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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 August 2021

Ryder Couch (via email)  
Rancho Seco Recreational Area  
14440 Twin Cities Road  
Herald, CA 95638

Ryder Couch (via email)  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
6201 S. Street  
Mail Stop B209  
Sacramento, CA 95817

### NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS  
ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5367

FOR

RANCHO SECO RECREATIONAL AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) dated 18 March 2021 for the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) at the Rancho Seco Recreational Area in Sacramento County. Based on information provided in the RWD, the treatment system and discharge are consistent with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board's *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems*, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order).

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) provides notice that the General Order is applicable to the site as described below. The discharge is assigned enrollee number WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5367. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge. A copy of the General Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ is enclosed and also available on the [State Water Boards Adopted Orders webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wq2014_0153_dwq.pdf) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2014/wq2014\\_0153\\_dwq.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wq2014_0153_dwq.pdf)).

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,

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

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-R5367. The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements that exist in the General Order and this NOA.

## **REGULATORY BACKGROUND**

Discharges at the WWTF has been regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ. A NOA and enrollee number Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5020 was issued on 16 June 2009. Effective immediately, the NOA Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5020 is terminated. The discharge as described in this NOA shall be regulated pursuant to the General Order.

## **FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

SMUD (hereafter “Discharger”) owns and operates the Rancho Seco Recreational Area, a camping and day use recreational area for fishing and water contact recreation. The Recreational Area is located at 14440 Twin Cities Road in Herald, in Section 33, T6N, R8E, MDB&M (Assessor’s Parcel Number APN 140-0050-024) as shown on Attachment A, which is attached hereto and is made part of this NOA by reference. The Recreational Area consists of a general store, public restrooms and showers, a maintenance shop, public laundry facilities, a fish cleaning station, a recreational vehicle (RV) dump station, three caretaker residences, and the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) building.

The collection and treatment system are approximately 50 years old. Domestic wastewater from the facilities described above, with the exception of the PAWS building, is conveyed via gravity in a small sewer system and discharged to unlined ponds for treatment and disposal. Domestic wastewater from the PAWS building discharges into a sump then pumped to the ponds. An additional RV site with its own wastewater sump may be constructed next to the PAWS building at a future date. There are two ponds. The first pond handles the majority of the wastewater load and the second pond serves as a polishing pond. An aerator and sprayers are used to increase evaporation. The total combined pond capacity at 2-feet of freeboard is approximately 185,200 ft<sup>3</sup>. The overall pond depth is 5.5 ft at 2-feet of freeboard.

Park usage varies seasonally, with highest attendance between late May and early September. Influent flows are approximately 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) as an annual average.

The WWTF accepts RV waste. The following best management practices to minimize the threat to water quality from RV holding tank additives are implemented:

1. RV dump stations are locked when they are unmanned.
2. Signs prohibiting the discharge of holding tank wastes that contain products made with formaldehyde, phenols, and/or zinc are posted near the RV dump station.
3. Educational material regarding the threat posed by these chemicals and alternative products to control holding tank odors are available for distribution to park patrons.

## **GROUNDWATER AND SITE CONDITIONS**

There is no groundwater monitoring at the site. Based on a 21 May 2008 Groundwater Information Review performed by Youngdahl Consulting Group, Inc, groundwater resources within the area are likely on the order of 160 feet in depth or more below ground surface at the Recreational Area and are separated from the surface by thick sequences of low permeability sediments.

The Recreation Area is located within the Cosumnes Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain designation is Flood Zone X, area of minimal flood hazard.

## **SITE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

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.

1. Requirements by Wastewater System Type Section B.1.a.

The Discharger shall comply with the following flow limit.

**Table 1. Influent Flow and Total Volume Limitation**

<b>Flow Measure</b>	<b>Flow Limitation</b>
Monthly Maximum	9,000 gallons per day
Total Annual Volume	1.28 million gallons

2. Requirements by Wastewater System Type Section B.1.I.

Setbacks referenced under "Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System" and under "Ponds" are from Table 3 of the General Order.

