

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
364 Knollcrest Drive, #205, Redding, California 96002

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONCERNING

**TENTATIVE ORDER
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5 2024-XXXX
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
PERMIT CA0077844
FOR
CITY OF PORTOLA
PORTOLA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
PLUMAS COUNTY**

Discharger and Tentative Order Information

The City of Portola (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Portola Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), located at 120 Main Street, Portola, CA. The Facility provides sewerage services for the City of Portola, serving a population of approximately 2,500. The Facility provides treatment for an average dry weather flow of 0.5 million gallons per day of domestic wastewater. The Facility discharges treated wastewater to the Middle Fork of the Feather River, a water of the United States, and a six-acre percolation pond. Discharge to the Middle Fork of the Feather River is prohibited from May through October, when there is less than 40 cfs river flow, or when less than a 20:1 dilution (river water to effluent) is present.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2018-0088, adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 7 December 2018. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The tentative Order includes updated effluent limitations for copper, new effluent limitations for nitrate plus nitrite and chronic whole effluent toxicity and removes effluent limitations for electrical conductivity. The tentative Order also includes new land discharge specifications when discharging to land at the six-acre percolation pond.

Public Hearing Date and Location

A public hearing concerning the tentative Order will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 18/19 April 2024
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
and
Online Meeting

The [final meeting agenda](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) will be available at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item and anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the tentative Order. If the location of the Board Meeting changes, the final meeting agenda will be updated.

Nature and Purpose of Hearing

At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will hear testimony and oral comments regarding the tentative Order. This proceeding will be a formal adjudicatory proceeding. The [procedures](#) governing Central Valley Water Board adjudicatory hearings (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. and are available upon request.

Prehearing Submission of Written Comments and Evidence

The **Discharger** is a party to this proceeding. As a party, the Discharger must submit written evidence or comments, if any, for the Board to consider no later than 5:00 p.m. on **26 February 2024** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Interested persons include any non-party that is interested in the outcome of the hearing. Interested persons wishing to comment, in writing, on the tentative Order shall submit comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **26 February 2024** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4, the Board Chair may refuse to admit written evidence or comments that are not submitted in accordance with this Notice and shall refuse to do so when there is a showing of prejudice to the Discharger or the Board. Excluded material will not be considered by the Board.

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a party must submit a request in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on **13 February 2024** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov. The request must include facts demonstrating how the person will be substantially affected by the proceeding.

The Board Chair will not designate a person as a party if the Board Chair determines the designation will impair the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding. The Board Chair, when granting a request for party status, may impose restrictions on the requestor's hearing participation, including limiting or excluding the use of cross-examination and other procedures to promote the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding.

Visual Presentations

Hearing participants may use PowerPoint or other visual presentations at the hearing, but the presentation content shall not exceed the scope of previously submitted written material. Presentations, if any, must be provided to the below Central Valley Water Board Contact by 12:00 p.m. on **15 April 2024**.

Hearing Procedure and Time Limits

The hearing on the tentative Order will be conducted in the general order listed under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.5, except that the Board Chair may modify the order for good cause.

The **Discharger** will be advised in advance of the hearing of the total amount of time allocated for its presentation and closing statement. The Discharger is invited to contact staff in advance of the hearing to discuss how much time it believes is necessary.

Interested persons may speak at the hearing and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals, if any. Each interested person will have 3 minutes to present oral comments. Additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Hearing Accommodations

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call 916-464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Availability of Documents

The tentative Order and related documents may be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) Page (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, #205, Redding, California 96002 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Scheduling an appointment to review the file by contacting the below Central Valley Water Board Contact in advance is not required but calling ahead will help ensure timely access to these documents.

Central Valley Water Board Contact

Anyone having questions regarding this hearing item should contact Mike Nilsen at (530) 224-4853 or Michael.Nilsen@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Original signed by Bryan J. Smith

Bryan J. Smith, P.E.
Supervising Water Resource Control
Engineer