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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 January 2021

Grayson Community Services District  
Grayson CSD WTF  
P.O. Box 158  
Westley, CA 95387

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7020-0640-0000-7627-4058**

### NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

**GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
FOR  
GRAYSON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
GRAYSON CSD WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY  
STANISLAUS COUNTY**

Grayson Community Services District (GCSD) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) dated May 2018 describing the GCSD wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) in Stanislaus County. The WWTF provides treatment and disposal service for domestic wastewater generated from the population of the unincorporated area of Grayson. The WWTF discharge has been regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order 93-088 since 1993. Based on information provided in the RWD, the wastewater treatment system and discharge are consistent with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems*, Order 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order). This Notice of Applicability (NOA) serves as formal notice that upon rescission of Order 93-088 at an upcoming Board meeting, the discharge shall be regulated pursuant to the General Order and this NOA. You are hereby assigned Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5329 for the discharge. A copy of the Waiver is enclosed and also available at the State Water Board's [Adopted Orders, General Orders webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/2014-0153-dwq_noas/) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/2014-0153-dwq\\_noas/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/2014-0153-dwq_noas/)).

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments, which describe mandatory discharge and monitoring requirements. The General Order contains operational and reporting requirements by wastewater system type. 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) specific to this order, 2014-0153-DWQ-R5329. The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements that exist in the General Order and this NOA.

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

## **REGULATORY BACKGROUND**

Wastewater discharge from the WWTF is currently regulated by WDRs Order 93-088, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board), superseding the previous Order 75-260. WDRs Order 93-088 will be rescinded at an upcoming Central Valley Water Board meeting. Effective upon rescission of Order 93-088, the discharge described in this NOA will be regulated pursuant to the General Order.

## **EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

GCSD WWTF is owned and operated by GCSD (hereafter “Discharger”) and is located on South River Road, Patterson in Stanislaus County as shown on Attachment A, which is attached hereto and is made part of this NOA by reference. Grayson is located in an area without a regional wastewater collection system; therefore, wastewater is collected and treated on-site at the WWTF. The WWTF is located approximately 3,000 feet north of the town of Grayson in Section 22, T4S, R7E, MDB&M, on assessor’s parcel number 016-026-041. Annual precipitation is 10 inches per year, while the evaporation rate is typically 50 inches per year. Surface water drainage is to the San Joaquin River, which flows approximately one mile to the northeast of the treatment ponds. The WWTF is entirely within the FEMA-designated flood plain, but is separated from the river by fields, so there is minimal risk of breach of wastewater into the river. The disposal area is bordered to the east-northeast by a United States Fish and Wildlife Service area boundary. The WWTF is surrounded by agriculture and fallow fields. The GCSD WWTF site plan is shown on Attachment B, which is attached hereto and is made part of this NOA by reference.

The GCSD operates a wastewater collection and treatment system for a design population of 959 and design flow of 100,000 gallons per day (gpd). GCSD is primarily residential, composed of farm laborers and agricultural services industry workers. The majority of the wastewater sources in the district come from residential. GCSD has a total of 269 connections: 268 residential and one commercial. The nearest existing regional collection system is the Westley Community Services District collection system, located approximately 3 miles southwest of GCSD. The GCSD sanitary sewer system consists of approximately 2.6 miles of 6- to 10-inch diameter pipe and one pump station. The wastewater collection system complies with the terms of the State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ. The GCSD has developed and implemented Sewer System Management Plan Resolution No. 2011-09 to reduce and prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows.

The GCSD WWTF treats and discharges an average flow of 55,000 to 60,000 gpd. The WWTF provides primary and secondary treatment. Wastewater from the GCSD service area is conveyed to the influent pump station near Minnie Street, then pumped through the influent screen at the WWTF. Wastewater flows through the screen into the unlined Aeration Pond, which contains two floating anchored aerators to promote biological oxidation. Effluent from the Aeration Pond goes to Stabilization Pond 1 before entering Stabilization Pond 2. Both Stabilization Ponds are unlined. During Aeration Pond maintenance, executed on an as-needed basis typically during winter months, wastewater from the screen can flow directly into Stabilization Pond 1. Maintenance of

the Stabilization Ponds requires one pond to be in operation while the other is undergoing sludge removal. The most recent removal and disposal of sludge occurred in September 2016 when approximately 300 tons of solids were removed and disposed offsite.

