



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 March 2019

Martin Gonzales  
Water & Sewage Plant Supervisor  
Millerton Lake State Recreation Area  
5290 Millerton Road  
Friant, California 93626

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7018 1830 0001 0015 0764**

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA), STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5298, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, MILLERTON LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA, FRESNO COUNTY**

On 6 December 2017 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Discharger or Parks and Recreation) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) consisting of a Form 200, Facility Location Map, Facility Schematic Drawing, a Sewer System Management Plan, and a technical report for coverage of the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area (MLSRA) wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) under the 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). Based on the information provided and a review of the available information, the system treats and disposes of less than 100,000 gallons of domestic wastewater per day and is therefore eligible for coverage under the General Order. This letter serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to your system and the wastewater discharge described below upon the rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order 86-224. You are hereby assigned General Order **2014-0153-DWQ-R5298** 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-R5298. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

### **DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management owns the land that the MLSRA is on, while Parks and Recreation owns the structures that are served by the WWTF. Parks and Recreation staff operates the WWTF that is about one mile east of Friant in Fresno County. The WWTF is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order

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1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)

86-244, which specifies a 30-day average dry-weather flow limitation of 2,830 gallons per day (gpd) of secondary-treated domestic effluent.

The WWTF provides service for an office building (Sector office), South Shore Entrance Kiosk, Grange Grove Day Use Area, Ramp 3, and the La Playa Day Use Area. Each area provides the following services:

| <u>AREA</u>          | <u>FACILITIES</u>   |
|----------------------|---|
| Sector Office        | Two toilets, two sinks, & one kitchen sink.                 |
| South Shore Kiosk    | One toilet & one kitchen sink.                              |
| Grange Grove Day Use | Six toilets, six sinks, & two kitchen sinks (picnic areas). |
| Ramp 3               | Four toilets & four sinks.                                  |
| La Playa Day Use     | Ten toilets, eight sinks, one urinal, & one outside shower. |

The wastewater collection system consists of approximately 4,200 linear feet of 6-inch pipe, three septic tanks, and four lift stations as shown below:

| <u>AREA</u>               | <u>SEPTIC TANK CAPACITY</u>   | <u>LIFT STATION CAPACITY</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Entrance Station (Office) | 5,300 gallons                 | 1,300 gallons                |
| South Shore Kiosk         | Discharges to entrance septic | 300 gallons                  |
| Grange Grove Day Use      | 4,300 gallons                 | 1,000 gallons                |
| Ramp 3                    | Discharges to entrance septic | 600 gallons                  |
| La Playa Day Use          | 4,800 gallons                 | ---                          |

In addition, the WWTF receives chemical toilet waste from seven stationed chemical toilets at the MLSRA. The chemical toilets utilize a deodorant that is described by the Discharger as "97.1 percent water, 1.8 percent biodegradable detergent, 1 percent biodegradable blue dye, and 0.1 percent biodegradable perfumes". The perfumes are natural oils extracted from plants. It is reported that this discharge adds an annual average of 90 gallons per day (gpd). The WWTF does not receive wastes from recreational vehicles.

Wastewater generated at the MLSRA is piped via gravity and force mains to an approximately half-acre evaporation/percolation pond located south of the WWTF. Specific design information is not available for the pond, but the pond covers an area of about one-half an acre and as is about six to eight feet deep.

The average discharge from the WWTF to the effluent storage pond from 2016 through 2018 is listed in the Table below.

**Millerton Lake State Recreation Area Average Daily Flow 2016 - 2018**

| Year | Daily Average in gallons per day |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 2016 | 729                              |
| 2017 | 1,196                            |
| 2018 | 515                              |

## FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

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-R5298**, with all attachments, and MRP No. **2014-0153-DWQ-R5298**.

The depth to groundwater beneath the effluent evaporation/percolation pond is unknown, but groundwater was not encountered in test pits excavated to depths of 10 feet in 1985 at the location of the disposal pond. In accordance with the requirements of the General Order, discharges without shallow groundwater and flow rates less than 20,000 gpd are not required to meet a nitrogen effluent limitation.

