



## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11 September 2023

Carrie Richardson  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
Merced County Stream Group Dams  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
7021 1970 0001 5446 5259

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS; EASTMAN LAKE CODORNIZ RECREATION AREA; MADERA COUNTY**

On June 27, 2023, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) seeking coverage under State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order) for the Codorniz Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). The Facility is currently enrolled under State Water Board's Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ per Notice of Applicability (NOA) 97-10-DWQ-R5028 issued on 14 November 2001.

Based on the information provided, the system treats and disposes of less than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) of domestic wastewater 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 enrollee number **2014-0153-DWQ-R5399** for your system. This letter and coverage under the General Order supersedes NOA 97-10-DWQ-R5028.

You should familiarize yourself with the 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 systems sections of the General Order and the attached **Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399**. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE

The Facility is in Madera County, approximately 12.5 miles from Raymond, CA (37.2155°, -119.9683°). The Facility receives wastewater from four restroom facilities and RV dump station at the Codorniz Recreation Area. The Facility also has a separate wildcat restroom, vaulted restrooms, fee host septic tanks, and a fish cleaning station that is separate from the wastewater treatment system. The Discharger pumps the wastewater from the septic tanks and RV dump station to a lined evaporation pond. The point latitude and longitude for the pond is (37.2116°, -119.9616°). The evaporation pond is lined with 8-mil vinyl plastic membrane that is underlain with six inches of sand. The pond has a 6-inch layer of gravel on top of the liner as cover material. The evaporation pond estimated capacity is 830,000 gallons.

## FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger shall maintain exclusive control over the discharge and shall comply with terms and conditions of this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399 In accordance with Section B.1.a of the General Order, flow discharged to the evaporation pond shall not exceed a **monthly average daily discharge of 18,500 gpd** (as described in the MRP).

The General Order states in Section B.1.l that the discharged shall comply with the setbacks as described in Table 3. This table summarizes different setback requirements for wastewater system equipment, activities, land application areas (spray field), 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:

**Table 1 - Setback Requirements**

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir
Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System	150 ft	50ft	5 ft	200 ft
Impoundment (Undisinfected secondary wastewater)	150 ft	150 ft	50ft	200 ft

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

1. Septic System requirements in Section B.2 of the General Order
2. Pond Systems requirements in Section B.5 of the General Order
3. Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal requirements in Section B.8 of the General Order
4. Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations specified in Section C 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 Analysis Plan (Provision E.1.b)

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

On 27 September 2019, Senate Bill 317 was signed by the Governor adding Section 25210.2 to the California Health and Safety Code, which contains chemical sale, use, and discharge prohibitions for recreational vehicle (RV) chemical wastes to land, as of 1 January 2022. The Discharger shall post, in a conspicuous location, a notice stating the following:

*“The State of California prohibits the use of products in RV holding tanks, including deodorizers, that contain bronopol, dowicil, formalin, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, paraformaldehyde, para-dichlorobenzene, benzene, toluene, xylene, ethylene glycol, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, or perchloroethylene. These chemicals can inhibit biological activity in onsite wastewater treatment systems and threaten groundwater and drinking water wells, and are strictly forbidden. Please use bacteria- or enzyme-based products.”*

The Discharger shall certify compliance with the above notification posting in the first annual report submitted to the Water Board once the OWTS is constructed.

As Stated in Section E.2.w., in the vent 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 Regional Water board’s Executive Officer.

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399 could result in an enforcement action authorized by the provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of wastes other than those described in this NOA, you must submit a new Report of Waste Discharge describing the new operation.

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.

On 31 May 2018, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new strategies for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the

Central Valley as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (**CV-SALTS**) initiative. Further details of these strategies are discussed in the enclosed memorandum. 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.

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](mailto: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,  
**Place ID:** 222093,  
**Facility Name:** Eastman Lake Codorniz Recreation Area,  
**Order:** 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399

All documents, including responses to inspections and written notifications, submitted to comply with this NOA shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the Compliance and Enforcement Unit, attention to Omar Mostafa. Mr. Mostafa can be reached at (559) 445-5197 or [Omar.Mostafa@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Omar.Mostafa@waterboards.ca.gov). Questions regarding the permitting aspects of the NOA, and notification for termination of coverage under the Small Domestic General Order, shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the WDR Permitting Unit, attention Salvador Vargas. Salvador Vargas can be reached at (559) 444-2488 or by email at [Salvador.Vargas@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Salvador.Vargas@waterboards.ca.gov).

