

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

In the Matter of:

**City of Nevada City  
City of Nevada City Wastewater  
Treatment Plant  
Nevada County**

ORDER R5-2021-0501

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND  
STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY  
ORDER**

**I. Introduction**

1. This Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order (Stipulated Order or Order) is entered into by and between the Assistant Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), on behalf of the Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team (Prosecution Team), and the City of Nevada City (Discharger) (collectively known as the Parties) and is presented to the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, for adoption as an order by settlement, pursuant to California Water Code section 13323 and Government Code section 11415.60.

**II. Recitals**

2. The Discharger owns and operates the City of Nevada City Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, which provides sewerage service to the City of Nevada City. Treated municipal wastewater is discharged to Deer Creek, a water of the United States and tributary to the Yuba River.
3. In order to regulate discharges from the Facility, on 9 June 2017, the Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2017-0060 (NPDES CA0079901). WDRs Order R5-2017-0060 became effective on 1 August 2017.
4. WDRs Order R5-2017-0060, IV.A.1.a., includes, in part, the following effluent limitations at Discharge Point 001:

**Table 4. Effluent Limitations**

Parameter	Units	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-day @ 20°C)	mg/L	10	15	20
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-day @ 20°C)	lbs/day	58	86	115
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	10	15	20
Total Suspended Solids	lbs/day	58	86	115
Dichlorobromomethane	µg/L	4.3	n/a	11

5. WDRs Order R5 2017-0060, IV.A.1.e., includes the following effluent limitations:

**e. Total Coliform Organisms.** Effluent total coliform organisms shall not exceed:

- i. 2.2 most probable number (MPN) per 100 mL, as a 7-day median;
- ii. 23 MPN/100 mL, more than once in any 30-day period; and
- iii. 240 MPN/100 mL, at any time.

6. On 30 October 2020, Central Valley Water Board staff issued the Discharger a Notice of Violation and draft Record of Violations (ROV) for effluent limitation violations which occurred from 1 May 2019 and 30 September 2020. The Discharger responded on 13 November 2020 to the ROV and agreed with the violations. As of 30 November 2020, the Discharger has accrued two additional violations subject to MMPs and has agreed with the violations.

7. This Order addresses an administrative civil liability (ACL) for effluent limitation violations that occurred between 1 May 2019 and 30 November 2020. These violations are specifically identified in Attachment A to this Order as subject to mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs). Attachment A to this Order is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

8. Water Code section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i) require assessment of mandatory penalties and state, in part, the following:

Water Code section 13385, subdivision (h)(1) states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, and except as provided in subdivisions (j), (k), and (l), a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be assessed for each serious violation.

Water Code section 13385, subdivision (h)(2) states:

For the purposes of this section, a “serious violation” means any waste discharge that violates the effluent limitations contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements for a Group II pollutant, as specified in Appendix A to Section 123.45 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by 20 percent or more or for a Group I pollutant, as specified in Appendix A to Section 123.45 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by 40 percent or more.

Water Code section 13385, subdivision (i)(1) states, in part:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, and except as provided in subdivisions (j), (k), and (l), a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be assessed for each violation whenever the person does any of the following four or more times in any period of six consecutive months, except that the requirement to assess the mandatory minimum penalty shall not be applicable to the first three violations:

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- A) Violates a waste discharge requirement effluent limitation.
  - B) Fails to file a report pursuant to Section 13260.
  - C) Files an incomplete report pursuant to Section 13260.
  - D) Violates a toxicity effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements where the waste discharge requirements do not contain pollutant-specific effluent limitations for toxic pollutants.
9. According to the Discharger's self-monitoring reports, the Discharger committed eleven (11) serious Group II violations, and twenty-three (23) non-serious violations of the above effluent limitations contained in WDRs Order R5-2017-0060 as shown in Attachment A. The eleven (11) serious Group II violations are subject to MMPs under Water Code section 13385, subdivision (h) because measured concentrations of Group I and Group II constituents exceeded maximum prescribed levels in WDRs R5-2017-0060 by 40 or 20 percent or more, respectively. The twenty-three (23) non-serious violations are subject to MMPs under Water Code section 13385, subdivision (i)(1) because these violations were preceded by three or more effluent limit violations within a 180-day period.
10. The total amount of the MMPs assessed for the alleged effluent violations is **one hundred two thousand dollars (\$102,000)**. As stated herein, a detailed list of the alleged effluent limitation violations is included in Attachment A. This Order addresses an ACL for violations that are specifically identified in Attachment A as subject to MMPs.
11. Water Code section 13385, subdivision (k) states:
- (1) In lieu of assessing all or a portion of the mandatory minimum penalties pursuant to subdivisions (h) and (i) against a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community, the state board or the regional board may elect to require the publicly owned treatment works to spend an equivalent amount towards the completion of a compliance project proposed by the publicly owned treatment works, if the state board or the regional board finds all of the following:
    - (A) The compliance project is designed to correct the violations within five years.
    - (B) The compliance project is in accordance with the enforcement policy of the state board, excluding any provision in the policy that is inconsistent with this section.
    - (C) The publicly owned treatment works has prepared a financing plan to complete the compliance project.