In accordance with Section B.1 of the General Order, treated wastewater discharged to the Facility's effluent retention pond **shall not exceed 2,830 gpd as a monthly average**.

The General Order states in Section B.1.l 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 treatment 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>Flowing Stream<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Ephemeral Stream Drainage<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>Property Line</b> | <b>Lake or Reservoir<sup>3</sup></b> |
| Septic Tank, Treatment System, or Collection System <sup>4</sup>      | 150 ft <sup>5</sup>  | 50 ft. <sup>6</sup>               | 50 ft.                                       | 5 ft. <sup>6</sup>   | 200 ft. <sup>7</sup>                 |
| <b>Wastewater Storage Requirements</b>                                |                      |                                   |  |                      |                                      |
| Impoundment (undisinfected secondary treated wastewater) <sup>8</sup> | 150 ft <sup>9</sup>  | 150 ft                            | 150 ft                                       | 50 ft                | 200 ft.                              |

1. A flowing stream shall be measured from the ordinary high-water mark established by fluctuations of water elevation and indicated by characteristics such as shelving, changes in soil character, vegetation type, presence of litter or debris, or other appropriate means.
2. Ephemeral Stream Drainage denotes a surface water drainage feature that flows only after rain or snow-melt and does not have sufficient groundwater seepage (baseflow) to maintain a condition of flowing surface water. The drainage shall be measured from a line that defines the limit of the ordinary high water mark (described in "a" above). Irrigation canals are not considered ephemeral streams drainage.
3. Lake or reservoir boundary measured from the high water line.
4. Septic Tank, Treatment System, or Collection System addresses equipment located below ground or that impedes leak detection by routine visual inspection
5. Setback established by Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, section 7.5.6.
6. Setback established by California Plumbing Code, Table K-1.
7. Setback established by the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, section 7.5.5.
8. Undisinfected secondary recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.900.
9. Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(d).

The Discharger shall comply with the septic system requirements in Section B.2 of the General Order. The General Order states in Section B.2.d that septic tanks shall be pumped when any of the following conditions exist:

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

The Discharger shall comply with the pond system requirements specified in Section B.5 of the General Order.

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:

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

However, the Discharger submitted a Sewer Management Plan prepared in 1986 that includes a detailed sludge management plan, addresses emergency response, spill prevention, and spill cleanup. Hence, submittal of the above three referenced plans is not required at this time. A copy of the Sewer Management Plan that addresses Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan, the Sampling and Analysis Plan, and the Sludge Management Plan shall be maintained at the treatment facility and shall be presented to the Regional Water Board staff upon request.

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, General Order **2014-0153-DWQ-R5298**, with all attachments, and MRP No. **2014-0153-DWQ-R5298** 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.

The Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. These programs, once effective, could change how the Central Valley Water Board permits discharges of salt and nitrate.

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 Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (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 50MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov). Documents that are 50MB 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: 5C100800001,  
Facility Name: Millerton Lake State Recreation Area WWTF,  
**Order-2014-0153-DWQ-R5298.**

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)

Please note that WDRs Order 86-224 is proposed to be rescinded at the 6/7 June 2019 meeting of the Central Valley Water Board. Upon rescission of your individual WDRs, coverage for your facility under the General Order shall become applicable subject to this Notice of Applicability.

