

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

4 August 2025

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Wheatland, CA 95692

CERTIFIED MAIL
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REVISED NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY
WATER QUALITY ORDER 2003-0003-DWQ
STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND
WITH A LOW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY
RECOLOGY OSTROM ROAD,
AQUIFER PILOT TEST PROJECT
YUBA COUNTY

On 25 June 2020, Recology (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under Water Quality Order 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (hereafter General Order) for aquifer testing activities at the above-referenced location. The June 2020 submittal contained all the information required to evaluate applicability of the General Order; therefore, the NOI was considered complete. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for the project on 25 August 2020.

After approval of a Workplan by the Central Valley Water Board cited later in this NOA, Aquifer testing activities began after the installation of paired aquifer testing wells on the north side of the landfill (Yuba County APN 015-080-018). On 28 June 2024, the Discharger requested to add an additional discharge location (APN 015-080-01) on property owned by the Discharger to the existing NOA. Based on information provided in the original NOI and information provided in the June 2024 request for an additional discharge location, the discharge still met the conditions of the General Order. This NOA was revised on 26 July 2024 to allow an additional parcel for use as a discharge location for aquifer testing activities. The discharge was covered under State Water Resources Control Board General Order 2003-0003-DWQ-0212-01.

On 28 May 2025, the Discharger requested to install an additional groundwater dewatering well on property owned by the Discharger to the revised NOA. Based on the information provided in the May 2025 request to discharge aquifer testing and development water from the installation of a fourth groundwater dewatering well, the discharge still meets the condition of the General order. This NOA is revised to allow

discharge from the additional extraction well. The updated discharge is hereby covered under State Water Resources Control Board General Order **2003-0003-DWQ-02**. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Recology Ostrom Road facility is a solid waste disposal site, currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2018-0007, adopted on 1 February 2018. The WDRs require separation between groundwater and the base of landfill materials. On 2 April 2019, the Central Valley Water Board issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) for not maintaining adequate separation of groundwater from waste in the existing operable units. To maintain the necessary separation, on-going groundwater dewatering is required to bring the facility into compliance with the WDRs. In response to the NOV, the Discharger submitted a *Dewatering Well Work Plan* on 18 October 2019 (the Workplan) detailing the proposed approach to install and test aquifer testing wells around the landfill. The Workplan was approved in a letter issued by the Central Valley Water Board staff on 12 November 2019.

The approved Workplan began with the installation of paired aquifer testing wells and envisioned additional paired wells may be installed at locations to be determined around the landfill to expand aquifer testing activities. Once overall pilot testing activities are complete, the Discharger plans to initiate an ongoing groundwater dewatering program to maintain compliance with groundwater separation requirements specified in Order R5-2018-0007. The sustained groundwater dewatering program may include additional extraction wells not envisioned under this NOA. The Discharger is currently evaluating discharge permitting options for full-scale implementation of the groundwater dewatering program.

Based on the approved Workplan, well pairs include a shallow well (completed to approximately 30 feet below ground surface [bgs]) and a deep well (completed to approximately 150 to 200 feet bgs), at the locations shown on Attachment A. Once wells are drilled and constructed, aquifer testing will be conducted to determine appropriate pumping rates and radius of influence.. Depending on the outcome of pilot testing activities, additional pilot testing wells may be installed, if necessary, to evaluate and achieve the required groundwater drawdown. Full-scale dewatering discharge to land to maintain adequate groundwater separation is not included under this NOA and may be covered in a future revision of Order R5-2018-0007.

Extracted groundwater generated during aquifer pumping test activities were originally discharged to the eastern portion of 117 acres of pastureland owned by the Discharger east of the landfill (Yuba County APNs 015-030-024 and 015-030-025) under the original NOA, as shown on Attachment A. The original discharge area was a natural depression surrounded by an approximately 5-foot-high berm that prevented discharged water from migrating off-site.

Discharge flow rates during initial aquifer pilot testing activities varied, but may have reached upwards of 100,000 gallons per day per paired-well location. The original NOI

stated that the Discharger will monitor static groundwater levels in monitoring wells VZW-1 and VZW-2 prior to, during, and up to one week following the end of the pilot testing discharge to evaluate the potential for mounding of the shallow groundwater table, which may influence aquifer testing results. Monitoring of VZW-1 and VZW-2 is conducted voluntarily by the Discharger to supplement aquifer testing activities and is not required under this NOA.