Pond dimensions and approximate capacities are listed in Table 1, where the depth for each pond includes two feet of freeboard. All ponds have side slope horizontal-to-vertical ratio of 2.5:1.

Secondary treated, undisinfected wastewater from Stabilization Pond 2 is pumped to the disposal area where it is dispersed into the disposal beds via flooding. There are five (5) shallow disposal beds. These are rotated to dispose of treated wastewater via evaporation, with infiltration rates of approximately 5 inches per hour. Disposal beds are not used for pasture or crops. Biosolids may be removed periodically for off-site disposal at a permitted landfill.

**Table 1 Pond dimensions and capacities**

<b>Pond Name</b>	<b>Depth, feet (ft)</b>	<b>Surface Area, acres (ac)</b>	<b>Volume, million gallons (MG)</b>
Aeration Pond	10	0.282	0.430
Stabilization Pond 1	6.75	1.14 (430 ft by 115 ft)	1.099
Stabilization Pond 2	6.75	0.914 (295 ft by 135 ft)	1.352
Disposal Beds, combined	3	12.5	4.073

Under the existing WDRs groundwater monitoring is not required, though the depth to groundwater, based on the nearest monitoring well, is reportedly 4 to 17 feet below ground surface (bgs) depending on the season. The Disposal Beds are approximately 3700 feet away from the nearest groundwater monitoring well, located near the intersection of Minnie Street and Smith Street in Grayson. The state well number for this monitoring well is 04S07E27A001M. Source water for the town of Grayson is local groundwater from wells owned by the City of Modesto.

**FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND EFFLUENT LIMITS**

The General Order contains prohibitions and specifications that apply to all wastewater treatment systems as well as those that only apply to specific treatment and/or disposal systems. The specific requirements and effluent limits for your treatment system are summarized below.

The wastewater treatment operator must be certified and familiar with the requirements contained in the General Order, this NOA, and the MRP.

**Requirements by Wastewater System Type, Section B of General Order**

This section applies in its entirety to the GCSD WWTF with the following site-specific requirements.

**B.1 All Wastewater Systems**

- a. Influent flow limit (Section B.1.a of General Order):

**Table 2 Influent flow limit**

Treatment Unit	Flow Limit as Monthly Average
Aeration Pond	100,000 gpd

- b. Wastewater system setbacks (Section B.1.I, Table 3 of General Order), measured from the nearest high-water limit (bottom of freeboard) in the ponds, or from high water levels in other bodies of water must be at least as described in Table 3 here. Setbacks from a lake or reservoir are not included in this table because there is no such feature in the vicinity of the GCSD WWTF. “Impoundment” includes Stabilization Ponds and Disposal Beds.

**Table 3 Wastewater system setback requirements, with distances in feet (ft).**

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line
Impoundment of undisinfected secondary recycled water	150	150	150	50

B.2 – B.4 not applicable

**B.5 Pond Systems**

The WWTF uses a pond system; therefore Section B.5 of General Order applies in its entirety.

B.6 and B.7 not applicable

**Effluent Limitations, Section D of General Order**

This section applies in its entirety to the GCSD WWTF and shall include the following site-specific limitations. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) limit is based on 65% reduction of an influent BOD concentration of 420 mg/L

- a. Effluent Limitations:

The following limits apply to effluent from Stabilization Pond 2.

**Table 4 Effluent Limitations from Stabilization Pond 2**

Constituent	Limit	Units
Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)	150	mg/L
Total nitrogen (sum of nitrate N plus Total Kjeldahl N)	10	mg/L
Electrical conductivity (EC)	900	µmhos/cm

- b. Effluent Limit Rationale:

The pond treatment system is subject to technology performance effluent limits for BOD as specified in the General Order.