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Resources Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at [Copies of the laws and regulations applicable to filing petitions](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)) or will be provided upon request.

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of General Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ has been sent only to the Discharger. Others are advised that the [General Order](#) is available on the State Water Board's website

([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)).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Salvador Vargas by phone at (559) 444-2488, or by email at [Salvador.Vargas@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Salvador.Vargas@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original Signed by Scott J. Hatton for:*  
Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

(see next page for Attachments, Enclosures, and cc's)

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Vicinity Map
- Attachment B – Site Map
- Attachment C – Process Flow Diagram

Enclosures:

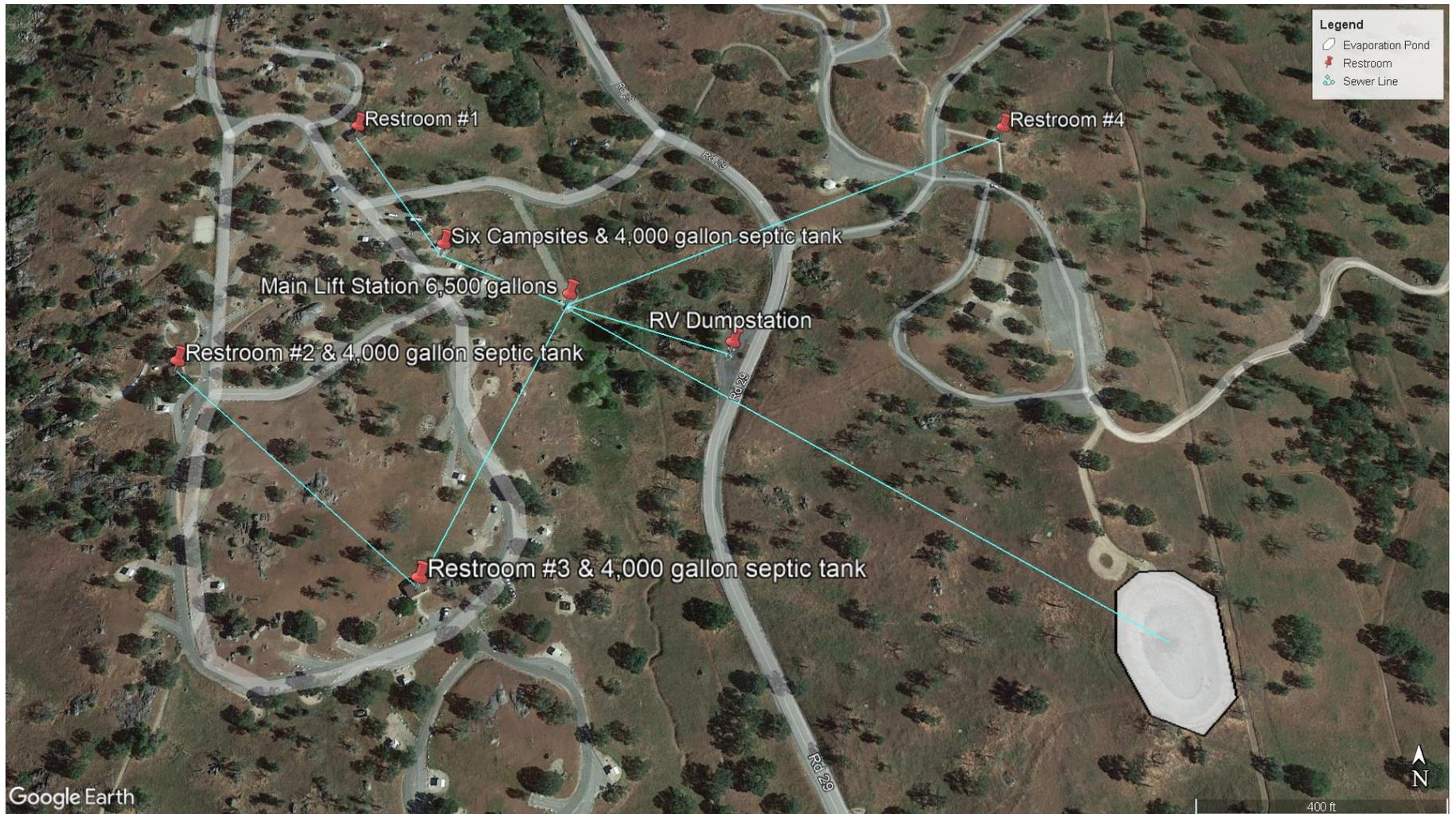
- Monitoring and Reporting Program 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399
- Staff Review Memorandum for Eastman Lake Codorniz Recreation Area
- State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (Discharger only)

cc's:

