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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

14 February 2018

Alexander Kan, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer  
Environmental Engineering Section  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1325 J St  
Sacramento, California 95814

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7017 1070 0000 8970 8823**

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA), STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TRIMMER RECREATION AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM, FRESNO COUNTY**

On 25 September 2017, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) seeking coverage under State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order) for the Trimmer Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment System (Facility) located next to Pine Flat Lake in Fresno County. Based on the information provided, the system treats and disposes of less than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd), and is therefore eligible for coverage under the general and specific conditions of the General Order. This letter serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to your system and the wastewater discharge described below. You are hereby assigned General Order **2014-0153-DWQ-R5252** for your system.

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments enclosed with this letter, which describe mandatory discharge and monitoring requirements. Sampling, monitoring, and reporting requirements applicable to your treatment and disposal methods must be completed in accordance with the appropriate treatment system sections of the General Order and the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

### **DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

The Facility is in Fresno County, approximately 1,200 feet east of the intersection of East Trimmer Springs Road and Maxon Road (septic tank location at a point latitude 36.91° North, and longitude 119.29° West). The site is approximately 5.4 miles north-northeast of the Pine Flat Dam.

The Facility consists of a septic system connected to two lined evaporation ponds. The Facility receives domestic wastewater from one, six fixture restroom with hot showers. The average daily flow in the treatment system is 125 gpd. The Facility is designed for a maximum average flow rate of 36,000 gpd.

## FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger will maintain exclusive control over the discharge and shall comply with the terms and conditions of this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252. In accordance with the requirements of the General Order, the need for nitrogen limits was evaluated. Since the design flow rate is greater than 20,000 gpd, staff determined that nitrogen was not a constituent of concern since the Facility discharges wastewater to lined ponds. Therefore, nitrogen effluent limits are not included in this NOA.

In accordance with Section B.1.a of the General Order, treated wastewater discharged to the Facility's evaporation ponds shall not exceed 36,000 gpd as a monthly average.

The Discharger shall comply with all requirements specified in Section B.1 of the General Order. The General Order states in Section B.1.I that the Discharger shall comply with the setbacks as described in Table 3 of the General Order. This table summarizes different setback requirements for wastewater system equipment, activities, land application areas, and storage and/or treatment ponds from sensitive receptors and property lines where applicable. The Discharger shall comply with the applicable setback requirements, as summarized in the following table:

<b>Site Specific Applicable Setback Requirements</b>				
<b>Equipment or Activity</b>	<b>Domestic Well</b>	<b>Ephemeral Stream Drainage</b>	<b>Property Line</b>	<b>Lake or Reservoir</b>
Septic Tank or Collection System	150 ft <sup>1</sup>	50 ft	5 ft <sup>2</sup>	50 ft <sup>2</sup>
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water) <sup>3</sup>	150 ft <sup>4</sup>	150 ft	50 ft	200 ft

1. Setback established by Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, Section 7.5.6.
2. Setback established by the California Plumbing Code, Table K-1
3. Undisinfected secondary recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.900.
4. Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(d).

The Discharger shall comply with all septic system requirements specified in Section B.2 of the General Order. The General Order states in Section B.2.c that to the maximum extent possible, RV, portable toilet, or similar wastes shall not be discharged to a septic tank or functionally equivalent system (e.g., Imhoff tank) without subsequent additional treatment (e.g., aerated pond, recirculating sand filter, etc.) prior to disposal.

The General Order states in Section B.2.d that septic tanks shall be pumped when any of the following conditions exists:

1. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment.
2. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.
3. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

The Discharge shall comply with all pond system requirements specified in Section B.5 of the General Order. Section B.5.d of the General Order states that objectionable odors shall not create nuisance conditions beyond the limits of the facility, A dissolved oxygen concentration less than 1.0 mg/L in the upper one foot of any wastewater pond shall be evidence of the potential to generate objectionable odors.

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252 could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of wastes other than those described in this NOA is prohibited. If the method of waste disposal changes from that described in this NOA, you must submit a new Report of Waste Discharge describing the new operation.

Provision E.1 of the General Order requires dischargers enrolled under the General Order to prepare and implement the following reports within **90 days** of the issuance of the NOA (14 February 2018):

- Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Provision E.1.a)
- Sampling Analysis Plan (Provision E.1.b)

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing if the discharge regulated by the General Order ceases, so that we may terminate coverage and avoid unnecessary billing.

The Central Valley Water Board has gone to a Paperless Office System. All regulatory documents, submissions, materials, data, monitoring reports, and correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov). Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any email used to transmit documents to this office: Program: Non-15, WDID: 5C10NC00162, Facility Name: Trimmer Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment System, Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252.

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of the General Order has been sent only to the Discharger. Others are advised that the General Order is available on the State Water Board's web site at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2014/wqo2014\\_0153\\_dwq.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf)

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Robins by phone at (559) 445-5976, or by email at [jeff.robins@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jeff.robins@waterboards.ca.gov).