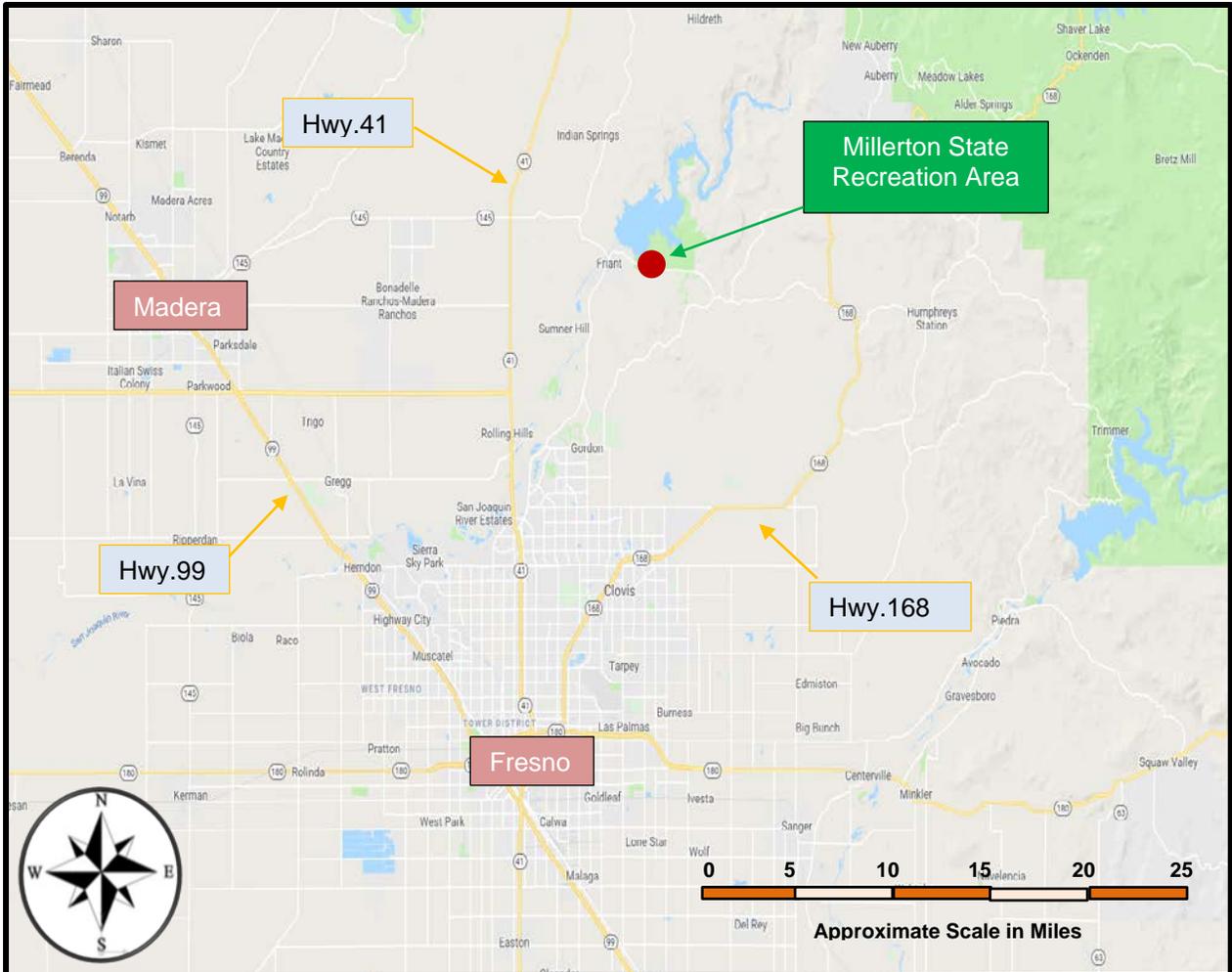
If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Pyle by phone at (559) 445-5145, by email at [jpyle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jpyle@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original signed by Clay Rodgers for*

Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A – Site Location Map  
Monitoring and Reporting Program **No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5298**  
Technical Memorandum for Millerton Lake State Recreation Area WWTF  
State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
(Discharger Only)

cc: Ms. Janet Gardner, Fresno County Health Department of Public Health,  
Environmental Health (via email)



## SITE LOCATION MAP

2014-0153-DWQ-R5298  
 GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
 FOR  
 SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION  
 MILLERTON LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA  
 FRESNO COUNTY



**ATTACHMENT A**

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5298

FOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
MILLERTON LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
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 State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (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)(1) 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 onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems at the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) of Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5298. 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 (ELAP) 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.

If monitoring consistently shows no significant variation in magnitude of a constituent concentration or parameter after at least 12 months of monitoring, the Discharger may request this MRP be revised to reduce monitoring frequency. The proposal must include adequate technical justification for reduction in monitoring frequency.