Staff evaluated the need for a total nitrogen effluent limit using the method contained in the General Order and determined that a nitrogen effluent limit is required because the monthly average flow will be greater than 20,000 gpd, depth to groundwater is relatively shallow with respect to percolation rate of 11 minutes per inch, treatment ponds are unlined, and there is limited opportunity for nitrogen attenuation prior to contact with groundwater.

### **Technical Report Preparation Requirements, Section E.1 of General Order**

The following technical reports shall be submitted as described below:

1. By **30 April 2021**, the Discharger shall submit a *Sampling and Analysis Plan* consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.b.
2. **At least 90 days prior** to any removal, drying, treatment, or disposal of sludge for pond maintenance, the Discharger shall submit a *Sludge Management Plan* consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.c.

A copy of the Sampling and Analysis Plan shall be maintained at the treatment facility and shall be presented to the Regional Water Board staff upon request.

### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Upon rescission of WDRs 93-088, the Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5329, which is attached hereto and made part of this NOA by reference.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the discharge. Discharge of wastes other than those described in this NOA is prohibited.

Prior to allowing changes to the wastewater strength or generation rate, or to the method of waste disposal, you must contact the Central Valley Regional Water Board to determine if submittal of an RWD is required.

GCSD WWTF will generate the waste subject to the terms and conditions of WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5329 and will maintain exclusive control over the discharge. As such, GCSD WWTF, is primarily responsible for compliance with this NOA, MRP, and General Order, with all attachments. Failure to comply with the requirements in the General Order or this NOA could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

### **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. As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative these Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020.

For salinity, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements will instead need to meet performance-based requirements and participate in a basin-wide effort to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. Dischargers received a Notice to Comply with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program within one year of 17 January 2020, the effective date of the amendments. Upon receipt of the Notice to Comply, the discharger had no more than six months to inform the Central Valley Water Board of their choice between Option 1 (Conservative Option for Salt Permitting) or Option 2 (Alternative Option for Salt Permitting).

For nitrate, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take on alternate compliance approaches that involve providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. Dischargers may comply with the new nitrate program either individually or collectively with other dischargers. This Facility falls within Groundwater Basin 5-022.07 (San Joaquin Valley Delta-Mendota Sub-basin), a Priority 2 Basin.

As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this Order to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met. This order may be amended or modified to incorporate newly applicable requirements. More information regarding this regulatory planning process can be found on the [Central Valley Water Board CV-SALTS website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity)).

## **ANNUAL FEES**

The required annual fee is based on the discharge's threat to water quality and treatment system complexity rating of 3-C. The fee is due and payable on an annual basis until coverage under the General Order is formally rescinded. Please note that the annual fees are reviewed each year and may change. You must provide written notice if and when the wastewater discharge ceases, so that we can terminate coverage under the General Order and no longer bill you.

## **DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL**

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov).

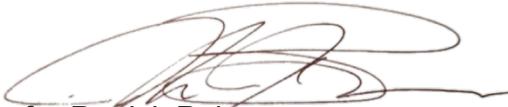
To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name:	Grayson CSD WWTF, Stanislaus County
Program:	Non-15 Compliance
Order:	2014-0153-DWQ-R5329
CIWQS Place ID:	227843

