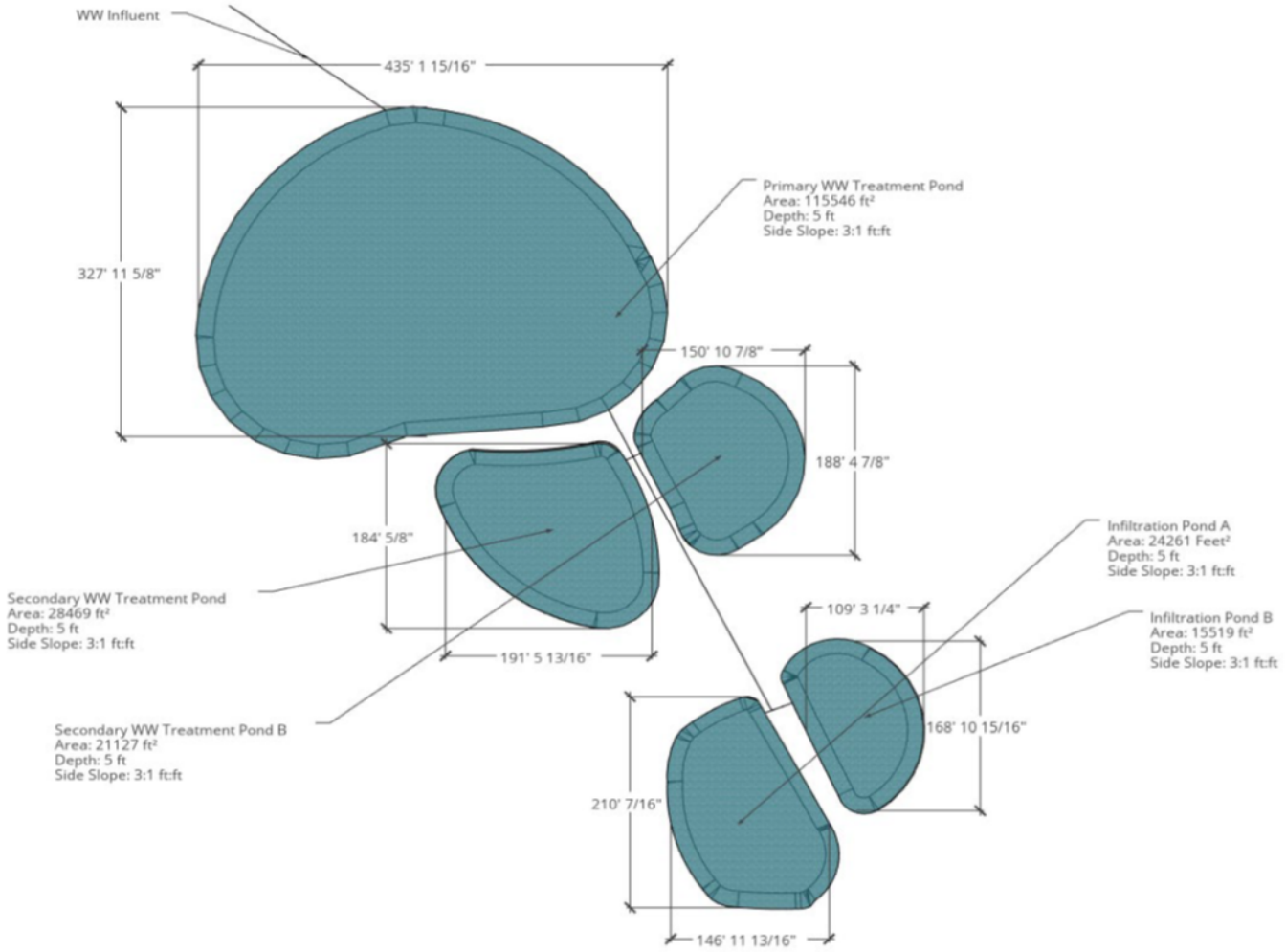
ATTACHMENT A – SITE LOCATION MAP

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424

ATTACHMENT B – SITE PLAN

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424

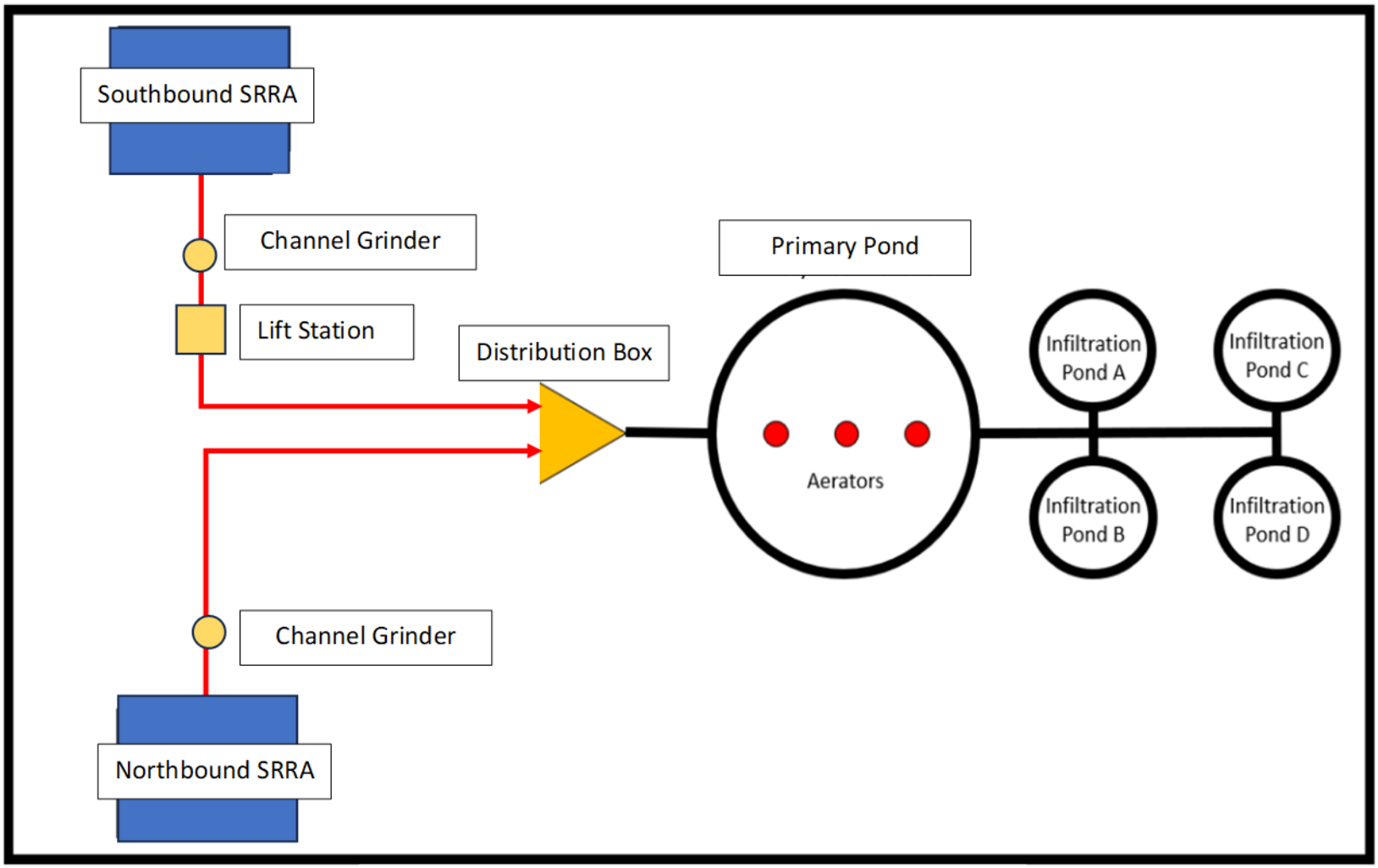
Original published as Figure 1, Location of Tejon SRRA along Hwy I-5, Sewage Disposal System Engineers Report (Report of Waste Discharge), 28 February 2025, California Department of Transportation



ATTACHMENT C – EFFLUENT DISPOSAL PONDS

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424

Original published as Figure 5, Pond Wastewater Treatment System Layout, Sewage Disposal System Engineers Report (Report of Waste Discharge), 28 February 2025, California Department of Transportation



ATTACHMENT D – PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424 FOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TEJON PASS SAFETY ROADSIDE REST AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY KERN COUNTY

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for the California Department of Transportation (Discharger) Tejon Pass Roadside Safety Rest Areas Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). 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, 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."*

The Discharger owns the WWTF that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424, which 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). 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.