This is an existing facility, constructed prior to the issuance of the General Order. Wastewater system setbacks for existing operations may not be in compliance with those in the table below. The WWTF is permitted under this General Order provided that nuisance conditions do not result from noncompliance. Expansion of a noncomplying wastewater treatment system shall trigger further evaluation of the setbacks, as described in Section B.1.I of the General Order.

**Table 2. Wastewater System Setbacks**

<b>Equipment or Activity</b>	<b>Domestic Well</b>	<b>Flowing Stream</b>	<b>Ephemeral Stream Drainage</b>	<b>Property Line</b>	<b>Lake or Reservoir</b>
Septic Tank, Treatment System, or Collection System	150 ft	50 ft	50 ft	5 ft	200 ft
Ponds	150 ft	150 ft	150 ft	50 ft	200 ft

3. Requirements by Pond Systems Section B.5.

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

4. Requirements by Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal Section B.8.

The WWTF utilizes a pond system that will accumulate solids; therefore Section B.8 of the General Order applies in its entirety.

5. Effluent Limitations Section D.

The pond system is not subject to technology performance effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) as specified in the General Order. Wastewater disposal is by means of evaporation and percolation. Treatment is performed through the soil column.

Staff evaluated the need for a total nitrogen effluent limit using the method contained in the General Order. Wastewater flows do not exceed 20,000 gpd, therefore a nitrogen effluent limit is not required.

6. Provisions Section E

Section E.1.c. E.2. and E.3 of the General Order applies.

## 7. Additional Technical Report Preparation Requirements

**Within 120 days prior** to any planned construction of a new RV site and RV dump station at the property, the Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing. Notification shall include projected wastewater flow, description of waste character; revised water balance that demonstrates adequate disposal capacity; and a discussion of any source control or BPTC measures that will be implemented to minimize the discharge from adversely affecting the overall discharge quality and/or disruption of the treatment processes.

### **MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

The Discharger shall comply with MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5367, 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 Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) to determine if submittal of an RWD is required.

SMUD generates the waste subject to the terms and conditions of WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5367 and will maintain exclusive control over the discharge. As such, SMUD 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.

### **DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS**

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](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: Rancho Seco Recreational Area WWTF, Sacramento County  
Program: Non-15 Compliance  
Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5367  
CIWQS Place ID: 739749

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 Central Valley Water 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 Guy at (916) 464-4648 or at [guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov).



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for Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

