



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

12 June 2025

Dr. Ronald Estes, Interim Superintendent
Calaveras Unified School District
P.O. Box 788,
3304 Highway 12,
San Andreas, CA 95249

CERTIFIED MAIL
7019-0700-0002-0034-2214

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

**GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS
ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ
FOR
CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
CALAVERAS COUNTY**

On 19 May 2022, the Calaveras Unified School District (Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) describing the Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project (Upgrade Project) in Calaveras County, which is sponsored by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The onsite wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) provides treatment and disposal service for domestic wastewater generated from Toyon Middle School. The WWTF has been regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order 97-074, which was adopted on 25 April 1997. 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 WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order). This Notice of Applicability (NOA) serves as formal notice that upon rescission of Order 97-074 at an upcoming Board meeting, the discharge shall be regulated pursuant to the General Order and this NOA. You are hereby assigned Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5397 for the discharge. A copy of the Waiver is enclosed and also available at the [State Water Boards Adopted Orders webpage, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ](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) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5397. The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements that exist in the General Order and this NOA.

EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

Toyon Middle School is located at 3412 Double Springs Road, Valley Springs in Section 10, T4N, R11E, MDB&M, as shown on Attachment A, which is incorporated herein. The Assessors' Parcel Numbers are 040-004-038 and 040-006-043. The WWTF is owned and operated by the Discharger.

Toyon Middle School provides public educational facilities for 7th and 8th grade students. The Discharger plans to expand school to serve students in 6th through 8th grades with a projected enrollment of 620 students and an equivalent full-time staff of 60. The existing school facilities include a gymnasium with showers, a cafeteria, upper soccer field / baseball field, lower soccer field, and a football field.

Potable water supply is provided by an onsite groundwater supply well, as shown on Attachment B. Based on Discharger's 2021 annual report, groundwater supply contains a total dissolved solid (TDS) concentration of 210 mg/L and electrical conductivity (EC) of 260 μ mhos/cm.

The WWTF's original tertiary treatment package units were placed into operation in 1997. Due to the age of the WWTF, the original system needs to be updated. Before the Upgrade Project, the original WWTF included of a comminutor, a bar screen, a 17,500-gallon concrete equalization basin, a primary clarifier, three aerobic packed towers, a secondary clarifier, an alum feed system, two sand filters, a chlorinator, an effluent holding tank, a 3.6-acre-foot effluent storage pond (lined with 36-mil Hypalon), and eight acres of land application areas (playing fields and shrubbery and green belts) in the campus. Disinfected effluent was stored in the effluent storage pond during the wet months. During the irrigation season, treated wastewater was applied to eight acres of land application areas (LAAs), including shrubbery, green belts and playing fields on campus. Irrigation was normally performed after school hours to minimize direct contact with the students.

UPGRADE PROJECT

In June 2021, the State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water State Revolving Fund approved a construction grant for the Upgrade Project. The Discharger purchased 10.7 acres of land (Assessor's Parcel Number 040-006-042) immediately north of the Toyon Middle School campus for the Upgrade Project.

On 10 April 2025, the Discharger submitted an Upgrade Project Completion Report. Based on the Completion Report, the updates include installation of three new septic tanks, two new

recirculating gravel filters and approximately 4.8 acres of new land application areas (four 1.2-acre misting spray fields) offsite campus on the purchased 10.7-acre parcel. With the exception of the concrete equalization basin and effluent storage reservoir, the previous treatment and disposal facilities were disconnected from service. The updated WWTF consists of an influent flow meter, three new 5,000-gallon septic tanks, an equalization basin, two new recirculating gravel filters, the lined effluent storage reservoir, and the new 4.8 acres of LAAs. Containment berms are installed at the perimeter of the new LAAs for tailwater control. Along the upgradient (south and east) sides of the new LAAs, stormwater diversion ditches have been constructed to prevent stormwater runoff entering the new LAAs. The warning signs will be installed soon along the perimeter of the new LAAs, the wastewater treatment facilities, and the effluent reservoir. In addition, the following improvements were completed at the WWTF, including site grading, piping, and fencing improvements, sodium hypochlorite injection system for odor control, standby power and electrical instruments and a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System. A new 225,000-gallon capacity water storage tank replaces the previous 15,000-gallon water storage tank for potable water and fire flows. The undisinfected effluent is applied to the new LAAs for disposal. The campus playfields are irrigated with local groundwater supply instead of treated wastewater.