POND SYSTEM MONITORING

A. 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:

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow Rate	gpd	Meter (see 1 below)	Continuous	Quarterly

1. Flow rate may be metered or estimated based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method. Flow rates may be measured as influent or

effluent flow. The method of measurement shall be reported in the monitoring report.

B. Effluent Monitoring

Effluent samples shall be collected from a location that provides representative samples of the wastewater from the primary pond prior to discharge into the infiltration ponds. At a minimum, effluent monitoring shall consist of the following:

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Electrical Conductivity	µmhos/cm	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
pH	s.u.	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly

C. Pond Monitoring

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

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

1. Dissolved oxygen (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. Should the DO be below 1.0 mg/L during a weekly 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. The Discharger shall observe the condition of the lined pond and check the liner for evidence of rips, tears, and/or leaks on a monthly basis. In addition, the Discharger shall conduct integrity testing of the pond liners once every five years beginning in 2026 and include the results of the integrity testing in the Annual

report. Integrity testing shall include an electrical leak survey of the liner or other method that has been approved by the Executive Officer.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE DISCHARGE MONITORING

Samples shall be collected to characterize effluent that is stored in the primary pond prior to discharge into the infiltration ponds. Wastewater shall be monitored as specified below:

Parameter	Units	Measurement Type	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Zinc	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Phenol	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Formaldehyde	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

SOLIDS DISPOSAL MONITORING

The Discharger shall report on the handling and disposal of all solids (e.g. screenings, grit, sludge, biosolids, etc.) generated at the wastewater treatment facility. 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: 236772
Facility Name: Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF
Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5424

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. Results of all required monitoring with tabular and graphical summaries of all monitoring data collected during the year.
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. An evaluation of the performance of the wastewater disposal system, including discussion of the capacity issues, nuisance conditions, system problems and a forecast of the flows anticipated in the next year.
4. A copy of the logs from the wastewater collection system observations conducted during the year. The Discharger shall note whether repairs were conducted or need to be conducted.
5. Copies of laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody form(s).

6. 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.
7. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies/redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.
8. The name and contact information for the wastewater operator responsible for operation, maintenance, and system monitoring.
9. The first annual report following completion of the proposed changes to the WWTF shall include certification that the Discharger is in compliance with the recreational vehicle waste posting notification requirements specified by Section 25210.2 of the Health and Safety Code.

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."*

This revised MRP supersedes MRP 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353 issued on 14 June 2021. The Discharger shall begin implementing the above monitoring program as of the date of this MRP.

Ordered by: *Digitally signed by Alex S. Mushegan*

For PATRICK PULUPA,
Executive Officer

18 June 2025

(Date)

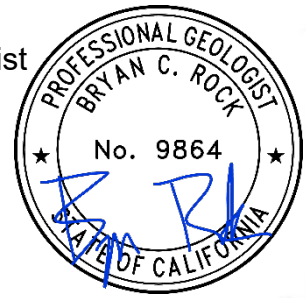
GLOSSARY

EC	Electrical conductivity at 25° C
Continuous	The specified parameter shall be measured by a meter continuously.
Daily	Every day except weekends or holidays
Monthly	Once per calendar month
Quarterly	Once per calendar quarter
Annually	Once per year
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
µg/L	Micrograms per liter
µmhos/cm	Micromhos per centimeter
gpd	Gallons per day
s.u.	Standard pH units

TO: Alexander S. Mushegan
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

FROM: Bryan Rock
Senior Engineering Geologist
PG 9864

Jeffrey S. Pyle
Engineering Geologist
PG 7375



DATE: 18 June 2025

APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TEJON PASS SAFETY ROADSIDE REST AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, KERN COUNTY

On 26 December 2024, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff (Staff) received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD), titled *Sewage Disposal System Engineers Report,* for the California Department of Transportation's (Discharger's) Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area (Tejon Pass SRRA) Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The Discharger was issued Notice of Applicability (NOA) 2014-0153-R5353 on 14 June 2021, which enrolled 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). The December 2024 RWD requested updated coverage under the General Order to reflect proposed changes to WWTF.