(2) For the purposes of this subdivision, “a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community” means a publicly owned treatment works serving a population of 20,000 persons or fewer or a rural county, with a financial hardship as determined by the state board after considering such factors as median income of the residents, rate of unemployment, or low population density in the service area of the publicly owned treatment works.

12. Under the State Water Resources Control Board’s Water Quality Enforcement Policy (Enforcement Policy), a publicly owned treatment work (POTW) serving a small community is a POTW serving a community that has a financial hardship and has a population of 10,000 or fewer people or lies completely within one or more rural counties.

Following adoption of the Enforcement Policy, Water Code section 13385, subdivision (k)(2) was amended to raise the population threshold to 20,000 or fewer people.

13. Under the Enforcement Policy, “financial hardship” means that the community served by the POTW meets one of the following criteria:

- a. Median household income for the community is less than 80 percent of the California median household income;
- b. The community has an unemployment rate of 10 percent or greater; or
- c. Twenty percent of the population is below the poverty level.

14. The Central Valley Water Board finds the Discharger is eligible for a Compliance Project because the Facility is a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community with a financial hardship - it is located in Nevada County, which is a qualified rural county based on the 2013 United States Department of Agriculture Rural-Urban Continuum Codes for California, and serves a population of 3,136 with a median household income (MHI) of \$43,614, which is 61% of the statewide MHI, according to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

15. The Parties have engaged in confidential settlement negotiations and agree to settle the matter without administrative or civil litigation by presenting this Stipulated Order to the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, for adoption as an order by settlement, pursuant to Water Code section 13323 and Government Code section 11415.60. To resolve the violations by consent and without further administrative proceedings, the Parties have agreed to the imposition of an ACL in the amount of **one hundred two thousand dollars (\$102,000)** in MMPs against the Discharger.

16. The Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team believes that the resolution of the alleged violations is fair and reasonable and fulfills its enforcement objectives, that no further action is warranted concerning the violations alleged herein and that this Stipulated Order is in the best interest of the public.

### III. Stipulations

The Parties stipulate to the following:

17. **Jurisdiction:** The Parties agree that the Central Valley Water Board has subject matter jurisdiction over the matters alleged in this action and personal jurisdiction of the Parties to this Stipulation.

18. **Administrative Civil Liability:**

- a. The Discharger hereby agrees to the imposition of an ACL in the amount of **one hundred two thousand dollars (\$102,000)** to the Central Valley Water Board to resolve the violations specifically alleged in Attachment A to this Order.
- b. In lieu of assessing all of the **one hundred two thousand dollars (\$102,000)**, the Parties agree that the Discharger shall spend an equivalent amount towards the completion of a Compliance Project and the ACL shall be suspended (Suspended Liability) if the Discharger complies with the time schedule and requirements for the Compliance Project as detailed herein and in Attachment B of this Order. Attachment B to this Order is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

19. **Description of the Compliance Project:** The Compliance Project consists of two wastewater treatment plant modifications and optimization tasks to improve effluent water quality and minimize violations associated with treated effluent discharge. The components of the modifications and optimization are:

- Installation of Covers on the Chlorine Contact Basin.
- Filtration Process Flow Modulation/Equalization Basin Repairs;

Additional information regarding the Compliance Project is found in Attachment B.