Based on the RWD, the annual average influent flow in 2019 was 1,421 gpd. The Discharger submitted a water balance and proposed an influent flow limit of 4,000 gpd as an annual average. The water balance, using 100-year return period total annual precipitation, demonstrates that the updated WWTF has adequate storage and disposal capacities for the proposed flow limit.

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) was prepared in March 2019 for the Upgrade Project. On 7 May 2019, Notice of Determination (NOD) was certified at the 7 May 2019 Calaveras Unified School District Board meeting. The NOD has determined that the Project would have less than significant impacts on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures. The Project Construction Documents included Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) requirements to meet the environmental compliance measures of the Upgrade Project. The ISMND document was updated in June of 2023 and included the revised MMRP requirements.

SITE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Requirements A. Prohibitions
2. Requirements B.1.a.

The Discharger shall comply with the following flow limit: Influent entering the WWTF shall not exceed 4,000 gpd as an annual average.

3. Requirements B.1.b. through B.1.l
4. For Section B.1.l, the Discharger shall comply with the following setback requirements listed in in Table 3 of the General Order:

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir
Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System	150 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.	5 ft.	200 ft.
LAAs	150 ft	100 ft	100 ft	100 ft.	200 ft.
Impoundment	150 ft.	150 ft.	150 ft.	50 ft.	200 ft.

5. Requirements B.2 Septic Systems

The WWTF utilizes a septic tank; therefore Section B.2 of the General Order applies in its entirety.

6. Requirements B.5 Pond Systems

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

7. Requirements B.7 Land Application

The WWTF utilizes Land Application Areas, therefore Section B.7 of the General Order applies in its entirety.

8. Requirements B.8 Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal

The WWTF generates sludge/solids/biosolids that must be disposed of; therefore Section B.8 of the General Order applies in its entirety.

9. Requirements C. Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations

Section C of the General Order applies in its entirety.

10. Requirements D. Effluent Limitations

D.1.a. Effluent discharged to the LAAs shall not exceed BOD₅ of 40 mg/L as a monthly average and 80 mg/L as a daily maximum.

11. Provision E.1.a: Within **90 days** of the issuance of the NOA, the Discharger shall prepare and implement a Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Response Plan) that describes operation and maintenance activities to prevent accidental releases of wastewater, and to effectively respond to such releases, minimizing the environmental impact.

12. Provision E.2 and E.3

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

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. The Basin Plan amendments were conditionally approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on 16 October 2019 (Resolution 2019-0057) and by the Office of Administrative Law on 15 January 2020 (OAL Matter No. 2019-1203-03).

- a. 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. The Discharger, with CV-SALTS ID 2571, has participated in the Prioritization and Optimization Study.
- b. For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility falls outside of any prioritized Groundwater Basin. This order does authorize facility expansion and flow increase. So no action is required at this time.

As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this NOA to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met. 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).

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

WDRs Order 97-074 will be rescinded at an upcoming Central Valley Water Board meeting. Effective upon the first day of the month following rescission of Order 97-074, the Discharger shall comply with MRP WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5397, which is incorporated herein.

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, generation rate, or to the method of waste disposal, you must contact the Central Valley Water Board to determine if submittal of a Report Waste Discharge is required.

The Discharger generates the waste subject to the terms and conditions of Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5397 and maintains exclusive control over the discharge. As such, the Discharger 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 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.