Staff identified inconsistencies in the December 2024 RWD and requested submittal of an updated RWD in a 15 January 2025 email to the Discharger. An updated RWD was provided on 28 February 2025 and was stamped and signed by Jessica Chander, a California registered civil engineer (RCE 91024), and the Water and Wastewater Branch Chief for the Discharger. A Form 200 was provided on 25 April 2025 that was signed by

Ms. Chander. This memorandum provides a summary of Central Valley Water Board staff's review of the December 2024 RWD and February 2025 RWD and other provided documents and evaluates the applicability of the Facility's discharge to be covered under the General Order.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Discharger owns and operates the Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF. The WWTF was initially constructed as a facultative pond system in 1981 and receives wastewater from the Tejon Pass SRRA, which has comfort stations on both the north and southbound sides of Interstate 5 (I-5), about 35 miles south of Bakersfield (34.8273°, -118.8714°) in Kern County. Upgrades to the WWTF were completed in 1992, 2005, and 2008 that included liner replacement in the primary facultative treatment pond, and septic tank installations at both the northbound and southbound comfort stations.

NOA 2014-0153-R5353 authorized a monthly average discharge of up to 80,000 gallons per day (gpd) from septic tanks at the two comfort stations to the primary lined treatment pond, and then to four unlined infiltration ponds. The Discharger estimates that the Tejon Pass SRRA has, on average, approximately 11,830 visitors per day. The WWTF experiences an average flow of about 22,400 gpd and a peak flow of 42,900 gpd consisting of domestic and recreational vehicle (RV) wastewater. Both comfort stations have a sanitary station for dumping RV waste.

EXISTING TEJON PASS RSSA WWTF

The WWTF currently consists of two comfort stations, a total of 10 septic tanks, a lined primary facultative treatment pond (primary pond), and four infiltration ponds for disposal. Each comfort station discharges wastewater to four 9,000-gallon concrete septic tanks, while a fifth septic tank serves the RV disposal station. The discharge from the southbound septic tanks flows by gravity through an existing 6-inch sewer underneath I-5 to the northbound parcel. The effluent from both comfort stations is combined in a distribution box then gravity flows to the primary pond located onsite and northeast of the northbound comfort station. Wastewater from the primary pond is then discharged to the four infiltration ponds.

The five wastewater ponds at the Tejon Pass SRRA were constructed in 1981 to a depth of five feet. The primary pond was constructed with a 30-millimeter Hypalon liner and has an area of about 115,500 square feet and is equipped with three aerators. The RWD notes the primary pond is essential to the operation of the WWTF with its primary function to remove heavy and suspended solids and lower biochemical oxygen demand (BOD_5) in the effluent. From the primary pond, effluent gravity flows into four unlined infiltration ponds with areas ranging from about 15,500 to 28,470 square feet.

The RWD provided untreated wastewater and effluent BOD and TSS results from December 2023 to October 2024. The reported average untreated wastewater quality concentrations were 457 mg/L and 1,208 mg/L for BOD and TSS, respectively. Effluent monitoring results collected from the primary pond during the same time period indicate average effluent concentrations of 23 mg/L and 63 mg/L for BOD and TSS, respectively.

PROPOSED WWTF CHANGES

The updated Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF will continue to consist of two comfort stations that are served by a single WWTF, but the Discharger proposes changes to the WWTF. These proposed changes include removal of the septic tanks, the addition of channel grinders at each comfort station to facilitate the pumping/flow of wastewater to the primary pond, and installation of a lift station at the southern comfort station to pump wastewater under I-5 to a junction box, from which wastewater will gravity flow into the primary pond. Wastewater from the northbound comfort station will flow through a channel grinder and then gravity flow to the junction box, then into the primary pond. Three floating aerators will be installed in the primary pond to replace the three stationary aerators and are intended to increase circulation and the dissolved oxygen content of the wastewater to assist in odor reduction. The Discharger will monitor the buildup of sludge and biosolids in the primary pond and sludge/solids will be removed as necessary.

The Discharger estimates that the average BOD concentration of wastewater directed to the primary pond will be about 521 mg/L following the proposed changes to the WWTF; however, the Discharger anticipates that aeration in the oversized primary pond and a greater than 71-day retention time will result in producing treated effluent with BOD levels less than 90 mg/L.