20. **Representations and Agreements of the Discharger to Implement and Complete, Report, and Guarantee Implementation of the Compliance Project:** The Discharger understands that its promise to implement the Compliance Project, in its entirety and in accordance with the schedule for implementation, is a material condition of this settlement of liability between the Discharger and the Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team. As a material consideration for the Central Valley Water Board's acceptance of this Stipulated Order, the Discharger represents and agrees that, in accordance with Water Code section 13385, subdivision (k)(1):

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- a. The Compliance Project is designed to correct the violations within five years.
- b. The Compliance Project is in accordance with the enforcement policy of the state board.
  - i. The Discharger will implement and complete the Compliance Project as described in Attachment B to this Order;
  - ii. The Discharger will provide certifications and written reports to the Central Valley Water Board contact consistent with the terms of this Stipulated Order;
  - iii. The Discharger will guarantee implementation of the Compliance Project identified in Attachment B to this Order by remaining liable for the ACL of **one hundred two thousand dollars (\$102,000)** until the Compliance Project is completed and accepted by the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with the terms of this Stipulated Order;
  - iv. The Discharger agrees that the Central Valley Water Board has the right to require a third-party audit of the funds expended by it to implement the Compliance Project; and
  - v. The Discharger shall permit inspection of the Compliance Project by Central Valley Water Board staff during normal business hours, at any location where the Compliance Project is being implemented, as well as review of any documents associated with implementation of the Compliance Project, at any time without notice.
- c. The Discharger has prepared a financing plan to complete the Compliance Project.

**21. Extension of the Implementation Schedule Deadlines:** If the Discharger cannot meet any of the deadlines or the Completion Deadline contained in Attachment B to this Order due to circumstances beyond the Discharger's anticipation or control, the Discharger shall notify the Executive Officer in writing within thirty (30) days of the date the Discharger first knew of the event or circumstance that caused or could cause a violation of this Order. The notice shall describe the reason for the nonperformance and specifically refer to this Paragraph. The notice shall describe the anticipated length of time the delay may persist, the cause or causes of the delay, the measures taken or to be taken by the Discharger to prevent or minimize the delay, the schedule by which the measures will be implemented, and the anticipated date of compliance. The Discharger shall adopt all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize such delays. The determination as to whether the circumstances were beyond the reasonable control of the Discharger and its agents will be made by the Executive Officer. Where the Executive Officer concurs that compliance was or is impossible, despite the timely good faith efforts of the Discharger, due to circumstances beyond the control of the Discharger that could not have been reasonably foreseen and prevented by the exercise of reasonable diligence by the Discharger, a new compliance deadline shall be established, and

this Order will be revised accordingly. The Executive Officer will endeavor to grant a reasonable extension of time if warranted.

22. **Compliance Project Oversight:** The Discharger will oversee implementation of the Compliance Project. The Central Valley Water Board will provide additional oversight. The Discharger is solely responsible for paying all reasonable oversight costs incurred by the Central Valley Water Board to oversee the Compliance Project. The Compliance Project oversight costs are in addition to the ACL imposed against the Discharger and are not credited towards the Discharger's obligation to implement and complete the Compliance Project. Reasonable oversight tasks to be performed by the Central Valley Water Board include but are not limited to, reviewing and evaluating progress, reviewing the final report, and verifying completion of the Compliance Project.
23. **Third Party Financial Audit of Compliance Project:** At the written request of the Central Valley Water Board, the Discharger, at its sole cost, shall submit a report prepared by an independent third party(ies) acceptable to the Central Valley Water Board providing such party's(ies') professional opinion that the Discharger has expended money in the amounts claimed by the Discharger. The written request shall specify the reasons why the audit is being requested. The audit report shall be provided to the Central Valley Water Board within three (3) months of notice from the Central Valley Water Board to the Discharger of the need for an independent third-party audit. The audit need not address any costs incurred by the Central Valley Water Board for oversight.
24. **Failure to Expend the Entire Suspended Liability on the Approved Compliance Project:** In the event that the Discharger is not able to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Central Valley Water Board that the entire Suspended Liability has been spent for the completed Compliance Project, the Discharger shall pay an ACL of the difference between the Suspended Liability and the amount the Discharger can demonstrate was actually spent on the Compliance Project. The Discharger shall be liable to pay the State Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Account this amount within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Central Valley Water Board's determination that the Discharger failed to demonstrate that the entire Suspended Liability was spent to complete the Compliance Project.
25. **Failure to Complete the Compliance Project:** Except as provided for in Paragraph 24, if the Compliance Project as described in Attachment B to this Order is determined to be infeasible, or if the Discharger fails to complete the Compliance Project by the deadline contained in Attachment B to this Order, the Central Valley Water Board shall issue an invoice to the Discharger in the amount of one hundred **one hundred two thousand dollars (\$102,000)**, plus any Compliance Project oversight costs incurred. The Discharger shall be liable to pay the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account this suspended liability within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