- Carrie Richardson, Operations Manager, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (via email)
- Nancy Lam, Environmental Engineer, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (via email)
- Christopher Moskal, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC, Sacramento (via email)
- Laurel Warddrip, State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ, Sacramento (via email)
- Omar Mostafa, Central Valley Water Board, Fresno (via email)
- Tricia Wathen, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (via email)
- [RB5S-cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RB5S-cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov)
- Madera County Public Works Department, Madera, CA
- Madera County Environmental Health Division
- Debbie Webster, CVCWA (via email)



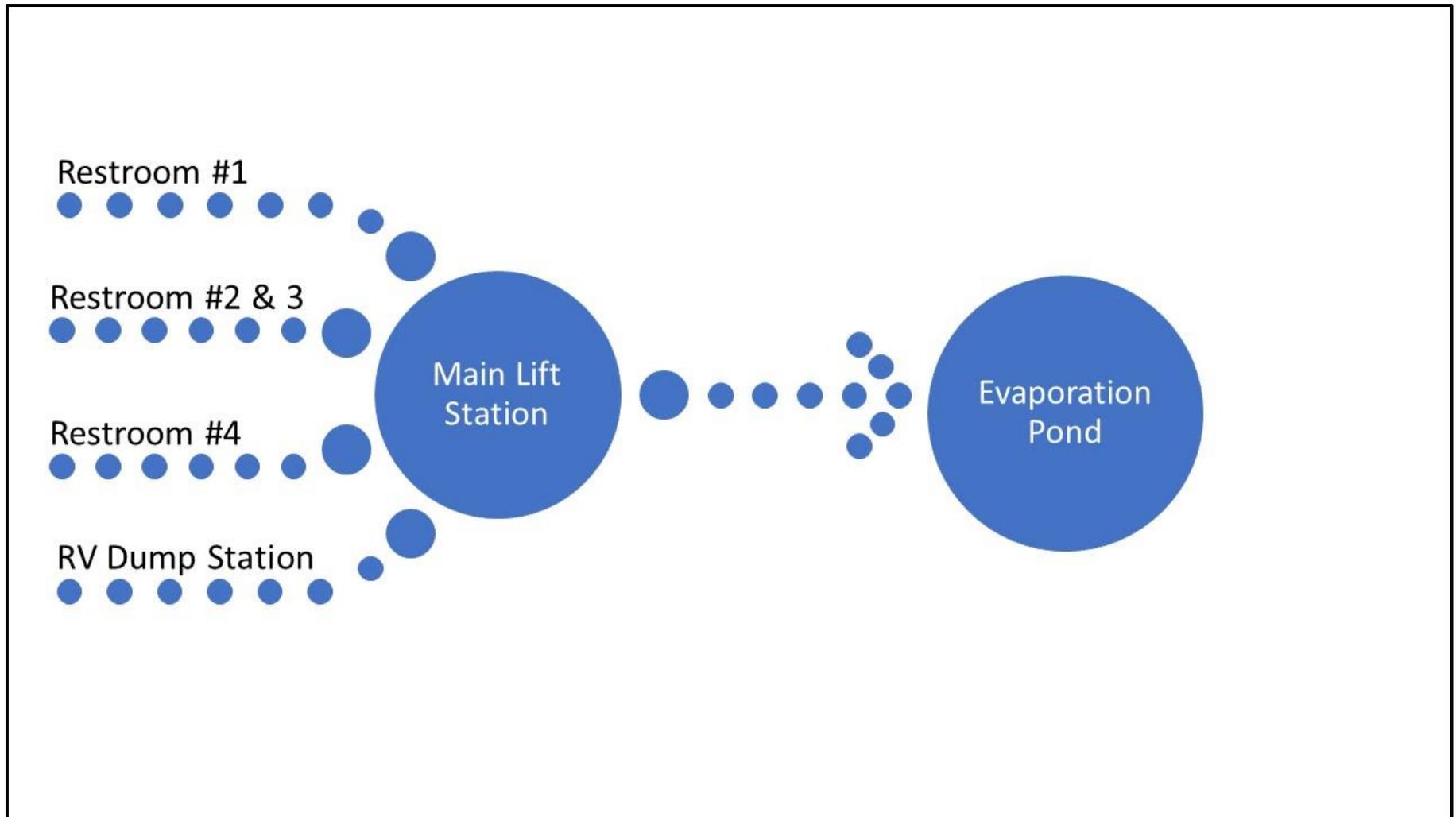
**ATTACHMENT A – VICINITY MAP**  
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399  
Drawing Reference: Google Earth



**ATTACHMENT B – SITE MAP**

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399

Drawing Reference: Google Earth



**ATTACHMENT C – PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM**

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399  
FOR  
U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS  
EASTMAN LAKE CODORNIZ RECREATION AREA  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
MADERA 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. United States Army Corp of Engineers (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.