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

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

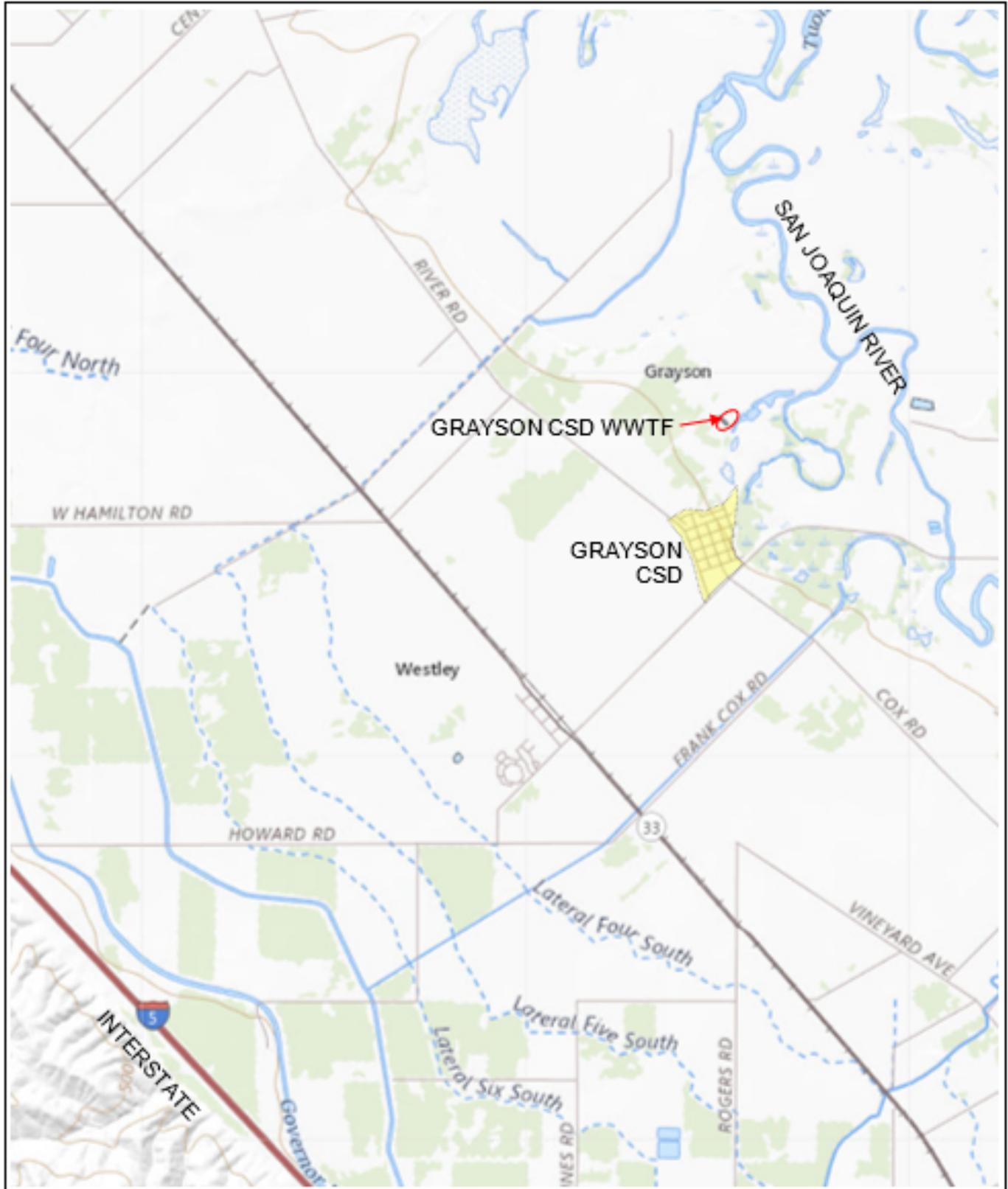
Now that the Notice of Applicability has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Guy Childs is your new point of contact for any questions about the Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Guy will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact him at (916) 464-4648 or at [guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov).



for Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
Monitoring and Reporting Program 2014-0153-DWQ-R5329  
Attachment A, Site Location Map  
Attachment B, Site Plan

cc w/out enc: Guy Childs, Central Valley Water Board (email)  
Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Health, Modesto



SOURCE:  
U.S.G.S. TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE

**SITE LOCATION MAP**  
GRAYSON CSD WWTP  
STANISLAUS COUNTY

**SCALE:**  
1 MILE

A north arrow with 'N' at the top, 'S' at the bottom, 'E' on the right, and 'W' on the left. To the right of the north arrow is a scale bar consisting of a horizontal line with arrows at both ends, labeled '1 MILE'.



Source:  
Grayson CSD WWTP Notice of Intent  
and Google Earth

**SITE PLAN**  
Grayson CSD WWTP  
Stanislaus County

not to scale

A compass rose with four points labeled N (North), S (South), E (East), and W (West).