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SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

03 March 2021

Jim Doohan
General Manager
American Valley Community Services District
900 Spanish Creek Road
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2016-0076-01 FOR LIMITED THREAT DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATER; AMERICAN VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, AMERICAN VALLEY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PLUMAS COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent on 23 December 2020 from American Valley Community Services District (hereinafter Discharger), for discharge of treated groundwater to surface water. Based on the application packet and subsequent information submitted by the Discharger, staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order), Tier 1B. This project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order R5-2016-0076-070 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995002. Please reference your Limited Threat General Order number, **R5-2016-0076-070**, in your correspondence and submitted documents.

The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in the Limited Threat General Order and as specified in this NOA. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the entire contents of the enclosed [Limited Threat](#) General Order (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf).

CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Limited Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters*,

Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP). Screening levels for CTR constituents and other constituents of concern are found in Attachment I of the Limited Threat General Order. Review of your water quality data in comparison to the screening values, showed no reasonable potential for the discharge to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in Clear Stream, a tributary of Spanish Creek, which is a water of the United States.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Discharger is performing a wastewater treatment plant improvement project (Project). The Project will consist of improvements being made to the following:

- New screenings and grit removal facility.
- New influent flow measurement.
- Primary flow equalization.
- New secondary treatment system (Aero-Mod SEQUOX® Plus biological nutrient removal process); a package system that includes nitrification, denitrification, clarification, and solids digestion in compartmentalized single structure.
- New blower and electrical building.
- Secondary scum removal pump station.
- Improvements to existing chlorine contact disinfection facilities.
- A new effluent outfall pipeline connecting the existing Chlorine Contact Basins to the existing outfall diffuser in Spanish Creek.
- Solids handling upgrades, including a concrete lined sludge lagoon; solids transfer pump station; a solids screw press, polymer feed facilities, and solids conveyor in a new building; and a large (common) sludge drying bed.
- New plant drain pump station.
- New potable water pump station.
- New electrical utility feed, standby generator, and SCADA system improvements.

The Project will require construction dewatering. The Discharger estimates an average dewatering rate of 0.7 MGD and expects the rate to range from 0.5 MGD to 0.9 MGD. Active dewatering is expected to occur throughout the winter months and may be required next winter season (2021-2022). Since the Project will generate a significant amount of wastewater and will last for an extended period of time, discharge to surface water is the only feasible option. Extracted groundwater will be treated with a baffled baker tank that promotes enhanced settling of extracted groundwater through sand filtration. Treated effluent will be discharged to Clear Stream.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

Effluent limitations are specified in Section V. Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications of the Limited Threat General Order. Based on the information provided in the NOI, effluent limitations are only required for the parameters identified in items 1-5, below:

1. **Flow (Section V.A.1.a).** The flow rate shall not exceed 1 MGD.
2. **pH (Section V.A.1.b.i).** The pH of all limited threat discharges within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (except Goose Lake in Modoc County) shall at all times be within the range of 6.5 and 8.5.
3. **Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chronic (Section V.A.2.a).** There shall be no chronic toxicity in the discharge.
4. **Whole Effluent Toxicity, Acute (Section V.A.3.a).** Survival of aquatic organisms in 96-hour bioassays of undiluted waste for all limited threat discharges shall be no less than:
 - i. 70%, minimum for any one bioassay; and
90%, median for any three consecutive bioassays.

RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

The Limited Threat General Order includes receiving surface water limitations in Section VIII.A. Based on the information provided in the NOI, only the following receiving surface water limitations are applicable to this discharge:

- Bacteria (VIII.A.2);
- Color (VIII.A.5);
- Dissolved oxygen (VIII.A.6.a.iv);
- Floating material (VIII.A.7);
- pH (VIII.A.9.a);
- Suspended sediments (VIII.A.12);
- Settleable substances (VIII.A.13);
- Suspended material (VIII.A.14);
- Taste and odors (VIII.A.15);
- Temperature (VIII.A.16.a);
- Toxicity (VIII.A.17); and
- Turbidity (VIII.A.18.a).

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting requirements are contained in Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order. The Discharger is required to comply with the following specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the effluent and receiving water in accordance with Attachment C of the Limited Threat General Order.

Monitoring Locations – The Discharger shall monitor the effluent and receiving water at the specified location as follows:

Table 2. Monitoring Station Locations

| Discharge Point Name | Monitoring Location Name | Monitoring Location Description |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 001 | EFF-001 | A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to Clear Stream. |
| | RSW-001 | Clear Stream, approximately 200 feet upstream from the point of discharge. |
| | RSW-002 | Clear Stream, Approximately 200 feet downstream from the point of discharge. |

Effluent Monitoring – When discharging to surface water, the Discharger shall monitor the effluent at EFF-001 in accordance with Table C-3 of the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA. The applicable monitoring requirements are as follows in Table 3 and subsequent Table 3 Notes:

