

**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
5/6 February 2015 Board Meeting**

**Responses to Written Comments  
for the  
Bear Valley Community Services District and Bear Valley Springs Association  
Bear Valley Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Kern County  
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements/NPDES Permit**

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The following are Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff responses to written comments submitted by an interested party regarding the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements/NPDES Permit CA0081213 (WDRs/NPDES permit) renewal for the Bear Valley Community Services District and Bear Valley Springs Association (hereinafter jointly referred to as Discharger), Bear Valley Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility).

The tentative WDRs/NPDES Permit was circulated on 17 November 2014 for a 30-day public comment period. Written comments from interested parties were required by public notice to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by 5:00 pm on 19 December 2014 to receive full consideration. Written comments were received from:

- Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) (19 December 2014)

Written comments from the above interested party are summarized below, followed by the responses of Central Valley Water Board staff. Based on the comments, Central Valley Water Board staff made changes to the tentative WDRs/NPDES permit. Central Valley Water Board staff also made changes to the tentative WDRs/NPDES permit to correct typographical errors and to improve clarity. Furthermore, based on conversations with the Discharger during the public comment period, Central Valley Water Board staff revised the receiving water monitoring requirements in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E) of the General Order. Central Valley Water Board staff modified the requirements to clearly state under what conditions the Discharger is required to conduct receiving water monitoring and observations.

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**CENTRAL VALLEY CLEAN WATER ASSOCIATION (CVCWA) COMMENTS**

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**CVCWA Comment #1: Recycled Water Use Specifications**

Section IV.C. of the tentative WDRs/NPDES permit includes recycled water specifications the Discharger must comply with when discharging to the recycled water Use Area. CVCWA comments that some of these recycled water specifications are not based on the criteria in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, are more stringent than those criteria, or do not provide the necessary caveat that the Discharger may proceed in a manner different than what is required in Title 22 with approval from the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW). In addition, CVCWA comments that the recycled water specifications may be inconsistent with the specifications included in the Discharger's Title 22 Engineering Report.

**RESPONSE:** The recycled water specifications in the tentative WDRs/NPDES permit include applicable criteria from Title 22 and other requirements as necessary for the protection of water quality, to prevent nuisance conditions, and/or to prevent pollution. It is both appropriate and the Board's longstanding practice to impose certain requirements that may be more stringent than the Title 22 regulations as needed to implement the Basin Plan.

### **CVCWA Comment #2: Recycled Water Use Specification IV.C.7.**

Section IV.C.7. of the tentative order states the *"Use Area shall be inspected as frequently as necessary to ensure continuous compliance with the requirements of this Order."* CVCWA comments that this requirement *"sets a high bar for inspection of the use area"*. CVCWA recommends the tentative order include the following language instead: *"Use area shall be subject to periodic inspections to determine compliance with the requirements of this Order."*

**RESPONSE:** While Central Valley Water Board staff expects the Discharger to consistently maintain compliance with the recycled water specifications, staff has reconsidered the specification and proposes to revise Recycled Water Use Specification IV.C.7. as follows:

7. The Discharger shall conduct periodic inspections of the Use Area shall be inspected as frequently as necessary to determine ensure continuous compliance with the requirements of this Order. If an inspection reveals noncompliance, or threat of noncompliance, with the requirements of this Order, the Discharger shall immediately implement corrective actions. If corrective actions cannot be implemented immediately, then the Discharger shall cease recycled water use in the Use Area where the noncompliance is occurring until corrective actions can be implemented.

### **CVCWA Comment #3: Recycled Water Use Specification IV.C.8.**

Section IV.C.8. requires, in part, that irrigation of the recycled water Use Area (i.e., golf course) be irrigated only between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. CVCWA recommends that this requirement "be revised to be similar to that contained in [State Board Order WQ 2009-0006-DWQ for Landscape Irrigation Uses of Municipal Recycled Water], which states as follows: *'Use Areas that are spray irrigated and allow public access shall be irrigated during periods of minimal use. Consideration shall be given to allow maximum drying time prior to subsequent public use.'*"