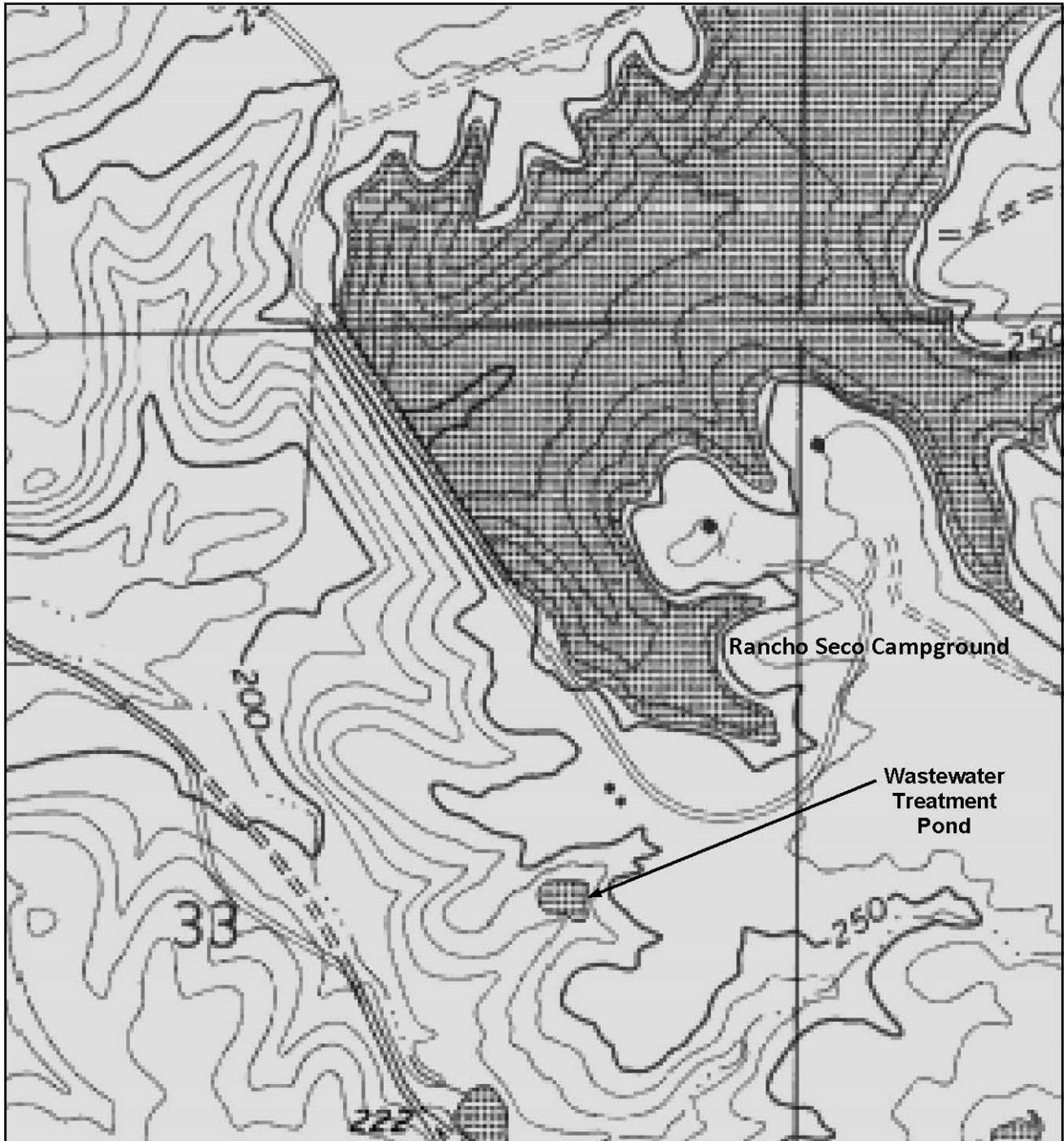
Attachments: Attachment A, Site Location Map  
Memorandum  
Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5367

Enclosure: Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (Discharger only)

Cc: Sacramento County Environmental Health, Mather

Cc's via email: Laurel Warddrip, SWRCB, Division of Water Quality, Sacramento  
Guy Childs, CVWQCB, Compliance and Enforcement, Rancho Cordova  
Howard Hold, CVWQCB, Compliance and Enforcement, Rancho Cordova  
Debbie Webster, CVCWA, Sacramento

**Attachment A**



<p>Drawing Reference: Google Maps</p>	<p><b>SITE PLAN</b> SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT RANCHO SECO RECREATIONAL AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY SACRAMENTO COUNTY</p>	<p>N  Approx. Scale: 1" = 850'</p>
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**TO:** Rob Busby  
Supervising Geologist

**FROM:** Scott Armstrong  
Senior Engineering Geologist  
P.G. #6787, C.H.G. #620

Lani Andam  
Water Resource Control Engineer

**DATE:** 30 June 2021

**APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT, RANCHO SECO RECREATIONAL PARK; SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

Central Valley Water Board staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) dated 18 March 2021 consisting of a Form 200 and technical report including a water balance for the Rancho Seco Recreational Park in Sacramento County. The RWD was prepared by Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and was signed and stamped by Sarah Cheney, a California registered professional engineer (No. C66965). The Discharger is requesting coverage under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 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 staff's review of the RWD and the applicability that the existing discharge is eligible for enrollment under the General Order.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ regulates the SMUD wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) in Sacramento County. The discharge was assigned enrollee number Order 97-10-DWQ-R5020 on 16 June 2009 and allows the discharge of domestic wastewater into unlined ponds for treatment and disposal.