Section 13267 of the California Water Code 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.”*

Section 13268 of the California Water Code states, in part:

*“(a) 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 and 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 Eastman Lake Codorniz Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) that is subject to Notice of Applicability (NOA) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399. The NOA enrolls the Facility under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for*

*Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order). The reports required in this MRP 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.

## **SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT AND INSPECTION MONITORING**

### **Septic Tank Monitoring**

Samples of effluent shall be taken at an area that represents the effluent quality distributed to the evaporation pond. At a minimum, effluent monitoring shall include the following:

**Table 2 – Septic Tank Effluent Monitoring Requirements**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Sample Type</b>	<b>Sampling Frequency</b>	<b>Reporting Frequency</b>
Flow	gpd	Metered	Continuous	Quarterly
EC	µmhos/cm	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

### Septic Tank Inspections

All septic tanks shall be inspected and/or pumped at least as frequently as described below. Inspection of sludge and scum depth are not required if the tanks are pumped at least annually.

**Table 3 - Septic Tank Monitoring**

Parameter	Units	Measurement Type	Inspection/Reporting Frequency
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)	N/A	N/A	Annually

N/A denotes 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

The storage/setting pond shall be monitored as specified in the table below:

**Table 4 - Wastewater Pond Monitoring**

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Dissolved Oxygen (DO) (see 1 below)	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Quarterly
Freeboard	0.1 feet	Measurement	Quarterly	Quarterly
Odors	N/A	Observation	Quarterly	Quarterly
Berm Condition	N/A	Observation	Annually	Quarterly

N/A denotes not applicable

1. DO shall be measured between 8:00 am and 10:00 am and shall be taken opposite the pond inlet at a depth of approximately one foot, when there is sufficient water in the pond(s). If there is insufficient water in the pond(s) no sample shall be collected and the reason provided in the quarterly monitoring report. Should the DO be below 1.0 mg/L during a monthly sampling event, the Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to correct the problem and commence daily DO monitoring in the affected ponds until the problem has been resolved.

### **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE DISCHARGE MONITORING**

Any wastewater system that has accepted recreational vehicle, portable toilet, or similar waste in the previous 12 months shall perform the following additional monitoring. Samples shall be collected to characterize effluent that is discharged to the evaporation/percolation pond. Wastewater shall be monitored as specified below:

**Table 5 - RV Discharge Monitoring**

<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Sample Type</b>	<b>Sample Frequency</b>	<b>Reporting Frequency</b>
Zinc	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Phenol	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Formaldehyde	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

### **SLUDGE/BIOSOLIDS 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 discernable. 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.

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 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,  
**Place ID:** 222093,  
**Facility Name:** Eastman Lake Codorniz Recreation Area,  
**Order:** 2014-0153-DWQ-R5399

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

Quarterly reports shall be submitted to the Regional 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 the minimum, the quarterly reports shall include:

1. Results of all required monitoring.
2. A comparison of monitoring data to the requirements (including the flow limitation), 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 laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody form(s).

### **B. Annual Report**

Annual Reports shall be submitted to the Regional 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 the 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.
6. The Discharger shall certify in each annual report that the RV chemical prohibition notification (discussed in the NOA) is posted at the RV dump station.

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 begin implementing the above monitoring program on **1 October 2023**.

Ordered by:

*Original Signed by Scott J. Hatton for:*  
PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

9/11/2023  
(Date)