The monthly average discharge at the WWTF is less than 100,000 gpd and is therefore eligible for coverage under the General Order. The current discharge averages approximately 22,400 gpd.

POTENTIAL THREAT TO WATER QUALITY

The Tejon Pass SRRA is located within the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Area and is not within any flood hazard area. According to the RWD, groundwater underlying the SRRA occurs at an approximate depth of 80 feet below ground surface (bgs); however, 2023 through 2024 groundwater measurements available from the Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Data Viewer (https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=SGMADataViewer#gwlevels) indicate that groundwater in a well just east of the northbound comfort station ranged from 132 to 143 feet bgs. Source water is supplied to the Tejon Pass SRRA by the Lebec County Water District. The updated February 2025 RWD included source water quality from a

2016 Consumer Confidence Report, the results of which are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Source Water Quality

Constituent	Units	Concentration	MCL
Sodium	mg/L	74.3	None
Hardness	mg/L	363	None
Arsenic	ug/L	<2	10
Chromium	ug/L	<10	50
Fluoride	mg/L	1.79	2
Nitrate (as NO_3)	mg/L	22.5	45
Nitrite	ug/L	0.05	1
Chloride	mg/L	31	5000
Iron	ug/L	<50	300
Magnesium	mg/L	36	50
TDS	mg/L	610	1000
Turbidity	NTU	0.2	5

Based on soils data from the Natural Resources Conservation Services Survey (NRCS), soil at the Tejon Pass SRRA was identified as Hawk gravelly sandy loam with 9 to 15 percent slope. The typical Hawk soil profile is summarized in Table 2 below. A 1975 soils report referenced in the RWD indicates that the site consists of sandy gravel with a percolation rate ranging from 1 to 7.5 inches/hour with an average of 3.7 inches/hour, or about 16 minutes per inch.

Table 2: Soil Profile Tejon Pass SRRA

Soil Profile	Soil Depth (inches)
Gravelly slightly decomposed plant material	0 – 2
Gravelly sandy loam	2 – 7
Very gravelly sandy loam	7 – 17
Very gravelly sandy loam	17 – 39
Very gravelly sandy loam	39 – 60

NITROGEN LIMIT EVALUATION

As stated above, the Tejon Pass SRRA WWTF has a design flow of 80,000 gpd and currently has an estimated average daily flow of 22,400 gpd. Therefore, the General Order requires a Nitrogen Effluent Limit Evaluation be completed for the Facility as described in Attachment 1 of the General Order. Factors that determine if a nitrogen effluent limit is required are the following: 1) “Does shallow groundwater exist?”, 2) “Are there excessive percolation rates or fractured environment?”, 3) “Does the discharge exceed domestic wastewater strength?”, or 4) “Is Nitrogen Removal Required?”

Based on available data and the considerations in the General Order, a nitrogen effluent limit is not needed at this time. The groundwater at the Facility exists about 80 feet below ground surface (i.e., shallow groundwater is not present). The reported percolation rates for the Facility are not excessive (reported as averaging 3.7 inches per hour or about 16.2 minutes per inch). The only sources of wastewater are from the two comfort stations at the Rest Area and the associated RV sanitary stations. Lastly, the Facility does not fall within a prioritized basin for the Nitrate Control Program (see below for more discussion).

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

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

- Pond System Monitoring
- Recreational Vehicle Discharge Monitoring
- Solids Disposal Monitoring

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 (Resolution R5-2018-0034). The Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020 and were revised by the Central Valley Water Board in 2020 with Resolution R5-2020-0057

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf).

Pursuant to the Basin Plan amendments, the Discharger was sent a Notice to Comply on 5 January 2021 (**CV SALTS ID: 2206**) with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program within one year of the effective date of the amendments.
On 12 July 2021, the Discharger submitted a NOI for the Salt Control Program and is participating in the Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study).

For the Nitrate Control Program, the WWTF and disposal areas are outside a valley floor groundwater basin/subbasin and, therefore, are not subject to the Nitrate Control Program at this time. Nevertheless, a Notice to Comply with the Nitrate Control Program may be issued at a later date if the Central Valley Water Board determines it is necessary to protect water quality.

More information on the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs can be found at the CV-SALTS Website (https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info).