- 26. Certification of Completion of the Compliance Project:** On or before 30 June 2022, the Discharger shall provide a certified statement of completion of the Compliance Project (Certification of Completion). The Certification of Completion shall be submitted by a responsible official under penalty of perjury under the law of the state of California, to the Central Valley Water Board contact identified in Paragraph 30. The Certification of Completion shall include the following:
- a. Certification that the Compliance Project has been completed in accordance with the terms of this Stipulated Order. Such documentation may include photographs, invoices, receipts, certifications, and other materials reasonably necessary for the Central Valley Water Board to evaluate the completion of the Compliance Project and the costs incurred by the Discharger.
  - b. Certification documenting the expenditures by the Discharger during the completion period for the Compliance Project. Expenditures may include but are not limited to, payments to outside vendors or contractors implementing the Compliance Project. The Discharger shall provide any additional information requested by Central Valley Water Board staff that is reasonably necessary to verify Compliance Project expenditures.
  - c. Certification that the Discharger followed all applicable environmental laws and regulations in the implementation of the Compliance Project including but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the federal Clean Water Act, and the Porter-Cologne Act.
- 27. Completion of the Compliance Project to the Central Valley Water Board's Satisfaction:** Upon the Discharger's satisfaction of its Compliance Project obligations under this Stipulated Order, and any audit requested by the Central Valley Water Board, Central Valley Water Board staff shall send the Discharger a letter recognizing satisfactory completion of its obligations under the Compliance Project. Receipt of this letter shall terminate any further Compliance Project obligations of the Discharger and result in the dismissal of the Suspended Liability.
- 28. Publicity:** Whenever the Discharger or its agents or subcontractors publicizes one or more elements of the Compliance Project, it shall state in a prominent manner that the Compliance Project is being undertaken as part of the settlement of an enforcement action by the Central Valley Water Board against the Discharger.
- 29. Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulatory Changes:** The Discharger understands that payment of an ACL in accordance with the terms of this Stipulated Order and/or compliance with the terms of this Stipulated Order is not a substitute for compliance with applicable laws, and that additional violations of the type alleged may subject it to further enforcement, including additional ACLs. Nothing in this Stipulated Order shall excuse the Discharger from meeting any more stringent requirements which may be imposed hereafter by changes in applicable and legally binding legislation or regulations.



**30. Party Contacts for Communications Related to Stipulated Order:**

For the Central Valley Water Board:  
Xuan Luo, Ph.D., P.E.  
Senior Water Resources Control Engineer  
NPDES/Forest Activities Compliance and Enforcement  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 464-4606  
[Xuan.Luo@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Xuan.Luo@waterboards.ca.gov)

For the Discharger:  
Joan Phillipe, City Manager  
City of Nevada City  
317 Broad St.  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
(530) 265-2496 x119  
[catrina.olson@nevadacityca.gov](mailto:catrina.olson@nevadacityca.gov)

- 31. Attorney's Fees and Costs:** Except as otherwise provided herein, each Party shall bear all attorneys' fees and costs arising from the Party's own counsel in connection with the matters set forth herein.
- 32. Public Notice:** The Discharger understands that this Stipulated Order will be noticed for a 30-day public review and comment period prior to consideration by the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee. If significant new information is received that reasonably affects the propriety of presenting this Stipulated Order to the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, for adoption, the Assistant Executive Officer may unilaterally declare this Stipulated Order void and decide not to present it to the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee. The Discharger agrees that it may not rescind or otherwise withdraw its approval of this proposed Stipulated Order.
- 33. Procedure:** The Parties agree that the procedure that has been adopted for the approval of the settlement by the Parties and review by the public, as reflected in this Order, will be adequate. In the event procedural objections are raised prior to this Stipulated Order becoming effective, the Parties agree to meet and confer concerning any such objections and may agree to revise or adjust the procedure as necessary or advisable under the circumstances.
- 34. No Waiver of Right to Enforce:** The failure of the Prosecution Team or Central Valley Water Board to enforce any provision of this Stipulated Order shall in no way be deemed a waiver of such provision, or in any way affect the validity of this Stipulated Order. The failure of the Prosecution Team or Central Valley Water Board to enforce any such provision shall not preclude it from later enforcing the same or any other provision of this Stipulated Order. No oral advice, guidance, suggestions, or comments by employees or officials of any Party regarding matters covered under this Stipulated Order shall be construed to relieve any Party regarding matters