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: Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment Facility
Program: Non-15 Compliance
Order: WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5397
CIWQS Place ID: CW- 264856

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

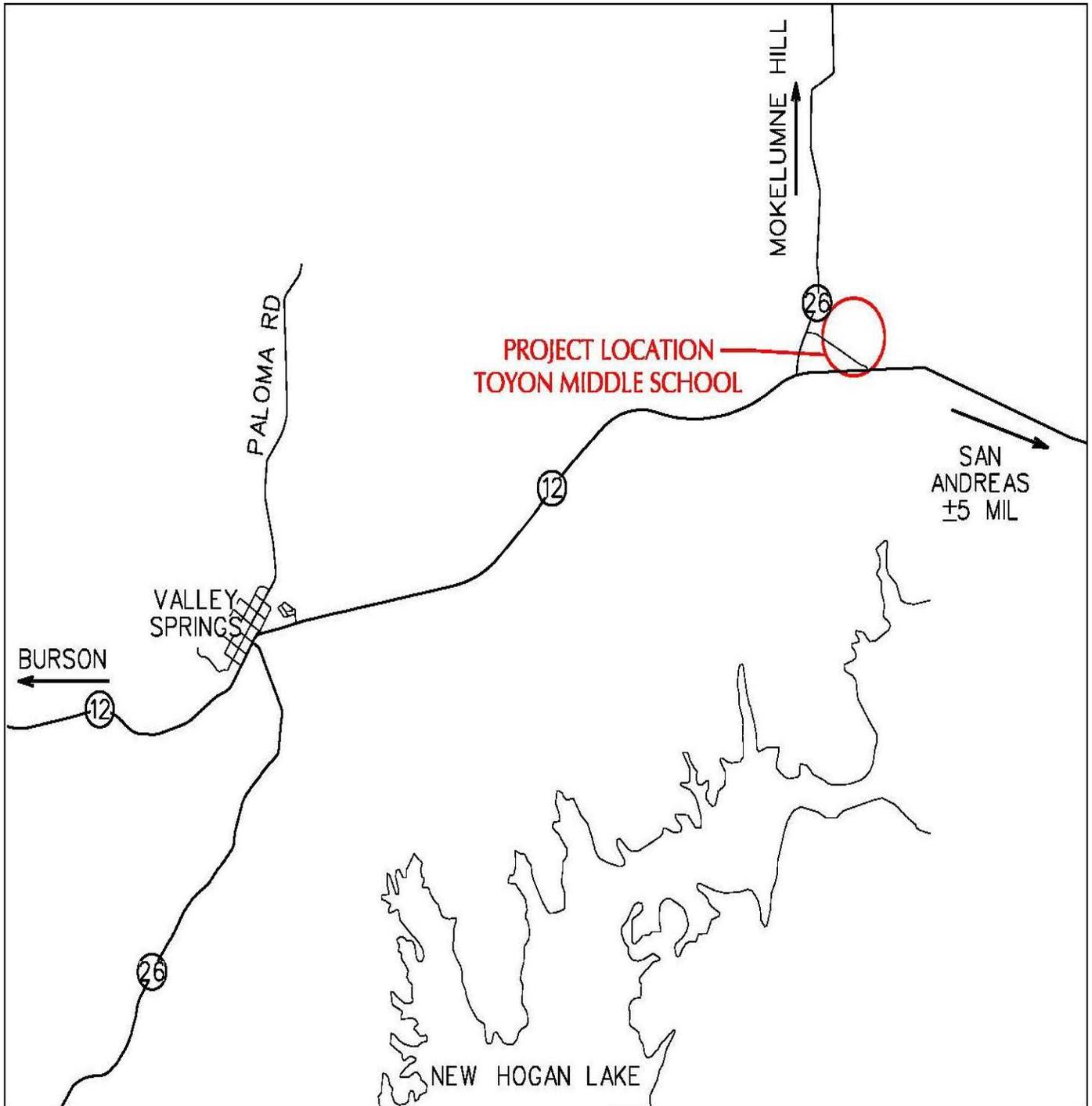
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Howard Hold is your new point of contact for any questions about the General Order. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Howard will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Howard at (916) 464-4679 or at howard.hold@waterboards.ca.gov.

