



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 March 2019

Ronald Gilbert, Owner
California Hot Springs Water Company
42177 Hot Springs Drive
P.O Box 146
California Hot Springs, CA 93207

CERTIFIED MAIL
7018 0040 0000 1911 9935

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; CALIFORNIA HOT SPRINGS WATER COMPANY; WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; TULARE COUNTY

On 26 November 2018, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) from Craig Hartman with Hartman Engineering on behalf of the California Hot Springs Water Company (Discharger). The RWD requested 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 California Hot Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) at 42177 Hot Springs Drive in Tulare County. Based on the information provided, the WWTF 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-R5306** for your system, and coverage under your existing General Water Quality Order 97-10-R5069 is officially terminated.

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) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Facility is in Tulare County at 42177 Hot Springs Drive (Section 31, Township 23 South, Range 31 East MDB&M), approximately 23 miles southeast of Porterville and 18 miles northwest of Lake Isabella. The Facility serves the California Hot Springs community, with 22 full and part time cabins, a seasonal campground with 40 RV hook ups and camping spaces, a recreational building with food service, and U.S. Post Office.

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

1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

The Facility consists of a small activated sludge package plant with a design flow of up to 15,000 gpd. Current flows average less than 1,000 gpd with maximum daily flows ranging from 1,700 to 3,500 gpd, approximately six percent of the Facility's treatment capacity. After treatment, the effluent is pumped up hill to a series of five unlined disposal ponds. Each pond has a disposal capacity of about 25,000 gallons. The three upper ponds, at an elevation of 3,600 feet, are not currently in use due to the lower flows at the Facility. The lower ponds, at an elevation of about 3,400 feet, have provided sufficient capacity to handle current flows from the Facility. As discussed in the attached memorandum, given the low flows to the system which can disrupt the treatment process, the Discharger has closed the activated sludge return and operates the system as an extended aeration plant.

The disposal capacity of the WWTF is approximately 15,000 gpd. However, current estimated average daily flows to the WWTF are well below the capacity of the system at <1,000 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 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306.

In accordance with Section B.1.a. of the General Order and conditions described in the RWD, wastewater discharged to the disposal ponds **shall not exceed 3,500 gpd as a monthly average**. Per the requirements of the General Order, discharges with flow rates less than 20,000 gpd are not required to meet a nitrogen effluent limit.

The General Order states in Section B.1.l that the Discharger shall comply with the setbacks as described in Table 3. 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:

Site Specific Applicable Setback Requirements			
Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream ¹	Property Line
Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System ²	150 ft. ³	50 ft. ⁴	5 ft. ⁴
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water) ⁵	150 ft. ⁶	150 ft.	50 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. Addresses equipment located below ground or that impedes leak detection by routine visual inspection.

3. Setback established by Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, section 7.5.6.

4. Setback established by California Plumbing Code, Table K-1.

5. Undisinfected secondary recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.900.

6. Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(d).

The Discharger shall comply with all applicable sections in the General Order, including:

- a. Aerobic Treatment Unit requirements specified in Section B.3 of the General Order; and
- b. Pond system requirements specified in Section B.5 of the General Order.

As discussed in the attached memorandum, the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin*, Third Edition, revised May 2018 (Tulare Lake Basin Plan) includes more stringent effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) for discharges of domestic wastewater to land (section 4.1.11.5 of the Tulare Lake Basin Plan). Therefore, this NOA includes the effluent limitations required by the Tulare Lake Basin Plan for BOD and TSS.

The Discharger shall not exceed the following effluent limitations for BOD and TSS (as specified in the Tulare Lake Basin Plan):

Effluent Limitations for the Wastewater Treatment System¹		
Wastewater Pond of Trickling Filter (not including residential recirculating sand filters)		
Constituent	Units	Limit
BOD	mg/L	70 (monthly average ²)
TSS	mg/L	70 (monthly average ²)

BOD denotes biochemical oxygen demand; TSS denotes total suspended solids.

1. The limitations included in this table apply to the treated effluent discharged to the evaporation/percolation ponds (i.e., disposal ponds).
2. The monthly average concentration is the arithmetic mean of measurements recorded during a calendar month. If only one sample is collected in a calendar month, then that sample measurement is the monthly average concentration.

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306 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 this NOA (by 27 June 2019):

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

The General Order requires the Sludge Management Plan to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board within 90 days of the issuance of this NOA.

As stated in Section E.2.w., in the event any change in control or ownership of the Facility or wastewater disposal areas, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the

existence of this General Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer.

