



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

23 January 2026

Chad McBride
Wastewater Plant Operations Supervisor
Nevada County Sanitation District No.1
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

VIA EMAIL
chad.mcbride@nevadacountyca.gov
CERTIFIED MAIL
7021 1970 0000 8962 2208

**NOTICE
TENTATIVE NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY
FOR COVERAGE UNDER
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS/NPDES PERMIT
(ORDER R5-2023-0025; NPDES CAG585001)
FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER DISCHARGERS THAT MEET OBJECTIVES/
CRITERIA AT THE POINT OF DISCHARGE TO SURFACE WATER
FOR
NEVADA COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO.1
LAKE OF THE PINES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
NEVADA COUNTY**

TO ALL CONCERNED PERSONS AND AGENCIES:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff have determined that the Lake of the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) remains eligible for coverage under General Order R5-2023-0025 for Municipal Wastewater Dischargers That Meet Objectives/Criteria at the Point of Discharge to Surface Water (Municipal General Order). Enclosed is a tentative Notice of Applicability (NOA) for the Facility.

The Facility, located in the Lake of the Pines, Darkhorse, and Higgins Village service areas, serves approximately 7,000 individuals. It has a design capacity of 0.72 MGD and includes a biological treatment system configured in two identical parallel treatment trains so that a single train can be taken off-line for maintenance during the dry months of the year. The Facility has a design capacity of 0.72 MGD and consists of a tertiary treatment system with anoxic basins, aeration basins, an immersed membrane bioreactor (MBR) treatment system, two inline ultraviolet light disinfection units, permeate pumps to pull effluent through filters, three reclamation ponds, and one emergency storage pond. The treated effluent is discharged into Magnolia Creek, a tributary of the Bear River. Scum and waste activated sludge produced from waste material in the MBR tanks is digested in aerobic sludge digesters followed by centrifuge dewatering. The dewatered sludge is taken off-site for disposal in a landfill. The Central

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Valley Water Board and United States Environmental Protection Agency classify the Facility as a minor facility.

The Facility is currently authorized to discharge under previous Municipal General Order R5-2017-0085-01 through NOA R5-2017-0085-011 to discharge municipal wastewater to Magnolia Creek, a water of the United States in Nevada County, and tributary of the Bear River. The tentative NOA, once final and effective, would provide coverage for the Facility's discharge under the current Municipal General Order, at which time the terms and conditions in NOA R5-2017-0085-011 will cease to be effective except for enforcement purposes.

Any comments or recommendations you may have concerning the tentative NOA should be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on **9 February 2026** in order for the Central Valley Water Board's Executive Officer to give them full consideration prior to the finalization and issuance of the NOA. Please submit comments or recommendations to this office [via email](mailto:RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov) to RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy [email](mailto:Joshua.Palmer@waterboards.ca.gov) to Joshua.Palmer@waterboards.ca.gov.

After the close of the public comment period Central Valley Water Board staff will review comments, respond as necessary, and the tentative NOA may be revised if appropriate. If substantial written comments are not received by the due date, the Executive Officer will issue the final NOA in accordance with the Municipal General Order. If substantial comments are received by the due date, any member of the public may request an oral hearing before the Central Valley Water Board. If deemed appropriate by the Executive Officer, a subsequent notice of public hearing will be issued so the matter can be considered at a future Central Valley Water Board meeting.

The tentative NOA is available on the Central Valley Water Board [website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) at: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). The Municipal General Order is available online from the [webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2023-0025.pdf) at: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2023-0025.pdf).

If you have any questions regarding the tentative NOA or would like to request a copy of the Municipal General Order, contact Will Chen at (916) 464-4805 or [email](mailto:Walter.Mobley@waterboards.ca.gov) to Walter.Mobley@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by

Joshua Palmer, PE
Senior Engineer

Enclosure:
Tentative Notice of Applicability (Discharger Only)

cc:
Peter Kozelka, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)

Prasad Gullapalli, U.S. EPA Region IX, San Francisco (email only)
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Sacramento
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento
U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Rosa
Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento (email only)
Division of Drinking Water, State Water Board, Sacramento
Regional Manager, Department of Fish & Wildlife, Region II, Rancho Cordova
State Department of Public Health, Environmental Management Branch, Sacramento
State Office of Historical Preservation, Sacramento
Nevada County Health & Human Services, Nevada City
Chron File (RB5S-chron@Waterboards.ca.gov)
Xuan Luo, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova (email only)
Debbie Mackey, Central Valley Clean Water Association, Grass Valley (email only)
Michelle Chester, Central Valley Clean Water Association, Sacramento (email only)
Richard McHenry, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (email only)
Michael Garabedian, Placer County Tomorrow (hardcopy and email)
Jo Anne Kipps (email only)
Nevada County Tribal Nations Contact List