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

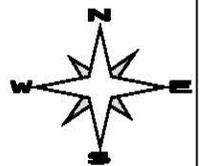
Enclosure: Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ
Monitoring and Reporting Program WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5397
Attachment A, Location Map
Attachment B, Site Plan
Attachment C, Process Schematic
Staff Review Memorandum for Toyon Middle School WWTF

cc w/out enc: Calaveras County Environmental Health Department, San Andreas
Howard Hold, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova

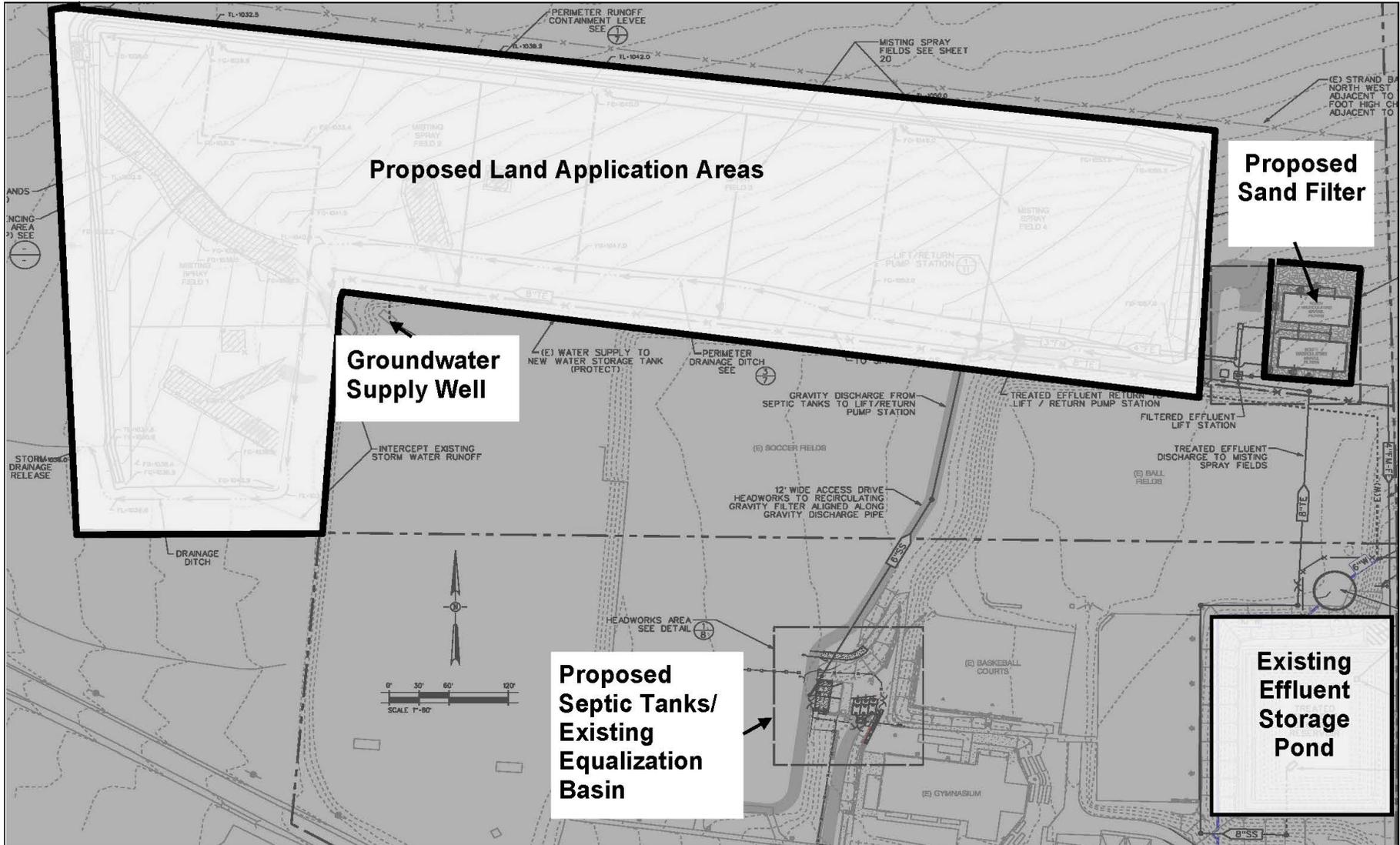


Drawing Reference:
Calaveras Unified School District
Report of Waste Discharge,
May 2022