**RESPONSE:** The Discharger's Title 22 Engineering Report dated 24 October 2002, states that *"[a]ll irrigation is done between dusk and dawn, Monday night through Thursday night except Holidays"*. Therefore, Central Valley Water Board staff proposes to revise Recycled Water Use Specification IV.C.8. as follows:

8. Irrigation of the recycled water Use Area with recycled water shall only occur between 9:00 p.m.dusk and 6:00 a.m.dawn and when weather conditions and

agronomic needs dictate. Hand watering of the golf course, with a hose, using recycled water in conjunction with typical irrigation and irrigation system testing activities may be permitted during the day, provided that applications are supervised by appropriate golf course personnel and all golfers, pedestrians, and other members of the general public are precluded from entering irrigated areas until all applied recycled water has infiltrated the soil.

#### **CVCWA Comment #4: Recycled Water Use Specification IV.C.18.**

Section IV.C.18. requires, in part, that the Discharger maintain at least a ten-foot horizontal and one-foot vertical separation between all recycled water pipelines and domestic supply pipelines. CVCWA comments that these requirements are included with no qualifications and are not part of the Title 22. Therefore, CVCWA contests that the horizontal and vertical separation requirements be deleted or, “[a]t the very least, the provision should be revised to be consistent with the State Board’s Landscape Irrigation General Order WQO-2009-0006-DWQ, which states as follows: *‘Domestic water pipelines shall be configured above recycled water pipelines, unless approved by [DDW].’*”

**RESPONSE:** Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 16, Article 4, Section 64572 specifies the minimum separation required between potable water mains and various supply lines, including recycled water supply. Therefore, Central Valley Water Board staff proposes to revise Recycled Water Use Specification IV.C.18. as follows:

18. ~~There shall be at least a ten-foot horizontal and a one-foot vertical separation between all pipelines transporting recycled water and those transporting domestic supply, and the domestic supply pipeline shall be located above the recycled water pipeline. Horizontal and vertical separation between pipelines transporting recycled water and those transporting potable water shall comply with Title 22, section 64572, except to the extent that the Division of Drinking Water has specifically approved a variance.~~

#### **CVCWA Supplemental Comments:**

Central Valley Water Board staff contacted CVCWA for further clarification regarding its comments. Based on conversations between Central Valley Water Board staff and CVCWA regarding these comments, Central Valley Water Board staff proposes the following additional revisions to section IV.C. of the tentative WDRs/NPDES permit:

6. ~~Application of recycled water to the recycled Use Area shall not exceed the nitrogen or hydraulic loading reasonably necessary to satisfy the nitrogen or water uptake needs of the Use Area considering the plant, soil, climate, and irrigation management system (i.e., general accepted agronomic rates). Application rates of recycled water to the Use Area shall be reasonable and shall consider soil, climate, and plant demand. In addition, application of recycled water and use of fertilizers shall be at a rate that takes~~

into consideration nutrient levels in recycled water and nutrient demand by plants. As a means of discerning compliance with this requirement:

- a. Landscape vegetation shall be grown on the Use Area and landscaping activities shall be sufficient to take up the nitrogen applied to the Use Area, including any fertilizers and manure.
- b. Hydraulic loading of recycled water and supplemental irrigation water shall be managed to:
  - i. Provide water only when water is needed and in amounts consistent with that need;
  - ii. Maximize landscape vegetation nutrient uptake;
  - iii. Maximize breakdown of organic waste constituents in the root zone; and
  - iv. Minimize the percolation of waste constituents below the root zone.

The Central Valley Water Board recognizes that some leaching of salts is necessary to manage salt in the root zone of landscape vegetation. Leaching shall be managed to minimize degradation of groundwater, maintain compliance with groundwater limitations of this Order, and prevent pollution.

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~~13. The Use Area shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. In particular:~~

- ~~a. There shall be no standing water 48 hours after irrigation ceases;~~
- ~~b. Tailwater ditches shall be maintained essentially free of emergent, marginal, and floating vegetation;~~
- ~~c. Low pressure and unpressurized pipelines and ditches accessible to mosquitoes shall not be used to store recycled water.~~

13. The Use Area shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes or other vectors.