covered in this Stipulated Order. The Central Valley Water Board reserves all rights to take additional enforcement actions, including without limitation the issuance of ACL complaints or orders for violations other than those addressed by this Order.

35. **Effect of Stipulated Order:** Except as expressly provided in this Stipulated Order, nothing in this Stipulated Order is intended nor shall it be construed to preclude the Central Valley Water Board or any state agency, department, board or entity or any local agency from exercising its authority under any law, statute, or regulation.

36. **Interpretation:** This Stipulated Order shall not be construed against the party preparing it but shall be construed as if the Parties jointly prepared it and any uncertainty and ambiguity shall not be interpreted against any one party.

37. **Modification:** This Stipulated Order shall not be modified by any of the Parties by oral representation whether made before or after the execution of this Order. All modifications must be made in writing and approved by the Central Valley Water Board or its delegee.

38. **Integration:** This Stipulated Order constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and may not be amended or supplemented except as provided for in this Stipulated Order.

39. **If Order Does Not Take Effect:** In the event that this Stipulated Order does not take effect because it is not approved by the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, or is vacated in whole or in part by the State Water Board or a court, the Parties acknowledge that the Prosecution Team may proceed to a contested evidentiary hearing before the Central Valley Water Board to determine whether to assess an ACL for the underlying alleged violations, or may continue to pursue settlement. The Parties agree that all oral and written statements and agreements made during the course of settlement discussions will not be admissible as evidence in any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding or hearing and will be fully protected by California Evidence Code sections 1152 and 1154; California Government Code section 11415.60; Rule 408, Federal Rules of Evidence; and any other applicable privilege under federal and/or state law. The Parties also agree to waive any and all objections related to their efforts to settle this matter, including, but not limited to:

- a. Objections related to prejudice or bias of any of the Central Valley Water Board members or their advisors and any other objections to the extent that they are premised in whole or in part on the fact that the Central Valley Water Board members or their advisors were exposed to some of the material facts and the Parties settlement positions, and therefore may have formed impressions or conclusions, prior to conducting any contested evidentiary hearing in this matter;  
or

- b. Laches or delay or other equitable defenses based on the time period that the Order or decision by settlement may be subject to administrative or judicial review.
40. **Waiver of Hearing:** The Discharger has been informed of the rights provided by Water Code section 13323, subdivision (b), and hereby waives its right to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board.
41. **Waiver of Right to Petition:** The Discharger hereby waives the right to petition the Central Valley Water Board's adoption of the Stipulated Order as written for review by the State Water Board, and further waives the rights, if any, to appeal the same to a California Superior Court and/or any California appellate level court.
42. **Covenant Not to Sue:** Upon the effective date of this Stipulated Order, Discharger shall and does release, discharge, and covenant not to sue or pursue any civil or administrative claims against any State Agency or the State of California, its officers, agents, directors, employees, attorneys, representatives, for any and all claims or cause of action, which arise out of or are related to this action.
43. **Water Boards Not Liable:** Neither the Central Valley Water Board members, nor the Central Valley Water Board staff, attorneys, or representatives shall be liable for any injury or damage to persons or property resulting from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions by the Discharger or its respective directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, or contractors in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order, nor shall the Central Valley Water Board, its members, staff, attorneys, or representatives be held as parties to or guarantors of any contract entered into by the Discharger, or its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, or contractors in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order.
44. **Authority to Bind:** Each person executing this Stipulated Order in a representative capacity represents and warrants that he or she is authorized to execute this Order on behalf of and to bind the entity on whose behalf he or she executes the Order.
45. **Necessity for Written Approvals:** All approvals and decisions of the Central Valley Water Board under the terms of this Stipulated Order shall be communicated to the Discharger in writing. No oral advice, guidance, suggestions, or comments by employees or officials of the Central Valley Water Board regarding submissions or notices shall be construed to relieve the Discharger of its obligation to obtain any final written approval required by this Stipulated Order.
46. **No Third-Party Beneficiaries:** This Stipulated Order is not intended to confer any rights or obligation on any third party or parties, and no third party or parties shall have any right of action under this Stipulated Order for any cause whatsoever.
47. **Severability:** This Stipulated Order is severable; should any provision be found invalid the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