SITE LOCATION MAP
CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY



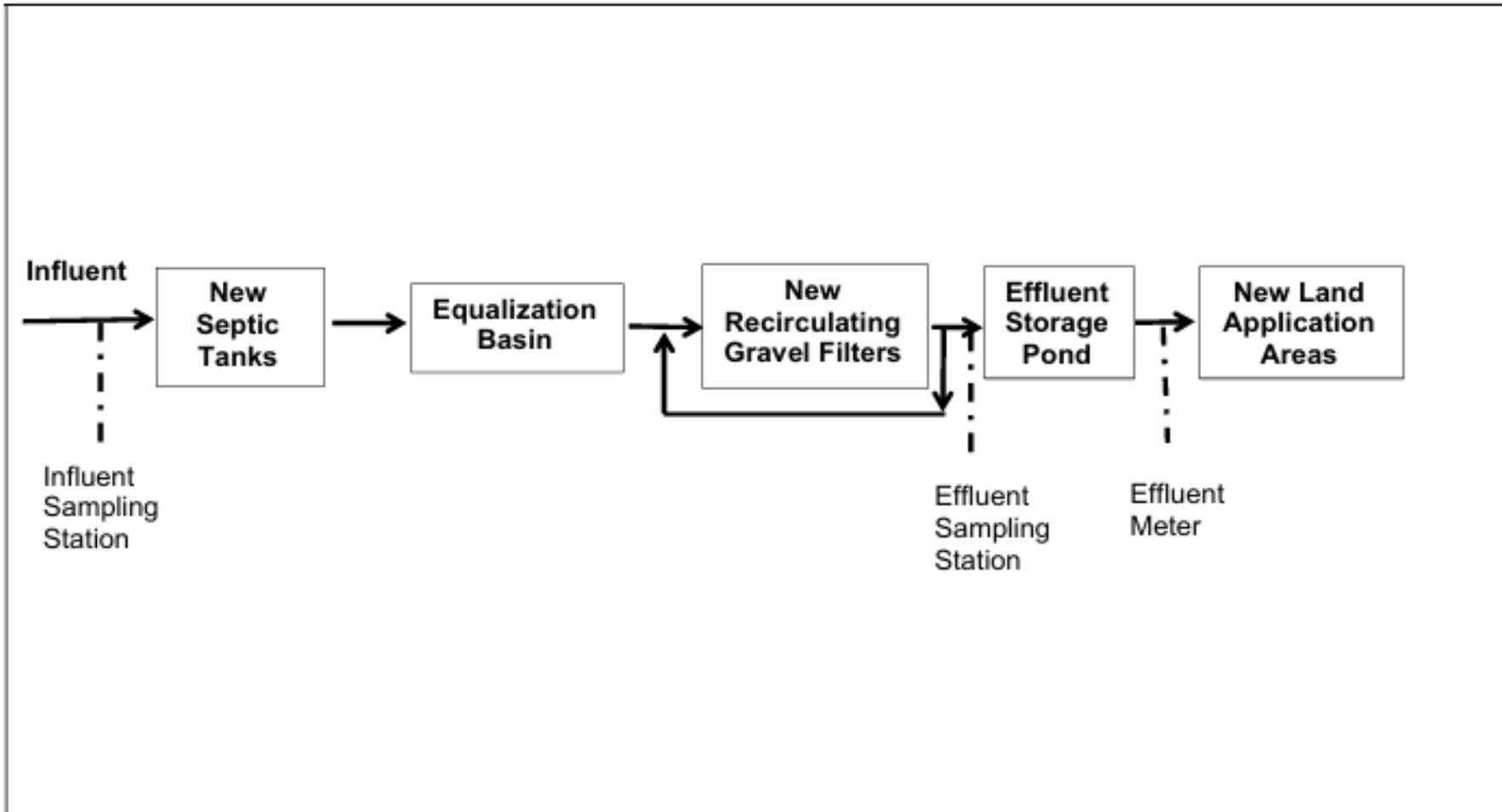
No Scale



Drawing Reference:
 Calaveras Unified School District
 Report of Waste Discharge,
 May 2022

SITE PLAN

CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
 TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
 CALAVERAS COUNTY



Drawing Reference:
Calaveras Unified School District
Report of Waste Discharge,
May 2022

PROCESS SCHEMATIC
CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
CALAVERAS COUNTY

FROM: Scott Armstrong
Senior Engineering Geologist

DATE: 28 April 2025

APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; CALAVERAS COUNTY

On 19 May 2022, the Calaveras Unified School District (Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project (Upgrade Project) requesting to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order). This memorandum provides a summary of the applicability of this discharge for coverage under the General Order.

EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The existing WDR Order 97-074, which was adopted on 25 April 1997, contains a flow limit of 17,500 gallons per day (gpd) as a monthly average dry weather discharge flow.

UPGRADE PROJECT

Construction of the Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project was scheduled to be completed by December 2024. However, the project was delayed and completed in April 2025. After completion of the Project, the updated WWTF is a simpler system which includes septic tanks for primary treatment followed by the equalization basin and the recirculating gravity gravel filters. Three new 5,000-gallon capacity septic tanks are