### SEPTIC TANK MONITORING

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 <sup>1</sup> | NA <sup>1</sup>         | Annually                              |

<sup>1</sup>. NA = 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

#### Influent Monitoring

Influent samples shall be taken from a location that provides representative samples of the wastewater and flow rate prior to entering the wastewater evaporation/percolation pond. At a minimum, influent monitoring shall consist of the following:

| <u>Constituent</u>        | <u>Units</u> <sup>1</sup> | <u>Sample Type</u> | <u>Sample Frequency</u> | <u>Reporting Frequency</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Flow Rate <sup>2</sup>    | gpd                       | Meter              | Continuous              | Quarterly                  |
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand | mg/L                      | Grab               | Quarterly               | Quarterly                  |
| Total Nitrogen            | mg/L                      | Grab               | Quarterly               | Quarterly                  |
| Electrical Conductivity   | umhos/cm                  | Grab               | Quarterly               | Quarterly                  |

1. gpd = gallons per day, mg/L = milligrams per liter, umhos/cm = micromhos per centimeter.
2. At a minimum, the total flow shall be measured monthly to calculate the average daily flow for the month.

#### Pond Monitoring

The wastewater evaporation/percolation pond shall be monitored as specified below.

| <u>Constituent</u> | <u>Units</u> | <u>Sample Type</u> | <u>Sample Frequency</u> | <u>Reporting Frequency</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Freeboard          | 0.1 feet     | Measurement        | Continuous              | Quarterly                  |
| Odors              | ---          | Observation        | Monthly                 | Quarterly                  |
| Berm Condition     | ---          | Observation        | Monthly                 | Quarterly                  |

### 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 50MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov.

Documents that are 50MB 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: 5C100800001, Facility Name: Millerton Lake State Recreation Area WWTF, Order-2014-0153-DWQ-R5298.

### **A. Quarterly Monitoring Reports**

Quarterly monitoring 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, disclosure of any violations of the NOA and/or the General Order, and an explanation of any violation of those requirements. (Data shall be presented in tabular format).
3. Copies of laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody forms.

### **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 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 upon rescission of WDRs Order 86-224.

Ordered by:

*Original signed by Clay Rodgers for*

\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**TO:** Scott J. Hatton  
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

**FROM:** Alexander S. Mushegan  
Water Resource Control Engineer  
RCE 84208

*Original signed and stamped by Alexander S. Mushegan*

Jeffrey S. Pyle  
Engineering Geologist  
PG 7375

*Original signed and stamped by Jeffrey S. Pyle*

**DATE:** 26 March 2019

**SUBJECT: APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5298; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION; MILLERTON LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA; FRESNO COUNTY**

On 6 December 2017 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Discharger or Parks and Recreation) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) consisting of a Form 200, Facility Location Map, Facility Schematic Drawing, a Sewer System Management Plan, and a technical report for coverage of the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area (MLSRA) wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) under the 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). This memorandum provides a summary of Central Valley Water Board's review of the December 2017 RWD, submitted self-monitoring reports, and supplemental information provided by the Discharger to determine the applicability of this discharge to be covered under the General Order.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management owns the land that the MLSRA is on, while the California Department of Parks and Recreation owns the various structures/facilities that are served by the WWTF, which is about 1 mile east of Friant in Fresno County and provides service to the MLSRA that consists of a main office building, South Shore Entrance Kiosk, Grange Grove Day Use Area, Ramp 3 area, and the La Playa Day Use Area.

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In addition, the WWTF receives chemical toilet waste from seven stationed chemical toilets at the MLSRA. The chemical toilets utilize a deodorant that is described by the Discharger as “97.1 percent water, 1.8 percent biodegradable detergent, 1 percent biodegradable blue dye, and 0.1 percent biodegradable perfumes”. The perfumes are natural oils extracted from plants. Information provided in the self-monitoring reports indicates that these toilets add an additional 90 gallons per day (gpd) as an annual average to the discharge to the WWTF. The MLSRA WWTF does not accept waste from recreational vehicles.