Table 3. Effluent Monitoring Requirements

| Parameter | Units | Sample Type | Minimum Sampling Frequency |
|---|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Total Flow | MGD | Estimate | 1/Day |
| Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C | µmhos/cm | Grab | 1/Day |
| pH | standard units | Grab | 1/Day |
| Turbidity | NTU | Grab | 1/Day |
| Temperature | °F | Grab | 1/Day |
| Dissolved Oxygen (DO) | mg/L | Grab | 1/Day |
| Hardness, Total (as CaCO ₃) | mg/L | Grab | 1/Month |
| Acute Toxicity | % survival | Grab | 1/Project Term |
| Chronic Toxicity | -- | Grab | 1/Project Term |

Table 3 Notes

- 1. Electrical conductivity, pH, turbidity, temperature, and DO.** A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.
- 2. Acute and chronic toxicity.** Chronic and acute toxicity testing shall be conducted within 3 months of initiation of discharge. For acute toxicity testing, the test species shall be rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). See the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment C) for toxicity monitoring requirements.

Receiving Water Monitoring - When discharging to surface water, the Discharger shall monitor the receiving water at RSW-001 and RSW-002, in accordance with Table C-5 of the Limited Threat General Order and this NOA. The applicable monitoring requirements are as follows in Table 4 and subsequent Table 4 Notes:

Table 4. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements

| Parameter | Units | Sample Type | Monitoring Frequency |
|---|----------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Dissolved Oxygen | mg/L | Grab | 1/Month |
| Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C | µmhos/cm | Grab | 1/Month |
| Hardness, Total (as CaCO ₃) | mg/L | Grab | 1/Month |
| pH | standard units | Grab | 1/Month |
| Temperature | °F | Grab | 1/Month |
| Turbidity | NTU | Grab | 1/Month |

Table 4 Notes

1. **All parameters.** Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.
2. **All parameters except for hardness.** A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained by the Discharger.

In conducting the receiving water sampling, a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions throughout the reach bounded by RSW-001 and RSW-002. Attention shall be given to the presence or absence of:

- a. Floating or suspended matter
- b. Discoloration
- c. Bottom deposits
- d. Aquatic life
- e. Visible films, sheens, or coatings
- f. Fungi, slimes, or objectionable growths
- g. Potential nuisance conditions

Notes on receiving water conditions shall be summarized in the Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Report Submittals - Monitoring in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order shall begin upon initiation of discharge. Monitoring Reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis, beginning with the **First Quarter 2021**. This report shall be submitted on **1 May 2021**. All Monitoring Reports shall specify the dates during the monitoring period the discharge did or did not

occur. If monitoring samples were not obtained within 24 hours of initiation of the discharge, the Discharger must document the reasons in the corresponding Monitoring Report. If treatment and discharge has not begun there is no need to monitor. However, a certified Monitoring Report must be submitted stating that there has been no discharge. Table 5, below, summarizes the Monitoring Report due dates required under the Limited Threat General Order. Quarterly Monitoring Reports must be submitted until your coverage is formally terminated in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge during the reporting quarter.

Table 5. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

| Monitoring Period for All Sampling Frequencies | Quarterly Report Due Date |
|---|----------------------------------|
| First Quarter (1 January through 31 March) | 1 May |
| Second Quarter (1 April through 30 June) | 1 August |
| Third Quarter (1 July through 30 September) | 1 November |
| Fourth Quarter (1 October through 31 December) | 1 February of the following year |

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff within 24 hours of having knowledge of 1) the start of each new discharge, 2) noncompliance, and 3) when the discharge ceases. The Central Valley Water Board shall be notified immediately if any effluent limit violation is observed during implementation of the project.

Discharge of material other than what is described in the application is prohibited. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual invoice you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing when the discharge regulated by the Limited Threat General Order is no longer necessary by submitting the Request for Termination of Coverage (Attachment E). If a timely written request is not received, the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the Limited Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation. In addition, late Monitoring Reports may be subject to MMPs or discretionary penalties of up to \$1,000 per day late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly certified Monitoring Report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

COMMUNICATION

We have transitioned to a paperless office; therefore, please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf). All documents, including Monitoring Reports, written notifications, and documents submitted to comply with this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order, should be submitted to the NPDES Compliance and Enforcement Unit, Attention: Michael Collins at centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov and Michael.Collins@waterboards.ca.gov. Mr. Collins may also be reached by phone at (530) 224-4785.

Please include the following information in the body of the email:

- Attention: NPDES Compliance Unit
- Discharger: American Valley CSD
- Facility: American Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant
- County: Plumas County
- CIWQS place ID: 871488

Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger must be transferred to a DVD, or flash drive and mailed to our office, attention "ECM Mailroom-NPDES".

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water 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 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 Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Links to the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the [Water Quality Petitions Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

Original signed by:

Bryan J. Smith
(for) Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosures (2): Attachment A - Project Location Map
Monitoring Report Transmittal Form (Discharger only)

cc by email: Peter Kozelka, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco
Elizabeth Sablad, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco
Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento
Sarah Torres, PG Environmental, Chantilly, Virginia

ATTACHMENT A – PROJECT LOCATION MAP