in the same area as the previous ones. The new recirculating gravel filter treatment system and the new 4.8 acres of LAAs were installed at the new 10.7-acre parcel, outside of the campus. The existing campus playfields are irrigated with local groundwater supply instead of treated wastewater. The WWTF will be fenced and signed as a wastewater treatment and disposal area. Based on the RWD, the design capacities for the updated WWTF are 12,500 gallons per day (gpd) as a daily maximum and 8,400 gpd as an annual average.

Wastewater enters the new septic tanks upstream of the WWTF. Primary wastewater solids are retained in the septic tanks. The septic tank effluent is piped to the equalization basin and then to the recirculating gravel filters. Primary solids are settled in the onsite septic tanks. Septage is hauled offsite and disposed at a regional permitted wastewater treatment facility.

On 7 March 2025, as part of start-up testing, the Discharger submitted some influent and effluent data for the updated WWTF. The monthly average flow in March 2025 was 798 gallons per day; influent and effluent quality are summarized below:

Date	Influent BOD (mg/L)	Effluent BOD (mg/L)	Effluent EC (μ mhos/cm)	Effluent Nitrate as Nitrogen (mg/L)	Effluent Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (mg/L)	Effluent Ammonia (mg/L)	Effluent Total Nitrogen (mg/L)
3/7/25	140	ND	900	42	11	13	66
3/20/25	-	ND	-	47	14	-	-
3/24/25	-	ND	-	61	ND	12	73
3/26/25	-	ND	-	55	ND	5.8	61

Note: ND-None Detected. "-" Not Sampled.

Removal of existing package wastewater facilities will be completed after the new wastewater and irrigation/disposal system are constructed, tested, inspected and accepted.