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 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 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. 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: 5D100102001, Facility Name: California Hot Springs Water Company WWTF, Place ID: 273144, Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306.

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

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Katie Carpenter by phone at (559) 445-5551 or email at Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A – Site Map
State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ
(Discharger Only)
Monitoring and Reporting Program 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306
Review Memorandum of California Hot Springs Water Company,
Wastewater Treatment Facility

cc: Tulare County Environmental Health Services, Visalia
Craig Hartman, Hartman Engineering (via email)



Approximate Scale 1 inch ≈ 750 feet



SITE MAP

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306
FOR
CALIFORNIA HOT SPRINGS
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
TULARE COUNTY

ATTACHMENT A

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306

FOR

CALIFORNIA HOT SPRINGS WATER COMPANY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
TULARE COUNTY

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for monitoring the California Hot Springs wastewater treatment facility. This MRP is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267. The California Hot Springs Water Company (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 wastewater treatment and disposal systems for the California Hot Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) of Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306. 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.

AEROBIC TREATMENT UNIT

Effluent Monitoring

Effluent samples shall be taken from a location that represents the effluent quality distributed to the disposal ponds. At a minimum, effluent monitoring shall consist of the following:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sample Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Flow Rate	gpd	Meter ¹	Continuous	Quarterly
Electrical Conductivity	µmhos/cm	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Annually ²	Annually

gpd denotes gallons per day; µmhos/cm denotes micromhos per centimeter; mg/L denotes milligrams per liter

¹ Flow rate may be metered or estimated based on potable water supply readings or other approved method. Basis for estimate should be provided in quarterly monitoring reports.

² Annual sampling shall be conducted during the third quarter (July – September) unless otherwise specified.

Aerobic treatment units may be integrated in a treatment train and all components shall be inspected to verify operational status. Because aerobic treatment units generate more biosolids than septic systems (similar to the activated sludge process), systems 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	Quarterly
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Quarterly
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Quarterly
Effluent filter condition (if equipped, clean as needed)	NA	NA	Quarterly

NA denotes not applicable.

Aerobic treatment units 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 final settling tank or interferes with the operation of the system (mixed liquor aerator solids shall not exceed the manufacturer's recommendation).
2. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.
3. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

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:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sample Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Quarterly
Freeboard	0.1 feet	Measurement	Weekly	Quarterly
Odors	--	Observation	Weekly	Quarterly
Berm condition	--	Observation	Weekly	Quarterly

mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE DISCHARGE MONITORING

Any wastewater system that has accepted recreational vehicle, portable toilet, or similar waste in the previous quarter shall perform the following additional monitoring. Samples shall be collected to characterize effluent that is sent to the disposal ponds. Wastewater shall be monitored as specified below:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sample Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Zinc	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Phenol	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Formaldehyde	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	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 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, Facility Name: California Hot Springs Water Company WWTF, Place ID: 273144, Order-2014-0153-DWQ-R5306.

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 1st). 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 flow limits, discharge specifications, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS effluent limits, 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. Copies of all laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody form(s) for in-house and contracted laboratory analyses.

B. Annual Report

Annual Reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by **February 1st 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 actions 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 in the first month following the date of this MRP.

Ordered by:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

03/28/2019

DATE

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Scott J. Hatton
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

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

Kathleen Carpenter
Engineering Geologist
PG 8014

DATE: 28 March 2019

SUBJECT: APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5306; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; CALIFORNIA HOT SPRINGS WATER COMPANY; WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; TULARE COUNTY

On 26 November 2018, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) from Craig Hartman with Hartman Engineering on behalf of the California Hot Springs Water Company (Discharger). The RWD requested coverage under State Water Resources Control Board's WQ Order 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order) for the California Hot Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) in Tulare County. The RWD includes a Form 200 and technical report prepared by Craig Hartman (RCE 73837), a California registered civil engineer. Additional information to complete the RWD was submitted on 10 January 2019.

This memorandum provides a summary of Central Valley Water Board staff's review of the RWD and the applicability of this discharge to be covered under the General Order.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Facility is in Tulare County at 42177 Hot Springs Drive (Section 31, Township 23 South, Range 31 East MDB&M), approximately 23 miles southeast of Porterville and 18 miles northwest of Lake Isabella. The Facility serves the California Hot Springs community, with 22 full and part time cabins, a seasonal campground with 40 RV hook ups and camping spaces, a recreational building with food service, and U.S. Post Office.