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48. **Effective Date:** This Stipulated Order shall be effective and binding on the Parties upon the date the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, enters the Order.

49. **Counterpart Signatures:** This Order may be executed and delivered in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall be deemed to be an original, but such counterparts shall together constitute one document.

IT IS SO STIPULATED.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Prosecution Team  
Central Valley Region

By: Original Signed By  
John J. Baum  
Assistant Executive Officer

March 5, 2021  
Date:

City of Nevada City

By: Original Signed By  
Joan Phillippe  
City Manager

February 26, 2021  
Date:

**HAVING CONSIDERED THE PARTIES STIPULATIONS, THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, BY AND THROUGH ITS EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FINDS THAT:**

1. The foregoing Stipulation is fully incorporated herein and made part of this Order.
2. This is an action to enforce the laws and regulations administered by the Central Valley Water Board. The Central Valley Water Board finds that issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, sections 21000 et seq.), in accordance with section 15321, subdivision (a)(2), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations.
3. The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board is authorized to refer this matter directly to the Attorney General for enforcement if the Discharger fails to perform any of its obligations under this Order.

Pursuant to Water Code section 13323 and Government Code section 11415.60, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** on behalf of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 23, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachment A: Record of Violations  
Attachment B: Compliance Project Description

**City of Nevada City  
 Nevada City Wastewater Treatment Plant**

RECORD OF VIOLATIONS (1 May 2019 through 30 November 2020) MANDATORY PENALTIES

The following table lists the alleged violations subject to mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs), pursuant to Water Code section 13385(h) and (i).

Table A, Item \*: Supporting violations addressed in ACLC R5-2020-0501  
 DCBM = Dichlorobromomethane

**Table A. Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties**

#	Date	Parameter	Units	Limit	Measured	Period	Violation Type	MMP Type	CIWQS
*	4/22/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1058925
*	4/25/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1058926
*	4/30/19	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	5.4	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1058927
1	5/22/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1059974
2	5/24/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1059975
3	5/28/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1059976
4	5/29/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1059977
5	5/31/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1059978
6	6/21/19	DCBM	µg/L	11	15	Maximum Daily	CAT 2	SIG	1061507

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#	Date	Parameter	Units	Limit	Measured	Period	Violation Type	MMP Type	CIWQS
7	6/30/19	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	15	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1061506
8	7/24/19	DCBM	µg/L	11	12	Maximum Daily	CAT 2	CHRON	1062489
9	7/31/19	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	12	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1062490
10	8/12/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	21	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1063978
11	8/14/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	21	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1063979
12	8/31/19	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	5.9	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1063980
13	9/3/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	9	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065481
14	9/4/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065487
15	9/11/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065490
16	9/13/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	23	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065492
17	9/16/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	70	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065483
18	9/16/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	23	80	> once in 30-day period	OEV	CHRON	1065485
19	9/18/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	23	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065484
20	9/25/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065482

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#	Date	Parameter	Units	Limit	Measured	Period	Violation Type	MMP Type	CIWQS
21	9/27/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	17	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065488
22	9/30/19	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	17	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1065489
23	10/31/19	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	7.7	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1067088
24	2/29/20	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	6.2	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1071769
25	03/14/20	DCBM	µg/L	11	12.2	Daily Maximum	CAT 2	CHRON	1072904
26	03/31/20	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	6.6	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1072905
27	04/01/20	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	7.3	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1075316
28	05/04/20	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	7.9	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1075951
29	06/01/20	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	3	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1076938
30	06/01/20	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	6	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1076939
31	06/03/20	Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	2.2	4	7-Day Median	OEV	CHRON	1077157
32	08/03/20	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	7.1	Monthly Average	CAT 2	SIG	1079668
33	10/31/20	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	4.5	Monthly Average	CAT 2	CHRON	1081251
34	11/02/20	DCBM	µg/L	4.3	4.8	Monthly Average	CAT 2	CHRON	1082634



Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order R5-2021-0501  
Attachment A  
City of Nevada City

<b>VIOLATIONS AS OF:</b>	<b>30 November 2020</b>
Group I Serious Violations:	0
Group II Serious Violations:	11
Non-Serious Violations Not Subject to MMPs:	0
Non-serious Violations Subject to MMPs:	23
<b>Total Violations Subject to MMPs:</b>	<b>34</b>

Mandatory Minimum Penalty Amount for Effluent Limit Violation(s)

11 Serious Violations x \$3,000 Violation = \$33,000

23 Non-Serious Violation subject to MMP x \$3,000 per Violation = \$69,000

Total Mandatory Minimum Penalty = \$102,000

### Compliance Project Description

1. **Project Title:** Installation of Covers on Chlorine Contact Basin and Filtration Process Flow Modulation/EQ Basin Repairs
2. **Service Area:** City of Nevada City
3. **Name of Responsible Entity:** City of Nevada City
4. **Contact Information:**

Mike Faudoa, Chief Plant Operator  
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317 Broad St.  
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[michael.faudoa@nevadacity.gov](mailto:michael.faudoa@nevadacity.gov)

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5. **Project Goals and Description:**

**Installation of Covers on Chlorine Contact Basin** - The Nevada City Wastewater Treatment Plant - Installation of covers on Chlorine Contact Basin is proposed to mitigate effluent limitation violations by improving the efficiency of the disinfection process. The installation of covers will reduce the amount of chlorine needed to compensate for UV exposure thus reducing the potential for formation of disinfection by-products known as trihalomethanes (THMs). One of the THMs that is regulated under the existing permit is dichlorobromomethane (DCBM).

**Filtration Process Flow Modulation/EQ Basin Repairs** - During periods of high flow, elevated organic content and total suspended solids (TSS) overload the disc filter and sand filter (filters). This affects the downstream disinfection performance and increases turbidity and total coliform in the effluent. This project component includes repairs to the Equalization Basin and overflow shutoff valve and installation of a magnetic flow meter, flow control valve, and process controls. SCADA controls will be used to measure flow and modulate flow to the Equalization Basin.

6. **Estimated Cost of Project Completion:**

The cost of Installation of covers on Chlorine Contact Basin project is estimated to be \$60,000.00. The cost of Filtration Process Flow Modulation/EQ Basin Repairs is estimated to be \$42,000.00.

Individual task cost estimates are provided in the table below.

**Table 1. Estimated Costs: Compliance Project Components**

<b>Compliance Project Component</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (\$)</b>
Procurement of Aluminum Deck Covers	\$40,000
Modification of Basin for Installation	\$10,000
Labor, Tools and Equipment	\$10,000
Filtration Process Flow Modulation/ EQ Basin Repairs	\$42,000
<b>Total Estimated Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$102,000</b>

**7. Water body, beneficial use and/or pollutant addressed by this project:**

The installation of Chlorine Contact Basin covers is expected to improve water quality of effluent to Deer Creek which is tributary to the Yuba River by reduction of DCBM disinfection byproduct.

The Flow Modulation/ EQ Basin Repairs are expected to improve water quality of effluent to Deer Creek by reduction of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The project is also expected to improve effectiveness of disinfection process with reduction of DCBM and Total Coliform.

**8. Project Schedule and Deliverables:**

- a. **Completion Date.** The Discharger shall complete all compliance project components by **30 June 2021**.
- b. **Progress Reports.** The Discharger shall submit quarterly progress reports summarizing the progress of each of the compliance project components. At a minimum, the progress report shall include the status of the compliance project components, photographs, and receipts for expenditures. The progress reports shall commence in **April 2021**.
- c. **Final Report.** The Discharger shall submit a final report which will include a summary of all completed tasks, a project success analysis, and a post-project accounting of all expenditures. The accounting will clearly show whether the final cost of the completed compliance project is less than, equal to, or more than the suspended ACL liability amount of \$102,000. This report will be completed under penalty of perjury. The final report shall be submitted by 30 June 2022.