The wastewater collection system consists of approximately 4,200 linear feet of 6-inch pipe, six septic tanks, and four pump stations. Wastewater generated at the MLSRA is piped via gravity and force mains to an approximately half-acre unlined evaporation/percolation pond located south of the WWTF.

The WWTF is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 86-224, which specifies a 30-day average daily dry-weather flow limitation of 2,830 gpd. The average daily flow in 2018 was 515 gpd with the higher use months being from June through August of each year. The high use month for 2018 was June with a monthly average flow of 1,379 gpd. The monthly averages from 2018 are shown in the table below.

**Millerton Lake State Recreation Area - 2018 Effluent Flow Data**

| <b><u>Month</u></b> | <b><u>Total Flow<br/>Gallons per month</u></b> | <b><u>Average Flow<br/>Gallons per day</u></b> | <b><u>Pond Condition<br/>Observation</u></b> |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| January             | 7,828  | 252.5  | Empty  |
| February            | 4,840  | 172.9  | Empty  |
| March               | 16,825   | 542.7  | Empty  |
| April               | 19,047   | 634.9  | Empty  |
| May                 | 31,690   | 1,022.3  | Empty  |
| June                | 41,358   | 1,378.6  | Empty  |
| July                | 31,034   | 1,001.1  | Empty  |
| August              | 13,658   | 440.6  | Empty  |
| September           | 7,747  | 258.2  | Empty  |
| October             | 5,181  | 167.1  | Empty  |
| November            | 5,198  | 173.3  | Empty  |
| December            | 3,404  | 109.81   | Empty  |
|                     | <b>Total Discharge<br/>187,810 Gallons</b>     | <b>Annual Average<br/>515 Gallons</b>          |  |

Monitoring and Reporting Program Order 86-224 requires daily effluent flow monitoring and weekly monitoring of the effluent for dissolved oxygen (DO). There are no results for DO monitoring in the file record. MLSRA staff indicated there is never any standing effluent in the effluent disposal pond to sample. A review of the monthly monitoring reports indicates the effluent retention pond was listed as being dry in all of the 2018 monthly monitoring reports. Also, a review of aerial photographs dating back to August 1989 does not show what appears to be open standing water or wastewater in the pond. An inspection in February 2019 found the pond to be mostly dry, with a wet vegetated area (cat tails and other grasses) in the center of the pond basin. It had rained considerably prior to the inspection, and the rains likely contributed to the conditions observed during the inspection. While the area was wet and soft, there was not an area of open standing water of sufficient size to collect a sample and access to the area would be difficult.

### **POTENTIAL THREAT TO WATER QUALITY**

The Discharger currently monitors the septic tanks biannually (measures the scum layer and the sludge layer thickness, and pumps the contents depending upon the results of the inspection) and reported in 2017 that 3,080 gallons of sludge were removed by a contract service. The Notice of Applicability (NOA) and the associated Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared as part of the General Order will require annual septic tank monitoring and the NOA requires the preparation and submittal of a Sludge Management Plan within 90 days of the issuance of the NOA.

From the septic tanks, the wastewater is either pumped or gravity flows into the evaporation/percolation pond. Surficial soils in the area of the effluent evaporation/percolation pond are reported to consist of Greenfield sandy loam and Tujunga loamy sand, over weathered bedrock (decomposed granite). Little is known about the depth to groundwater, but test pits excavated to ten feet in 1985 did not encounter groundwater or bedrock.

The General Order includes setback requirements for the various components of the WWTF (e.g., collection system and pond). The areas served by the MLSRA WWTF all meet the applicable setback requirements for septic tanks and impoundments (ponds) listed in Table 3 of the General Order. The Ramp 3 restroom is the closest to the lake being about 265 feet from the high-water line. The effluent disposal pond is across Millerton Road to the south of the MLSRA and is at a minimum 1,500 feet from the high-water line of Millerton Lake.

### **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.

### **CV-SALTS**

The Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. These programs, once effective, could change how the Central Valley permits discharges of salt and nitrate.