The Facility is currently regulated by *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems*, Water Quality Order 97-10-DWQ-R5069 issued to the Discharger on 23 May 2011. The Facility consists of a small activated sludge package plant with a design flow of up to 15,000 gallons per day (gpd). Current flows average about 950 gpd with maximum daily flows ranging from 1,700 to 3,500 gpd during peak season, approximately six percent of its treatment capacity.

On 26 November 2018, the Discharger submitted a RWD to update its waste discharge requirements based on actual flows and operation of the system.

Given the low flows to the system, which can disrupt the treatment process, the RWD proposed to modify the system by closing the activated sludge return and turning off the aeration system. After discussions with staff, the Discharger will close the activated sludge return but leave the aeration system on and operate the Facility as an extended aeration plant, given the uneven flows and seasonal nature of the Facility. After treatment the effluent is pumped up hill to a series of five unlined disposal ponds. Each pond has a disposal capacity of about 25,000 gallons. The three upper ponds, at an elevation of 3,600 feet, are not currently in use due to the low flows from the Facility. The two lower ponds, at an elevation of about 3,400 feet, have provided sufficient capacity to handle current flows from the Facility. Data on wastewater quality of the discharge to the ponds, for 2018, reported an average biochemical oxygen demand of 44 mg/L, total suspended solids of 17.5, and total nitrogen of 47 mg/L (nitrates [as N] of 1 mg/L, and total Kjeldahl nitrogen of 46 mg/L). Total nitrogen from samples collected in the ponds averaged about 44 mg/L in 2018.

POTENTIAL THREAT TO WATER QUALITY

The Facility consists of a series of eight 3,500-gallon aeration tanks, a 1,500-gallon holding tank, pump station, and five unlined disposal ponds. The disposal ponds are fenced off near the public areas and campground to prevent public access. The closest disposal ponds are approximately 720 feet from the nearest property line, 1,050 feet from the nearest surface water (Deer Creek), and approximately 2,500 feet from the hot springs (potable water supply for the area). In addition, the wastewater treatment system is greater than 120 feet from the nearest surface water (Deer Creek). These meet the setback requirements for subsurface aerobic treatment units, and the impoundment of undisinfected secondary recycled water from *Table 3: Summary of Wastewater System Setbacks* in the General Order.

The Facility has an average design flow of 15,000 gpd; however, current flows average less than 1,000 gpd. In accordance with the requirements in the General Order, discharges with flow rates less than 20,000 gpd are not required to meet a nitrogen effluent limitation.

A soils report was prepared prior to construction of the disposal ponds in 1973. Boring logs for the area indicated a mixture of sandy loam and boulders to a depth of about 15 feet followed by decomposed granite to about 80 feet, and blue granite to about 300 feet. Percolation rates in the area of the ponds averaged about 28 minutes per inch (MPI). There is no information on depth to groundwater in the vicinity of the ponds. However, the ponds are constructed on a hill overlooking the development approximately 300 to 500 feet in elevation above the natural drainage channel for Deer Creek.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin*, Third Edition, revised May 2018 (Basin Plan) specifies effluent limitations for discharges of domestic wastewater to land in section 4.1.11.5. For advanced primary treatment, the Basin Plan requires 60 to 70 percent removal or reduction to 70 mg/L for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and suspended solids, whichever is more restrictive. The Basin Plan states that advanced primary treatment is “satisfactory for smaller facilities in outlying or remote areas where the potential for odors and other nuisances are low”.

General Order, Finding 6 states, in part:

[The] General Order requires Dischargers to comply with all applicable Basin Plan Requirements, including any prohibitions and/or water quality objectives, governing the discharge. The Discharger must comply with any more stringent standards in the applicable Basin Plan. In the event of a conflict between the requirements of this General Order and the Basin Plan, the more stringent requirement prevails.

The effluent limitations for BOD and suspended solids in the Basin Plan of 70 mg/L is more restrictive than the BOD effluent limitation of 90 mg/L specified in the General Order established for a wastewater pond. Therefore, the more stringent effluent limitations will apply. The Notice of Applicability should also set a flow limit on the Facility of 3,500 gpd (monthly average) consistent with current operations. If flows start to increase it may become appropriate to operate the Facility as an activated sludge plant and reconsider lower limits for BOD and suspended solids.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

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

- Aerobic Treatment Unit Monitoring;
- Pond System Monitoring;
- Recreational Vehicle Discharge 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 Water Board permits discharges of salt and nitrate.