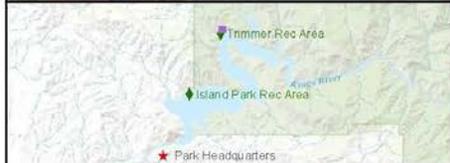
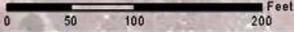


*for* Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A – Project Map  
State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
(Discharger Only)  
Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252  
Review Memorandum of US Army Corps of Engineers-Trimmer Recreation  
Area - Report of Waste Discharge

cc: Fresno County Environmental Health Services, Fresno  
Fresno County Planning and Community Development Department, Fresno

ATTACHMENT A – PROJECT MAP  
 TRIMMER RECREATION AREA  
 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252



Gravity Sewer Main	Restroom
Sewer Force Main	Waste Water Ponds
Septic Tank with Pump	

**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
 Engineer District  
 Features on map are approximate and were digitized based on as-builts from 1978, sheet 6, file number K-1-2-25-687.

**Trimmer  
 Recreation Area**

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252

FOR

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
TRIMMER RECREATION AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM  
FRESNO COUNTY

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for monitoring a wastewater treatment system. This MRP is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Discharger) shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) or Executive Officer.

Water Code section 13267 states, in part:

“In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.”

Water Code section 13268 states, in part:

“(a) Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of section 13267, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of section 13399.2, or falsifying any information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b).

(b)(1) Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with article 2.5 (commencing with section 13323) of chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs.”

The Discharger owns and operates the Trimmer Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment System (Facility) that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) of Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252. The reports are necessary to ensure that the Discharger complies with the NOA and General Order. Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall implement this MRP and shall submit the monitoring reports described herein.

All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The name of the sampler, sample type (grab or composite), time, date, location, bottle type, and any preservative used for each sample shall be recorded on the sample chain of custody form. The chain of custody form must also contain all custody information including date, time, and to whom samples were relinquished. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.

Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided that they are used by a State Water Resources Control Board, Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program certified laboratory, or:

1. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
2. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
3. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and
4. Field calibration reports are maintained and available for at least three years.

### SEPTIC TANK MONITORING

Monitoring of septic tank shall include the following:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Flow Rate	gpd <sup>a</sup>	Metered <sup>b</sup>	Continuous	Annually

a. gpd denotes gallons per day

b. Flow rate may be metered or estimated based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method.

Septic tanks shall be inspected and/or pumped at least as frequently as described below. Inspections of sludge and scum depth are not required if the tanks are pumped at least annually.

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Measurement Type</u>	<u>Inspection/Reporting Frequency</u>
Sludge depth and scum thickness in each compartment of each tank	Feet	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually
Effluent filter condition (if equipped, clean as needed)	NA	NA	Annually

NA denotes not applicable.

Septic tanks shall be pumped when any one of the following conditions exists:

1. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment.
2. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.
3. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

If a septic tank is pumped during the year, the pumping report shall be submitted with the annual report. All pumping reports shall be submitted with the next regularly scheduled monitoring report. At a minimum, the record shall include the date, nature of service, service company name, and service company license number.

## POND SYSTEM MONITORING

### Wastewater Pond Monitoring

All wastewater and treated wastewater storage ponds (lined and unlined) shall be monitored as specified below.

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Freeboard	0.1 feet	Measurement	Monthly	Quarterly
Odors	--	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Berm Condition	--	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly

mg/L denotes milligrams per liter

## SOLIDS DISPOSAL MONITORING

The Discharger shall report the handling and disposal of all solids (e.g., screenings, grit, sludge, biosolids, etc.) generated at the wastewater system. Records shall include the name/contact information for the hauling company, the type and amount of waste transported, the date removed from the wastewater system, the disposal facility name and address, and copies of analytical data required by the entity accepting the waste. These records shall be submitted as part of the annual monitoring report.

### REPORTING

In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, sample type (e.g., effluent, solids, etc.), and reported analytical or visual inspection results are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized to clearly illustrate compliance with the General Order and NOA as applicable. The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the locations specified in the MRP shall be reported in the next regularly scheduled monitoring report and shall be included in calculations as appropriate.

The Central Valley Water Board has gone to a Paperless Office System. All regulatory documents, submissions, materials, data, monitoring reports, and correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov). Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the appropriate Regional Water Board office, in this case 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any email used to transmit documents to this office: Program: Non-15, WDID: 5C10NC00162, Facility Name: Trimmer Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment System, Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5252.

#### A. Quarterly Monitoring Reports

Quarterly reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on the **first day of the second month after the quarter ends** (e.g., the January-March Quarterly Report is due by May 1<sup>st</sup>). The reports shall bear the certification and signature of the Discharger's authorized representative. At a minimum, the quarterly reports shall include:

1. Results of all required monitoring.

2. A comparison of monitoring data to the discharge specifications, flow limit, disclosure of any violations of the NOA and/or General Order, and an explanation of any violation of those requirements. (Data shall be presented in tabular format.)
3. If requested by staff, copies of laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody form(s).

