

**LATE REVISIONS  
LINDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
YUBA COUNTY AND SUTTER COUNTY**

**NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES No. CA0079651)  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region  
Board Meeting – 8/9 June 2017  
ITEM #10**

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**Item #10. NPDES PERMITS**

Linda County Water District, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Yuba County and Sutter County, (NPDES Permit CA0079651)

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**LATE REVISIONS TO PROPOSED PERMIT**

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Central Valley Water Board staff proposes the following changes to the above mentioned NPDES permit renewal to add pH compliance determination language and to clarify the required pH sampling frequency:

**1) Compliance Determination, Order, Section VII**

Add the below pH compliance and determination language as shown in underline format below.

**F. pH Effluent Limitations (Section IV.A.1.a and IV.A.2.a).** For compliance determination with the instantaneous maximum and minimum effluent limitations in Sections IV.A.1.a or IV.A.2.a, whichever is applicable, the Discharger may elect to take 1/day grab samples. If the Discharger can demonstrate that the discharge is in compliance through grab samples, the discharge will be considered in compliance with the instantaneous maximum and minimum effluent limitations.

For the purposes of determining compliance, if the Discharger does not collect 1/day grab samples, continuous monitoring results may be considered for consideration of compliance. If the Discharger can demonstrate, through data collected, that the excursion meets the below requirements the discharge will be considered in compliance.

- i. The total time during which the pH values are outside the required range of pH values shall not exceed 7 hours and 26 minutes in any calendar month; and
- ii. No individual excursion from the required range shall exceed 4 hours.

For purposes of compliance determination, an excursion is an unintentional and temporary incident in which the pH value of discharged wastewater exceeds the range set forth in the Order.

## 2) Fact Sheet - Attachment F, Section IV.C.3.c

Modify the Constituents with Reasonable Potential section in as shown in underline/strikeout format below:

### x. pH

- (c) **WQBEL's.** Consistent with Order R5-2012-0034, this Order includes an instantaneous maximum effluent limitation for pH of 8.0, based on monitoring data which shows that the effluent pH is consistently less than 8.0.

This Order includes an instantaneous minimum effluent limitation for pH of 6.5 for discharges to the Feather River at Discharge Point 001, based on the Basin Plan objective. However, consistent with Order R5-2012-0034, this Order includes an instantaneous minimum effluent limitation of 6.0 for discharges to the percolation ponds at Discharge Point 002. The soil beneath the percolation ponds will buffer the lower pH prior to discharge to the Feather River. The reduction in pH will also be minimized by the retention time in the ponds which can increase the pH by the change in temperature. During the term of Order R5-2012-0034 the Facility did not discharge to Discharge Point 001 and only discharged tertiary treated wastewater from the percolation ponds in February 2017 after the failure of the Oroville dam caused flows in the Feather River to rise to a level that inundated the ponds. The previous Order established continuous monitoring for pH; however, the permit did not establish a compliance determination process to evaluate the continuous monitoring results to the instantaneous effluent limitations. This resulted in the discharge being in noncompliance with the effluent limits due to occasional excursions from the instantaneous pH limitations established in the Order. The Discharger has not fully studied or evaluated its facility or processes to determine if operational upsets or equipment failures were the cause. Further, this facility has been designed as a regional facility to accept flows from the City of Marysville treatment plant. The regional project is delayed and has resulted in the Linda County treatment facility receiving less influent than anticipated. Reduced inflows can negatively influence the treatment processes and may have contributed to pH concerns in the discharge. Due to these concerns, this Order allows for compliance of the instantaneous minimum and maximum effluent limitations to be determined by 1/day grab samples. This is consistent with other orders issued throughout the Central Valley. However, the Discharger will be required to continue its continuous monitoring of pH to obtain the necessary information to determine if the pH excursions during the previous permit term were due to equipment failures or operational issues, and to address any equipment or operational issues as necessary. Allowing the Discharger to comply with a less stringent limitation at Discharge Point 002 will preclude the Discharger from adding chemicals to the wastewater that adds no benefit to water quality.