The Discharger submitted a RWD in response to the 12 November 2020 Water Board letter, *Notice of Adoption of the New General Order and Request for Report of Waste Discharge*. Based on projected flows, pond dimensions, and reasonable estimates of precipitation and evaporation, the water balance supports an annual average and monthly maximum influent wastewater flow of 3,500 gpd and 9,000 gpd, respectively. Review of the pond monitoring data between January 2016 through December 2020, showed no violations of the 2-foot freeboard. There are no plans to expand the WWTF. Influent flows do not exceed 100,000 gpd. The WWTF is eligible for regulatory coverage under the General Order.

The pond system is not subject to technology performance effluent limits for BOD. Wastewater disposal is by means of evaporation and percolation. An aerator and

sprayers are used to aid in evaporation. Treatment is performed through the soil column.

Wastewater character based on data obtained between January 2016 through December 2020 are summarized below. Constituents shown are in accordance with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2009-0826. MCL denotes Maximum Contaminant Level. HAL denotes EPA Health Advisory Level.

**Table 1 - Wastewater Characteristics**

<b>Constituents</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Minimum Concentration</b>	<b>Maximum Concentration</b>	<b>Potential Water Quality Objective (Reference)</b>
BOD	mg/L	5.6	280	none
Electrical Conductivity	µmhos/cm	480	1,793	900 (secondary MCL)
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	4.7	71	None
Ammonia Nitrogen	mg/L	Non-detect	56	300 (taste & odor threshold)
Phenol	mg/L	Non detect	Non detect	2 (HAL)
Formaldehyde	mg/L	0.0089	0.077	1 (HAL)
Zinc	mg/L	0.0059	0.12	5 (Secondary MCL)

Recreational vehicle (RV) wastes are accepted at the WWTF. Any wastewater system that accepts RV waste is required to monitor for zinc, phenol, and formaldehyde. Based on the available data shown above, phenol has not been detected in the wastewater. Formaldehyde concentrations in the wastewater have been well below the EPA Health Advisory Level. Zinc concentrations in the wastewater do not exceed the secondary MCL for zinc.

The General Order includes five-site specific conditions to be considered when evaluating a discharge and the need for nitrogen control. These five conditions include: flow, depth to groundwater, percolation rate, wastewater strength, and if nitrogen is of concern in the area. Wastewater discharge flow is less than 20,000 gpd, and therefore, a nitrogen effluent limit evaluation is not required for the WWTF.

## **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

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

- Pond System Monitoring (influent and wastewater monitoring), and
- Solids Disposal Monitoring

To establish a realistic estimate of statewide recycled water use and potential for increased recycled water use statewide, the Recycled Water Policy requires dischargers to report the volume of treated wastewater and recycled water. Based on current influent flows, the Discharger is not required to submit volumetric annual reporting at this time.

## **SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS**

The Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments (Resolution R5-2018-0034) incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. The Basin Plan amendments were conditionally approved by the State Water Board on 16 October 2019 (Resolution No. 2019-0057) and by the Office of Administrative Law on 15 January 2020 (OAL Matter No. 2019-1203-03).

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 the effective date of the amendments. The Discharger has submitted a Notice to Intent to comply with the Salt Control Program Option 2-Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach.

For nitrate, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take an alternate compliance approach that involve providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. The WWTF falls in the Cosumnes Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin, a Priority 2 Basin. A Notice to Comply will be issued within 2 to 4 years of approval of the Nitrate Control Program, between late 2022 and late 2024.

[More information on the Salt and Nitrate Control Program](https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info) may be found on the internet (<https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info>).