### B. Annual Report

Annual Reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by **March 1<sup>st</sup> following the monitoring year**. The Annual Report shall include the following:

1. Tabular and graphical summaries of all monitoring data collected during the year.
2. An evaluation of the performance of the wastewater treatment system, including discussion of capacity issues, nuisance conditions, system problems, and a forecast of the flows anticipated in the next year. A flow rate evaluation, as described in the General Order (Provision E.2.c), shall also be submitted.
3. A discussion of compliance and the corrective action taken, as well as any planned or proposed actions needed to bring the discharge into compliance with the NOA and/or General Order.
4. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies/redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.
5. The name and contact information for the wastewater operator responsible for operation, maintenance, and system monitoring.

A letter transmitting the monitoring reports shall accompany each report. The letter shall report violations found during the reporting period, and actions taken or planned to correct the violations and prevent future violations. The transmittal letter shall contain the following penalty of perjury statement and shall be signed by the Discharger or the Discharger's authorized agent:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of the those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."

The Discharger shall implement the above monitoring program as of the date of this MRP.

Ordered by:



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PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

2/15/2018

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DATE

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**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**TO:** Clay Rodgers  
Assistant Executive Officer

**FROM:** Scott J. Hatton   
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer  
RCE 67889

Jeff Robins   
Water Resource Control Engineer

**DATE:** 14 February 2018

**SUBJECT:** **APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TRIMMER RECREATION AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM, FRESNO COUNTY**

On 25 September 2017, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Discharger) - Trimmer Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment System (Facility) in Fresno County. The RWD includes a Form 200 and a Facility description. This memorandum provides a summary of Central Valley Water Board's review of the RWD and the applicability of this discharge to be covered under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Facility was constructed to serve the Trimmer Recreation Area at Pine Flat Lake. The design flow for the Facility is 36,000 gallons per day (gpd). The actual flow rate was estimated in the RWD to be 125 gpd, on average. Trimmer has a total of ten campsites; five sites are tent only and five sites are tent/RV sites. Wastewater is generated by a shared restroom that contains showers.

**POTENTIAL THREAT TO WATER QUALITY**

Wastewater and solids generated from the site's restroom is gravity fed to a septic tank, which has a capacity of 2,000 gallons and acts as a pump station. The septic tank collects solids and pumps the wastewater to two evaporation ponds. The total length of sewer line at Trimmer Recreation Area is approximately 700 feet. There are two evaporation ponds: one main pond

and one emergency overflow pond. Each pond has an estimated capacity of 70,000 gallons. Each pond is lined with a 30-mil supported liner, which is two-ply construction consisting of two, 15-mil thick Hypalon synthetic rubber sheeting laminated to one layer of reinforcing fabric scrim, with a six-inch layer of sand underneath. A six-inch layer of gravel is placed on top of the liner as cover material. Both ponds are approximately 450 to 1,000 feet (depending on the lake elevation), horizontally, from Pine Flat Lake. The ponds are rarely seen holding any wastewater.

The septic tank and the evaporation ponds comply with the Wastewater System Setbacks from *Table 3: Summary of Wastewater System Setbacks* of the General Order. The nearest public water supply well to the septic tank is over 600 feet (minimum requirement is 150 feet), horizontal distance, away. The nearest public water supply well to the evaporation ponds is over 500 feet (minimum requirement is 150 feet), horizontal distance, away. The evaporation ponds (impoundment of undisinfected secondary recycled water) are approximately 450 to 1,000 feet (depends on lake elevation), horizontally, from the nearest lake or reservoir (meets the setback requirement of 200 feet). The septic tank is approximately 55 to 700 feet from Pine Flat Lake (meets the setback requirement of 50 feet). The nearest ephemeral stream is approximately 300 feet from the septic tank (meets the setback requirement of 50 feet). The pressurized sewer line is approximately 200 feet from the ephemeral stream at its closest point (meets the setback requirement of 50 feet).

In accordance with the requirements of the General Order, discharges with flow rates less than 20,000 gpd are not required to meet a nitrogen effluent limitation. Since the design flow is 36,000 gpd, the need for nitrogen limits was evaluated. All discharge from the Facility is sent to lined ponds. Therefore, nitrogen is not a constituent of concern for this site, and nitrogen effluent limits are not necessary.

The last time the applicant attempted to sample the evaporation ponds, in 2014, there was no water in them. The applicant did sample the evaporation pond at the Island Park Recreation Area at Pine Flat Lake, which is a similar system. They estimated the Trimmer Recreation Area has similar wastewater characteristics to the Island Park Recreation Area. In May (peak season) and August (off-peak season) 2014, samples from the main evaporation pond at Island Park Recreation Area were analyzed. Biochemical oxygen demand values ranged from 38 to 40 mg/L. Electrical conductivity ranged from 1,690 to 1,750  $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ . Total dissolved solids ranged from 1,020 to 1,040 mg/L. Total kjeldahl nitrogen ranged from 18 to 33 mg/L. Nitrate-Nitrogen readings were non-detect (0.05 mg/L reporting limit) and 0.03 mg/L (estimated value).

## **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

Monitoring requirements included in the following sections from Attachment C of the General Order are appropriate for this discharge:

- Septic Tank Monitoring,
- Pond System Monitoring, and
- Solids Disposal Monitoring