
CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

4 August 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL

7021-1970-0000-8962-1317

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville
Attn: Rachel Hutchinson
P.O. Box 95
Sierraville, CA 96126

CERTIFIED MAIL

7021-1970-0000-8962-1324

Sierraville Public Utility District
Attn: Elizabeth Archer
P.O. Box 325
Sierraville, CA 96126

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

**WAIVER OF REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE AND WASTE DISCHARGE
REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF DISCHARGE WITHIN
THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
SIERRAVILLE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT,
SIERRAVILLE WATER SUPPLY WELL
SIERRA COUNTY**

On 1 July 2025, the United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture and Sierraville Public Utility District (PUD) (jointly referred to as "Dischargers") submitted a Notice of Intent to obtain coverage under the *Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Discharge within the Central Valley Region*, Resolution R5-2023-0061 (the Waiver). The submittal contained all the information required to evaluate the applicability of the Waiver; therefore, the NOI was considered complete and the discharge met the conditions of the Waiver. The discharge is hereby covered under the Waiver and assigned enrollee number **R5-2023-0061-0039**. Please include this number in all correspondence related to this discharge. A copy of the Low Threat Waiver is enclosed and also available on the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's [website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2023-0061.pdf). (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2023-0061.pdf).

Project Location and Description

The proposed new water supply well is located at Nichols Mill Road, Sierraville in Sierra County on land owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Prior to connecting the new well to the municipal water system, the well will need to be tested. An anticipated water yield for the well is 125 gallons per minute (gpm) with a possible range up to 200 gpm. Well

testing is planned to consist of discharging water from the well for 8 hours during a step-drawdown pumping test and 72 hours during a constant rate pumping test, for a total duration of 80 hours over a period of 4 to 10 days. The total well testing volume is estimated at 240,000 to 960,000 gallons. Should the well produce at a higher rate than anticipated, durations of each phase of testing will be shortened to ensure less than 960,000 gallons of water is discharged. The well testing is expected to take place between July and October 2025.

Water discharged during the pumping tests will be piped to the adjacent forested land on Forest Service Land property and be dispersed using high-capacity sprinklers. Best management practices will be used to minimize erosion from runoff, such as straw waddles, straw bales and/or silt fencing where appropriate. Discharged water will readily infiltrate into the vegetated land and soil over the test period and not produce runoff outside the designated discharge area.

The project is within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, revised December 2020 (hereafter Basin Plan). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, contains implementation plans and policies for protecting waters of the Basin, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. Pursuant to §13263(a) of the California Water Code (CWC), waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

Facility Specific Requirements

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Waiver, including the Conditions of Discharge (Attachment A of the Waiver). The discharge must be managed in accordance with the requirements contained in the Conditions of Discharge and with the information submitted in your application and this Notice of Applicability (NOA). The United States Department of Agriculture and Sierraville PUD are responsible for compliance with the waiver and must provide sufficient oversight to ensure compliance and prompt reporting of any noncompliance. Upon completion of the discharge activities and confirmation that all discharged well water has percolated and/or evaporated, the Dischargers shall notify the Central Valley Water Board to request termination of coverage under the Waiver.

Document Submittals

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to:

centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information must be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

4 August 2025

Facility Name: Sierraville Water Supply Well
Program: Non-15 Compliance
Order: R5-2023-0061-0039
CIWQS Place ID: 902017

Documents that are 50 MB or larger must be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
110020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Brendan Kenny is your point of contact for any questions about the Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Brendan will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Brendan at bkenny@waterboards.ca.gov.

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Waiver Order R5-2023-0061

Cc w/encl: Lydia Lamey, UES, Reno

cc w/o encl: Sierra County Environmental Health Department