Groundwater quality data are available from on-site groundwater monitoring wells located near the proposed aquifer testing location as required under the WDRs Order. These data represent the expected groundwater quality to be extracted and discharged during aquifer pilot testing activities. Analytical data were summarized in the NOI submitted by the Discharger. Groundwater samples collected in August 2019 were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and general water quality parameters, including sodium, chloride, total dissolved solids, nitrate as nitrogen, sulfate, pH, and specific conductance. VOC concentrations were not detected at or greater than the method detection limits. Nitrate as nitrogen, detected at 14 milligrams per liter (mg/L), was the only constituent concentration that exceeded a water quality objective (10 mg/L for nitrogen in groundwater). Details of monitoring the extracted groundwater (i.e. measuring flow, sampling location(s), sampling frequency, and analytical parameters) are provided in the Discharger's Monitoring Plan (DMP).

The Discharger plans to install an additional well pair. However, due to the distance between the new well locations and the existing discharge area, the Discharger has requested to add an additional discharge area located closer to the proposed well locations. The new discharge area consists of open pastureland. Prior to installation of the new well pair, a berm will be installed at least 100 feet from Best Slough to ensure an adequate boundary between the discharge area and Best Slough. This proposed discharge area will contain the extracted groundwater from the regional aquifer from a depth of approximately 150 to 200 bgs with a maximum discharge volume of 115,000 gallons during a 24-hour pump test. Discharge water will be conveyed using a hose and the discharge location will include rip rap to prevent erosion. If it is apparent that through monitoring, the spread of discharge water into the drainage area could enter Best Slough, the pumping will be terminated.

A fourth groundwater dewatering well will be located along the southern boundary of the facility (see Attachment A) and is scheduled to be installed in the fall of 2025. The maximum estimated discharge during a 24-hour pump test is 115,000 gallons. Discharged water from expanded aquifer testing activities will be conveyed using a hose and discharged to the areas shown on Attachment A. If it is apparent that through monitoring, the spread of discharge water into the drainage area could enter Best Slough, the pumping will be terminated.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fifth Edition, revised May 2018 (hereafter 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 Board. Pursuant to §13263(a) of the California Water Code, waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The General Order and this revised NOA regulate groundwater dewatering for the Recology Ostrom Road Aquifer Pilot Test project.

1. This NOA only applies to the land discharge of extracted groundwater generated during aquifer pilot testing activities as described in the NOI and approved Workplan.
2. Water generated during well installation, development, and aquifer testing activities shall be disposed of as described in the NOA and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
3. Aquifer testing discharge at a location or in a manner different from that described in this NOA is prohibited.
4. Aquifer testing discharge to the onsite Sedimentation Basin or nearby agricultural fields not specifically called out in this NOA is prohibited.
5. The discharge of any waste to surface waters is prohibited.
6. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.
7. Monitoring results shall be submitted on a semi-annual basis in accordance the General Order's Monitoring and Reporting Program and the Discharger's DMP, which was included in the original NOI. Semi-annual monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on the **15th day of the second month following monitoring** (i.e. the January through June report is due August 15 and the July through December report is due February 15). At a minimum, the semi-annual monitoring reports shall include the results of aquifer testing and discharge monitoring activities, as specified above.
8. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.
9. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including its monitoring and reporting requirements, and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code

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 should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: Recology Ostrom Road Groundwater Dewatering Project
Program: Non-15 Compliance
Order: **WQO 2003-0003-DWQ-0212-02**
CIWQS Place ID: 246287

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

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the revised NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Todd DeIfrate is your point of contact for any questions about enrollment under the Order. All monitoring and technical reports should be submitted to him. The enclosed transmittal sheet shall be included with each monitoring report. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Todd will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Todd at (916) 464-4737 or at todd.delfrate@waterboards.ca.gov.

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

enclosures: Water Quality Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ
Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements

cc w/o encl: Yuba County Environmental Health Department