## GLOSSARY

BOD <sub>5</sub>	Five-day biochemical oxygen demand
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	Calcium carbonate
DO	Dissolved oxygen
EC	Electrical conductivity at 25° C
FDS	Fixed dissolved solids
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TKN	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen
TSS	Total suspended solids
Continuous	The specified parameter shall be measured by a meter continuously.
24-hr Composite	Samples shall be a flow-proportioned composite consisting of at least eight aliquots over a 24-hour period.
Daily	Every day except weekends or holidays.
Twice Weekly	Twice per week on non-consecutive days.
Weekly	Once per week.
Twice Monthly	Twice per month during non-consecutive weeks.
Monthly	Once per calendar month.
Quarterly	Once per calendar quarter.
Semiannually	Once every six calendar months (i.e., two times per year) during non-consecutive quarters.
Annually	Once per year.
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
mg/kg	Milligrams per kilogram
mL/L	Milliliters [of solids] per liter
µg/L	Micrograms per liter
µmhos/cm	Micromhos per centimeter
gpd	Gallons per day
gal/acre/mo	Gallons per acre per month
mgd	Million gallons per day
MPN/100 mL	Most probable number [of organisms] per 100 milliliters
NA	Denotes not applicable
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
UV	Ultraviolet
mJ/cm <sup>2</sup>	Millijoules/cm <sup>2</sup>
SU	Standard pH units



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## 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

Salvador Vargas  
Water Resource Control Engineer

**DATE:** 11 September 2023

### **APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS; EASTMAN LAKE CODORNIZ RECREATION AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; MADERA COUNTY**

On 27 June 2023, United States Army Corp of Engineers (Discharger) submitted a completed Form 200 and Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for Eastman Lake Codorniz Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). The June 2023 RWD was signed and stamped by Nancy Lam (RCE 94851) with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. This staff memorandum provides a summary of Central Valley Water Board staff's review of the June 2023 RWD (and subsequent information provided), and the applicability of Facility's discharge to be covered under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order).

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Facility is in Madera County, approximately 12.5 miles from Raymond, CA (37.2155°, -119.9683°), as shown on Attachment A of the Notice of Applicability (NOA). The Discharger owns and operates the Facility. The Facility is located on Assessor's Parcel Number's (APNs) 053-250-020, and 053-152-014.

Attachment C of the NOA is a process flow diagram, which provides a schematic overview of the Facility's wastewater system. The Facility receives wastewater from four

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MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

restroom facilities (Restrooms #1, 2, 3, and 4) and a RV dump station at the Codorniz Recreation Area. Wastewater from Restroom #2 and Restroom #3 are combined and pumped to the main lift station. Restroom #1 is gravity fed to a 4,000-gallon septic tank located near the six campsites and is then gravity fed to the main lift station. Restroom #4 and the RV dump station are gravity fed to the main lift station with a capacity of 6,500-gallons. The Discharger pumps wastewater collected from the 6,500-gallon septic tank (main lift station) to a lined evaporation pond (37.2118°, -119.9619°). The evaporation pond is lined with an 8-mil vinyl plastic membrane lining, which is underlain by a 6-inch layer of sand. A 6-inch gravel layer is on top of the liner as cover material. The evaporation pond's estimated storage capacity is 830,000 gallons with 2 feet of freeboard.

The current system is regulated under water quality order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5028, which limits the Facility's discharge up to 18,500 gallons per day (gpd). Average annual flow, based on the last five years, for all four bathrooms and RV dump station was around 2,180 gpd. According to the June 2023 RWD, the Discharger inspects the Facility monthly. Inspections of the pond include visual inspection for any signs of weeds, burrowing animals, anaerobic conditions, erosion, leakage, and buildup of scum. Sludge is removed annually by a contractor to pump and dispose of material off-site. Weeds are removed manually by staff as needed, and herbicide treatments are applied twice a year by a contractor once in spring and once in the fall.

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

According to the Facility's operations manager, the pond has been reported dry for at least the past five years; therefore, there is no available effluent water quality data. Staff viewed available aerial images on Google, which appears to show the pond is typically dry. Despite the lack of effluent quality data, the wastewater that is produced at this facility is of typical domestic wastewater with higher strength waste produced from the RV waste. Furthermore, the volume of wastewater generated at the recreation area is low and all wastewater is pumped to a lined evaporation pond. Therefore, the threat to water quality from the Facility's discharge is minimal.

Currently the Facility receives its potable water from a 650-foot deep well, and the water is pumped into a 21,500-gallon steel storage tank. This water is treated before consumption with a sodium hypochlorite solution, using a diaphragm pump. The Facility has a routine operational procedure for each component of the water system. The well, storage tank, chlorinator pump, and chlorine solution tank are all visually inspected daily. The well is approximately 3,400 feet southeast of the evaporation pond.

### **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
- Solids Disposal Monitoring

The General Order requires that wastewater systems with a flow rate greater than 20,000 gallons per day be evaluated to determine if nitrogen effluent limits are required, as described in Attachment 1 of the General Order. The design capacity for the Facility is 18,500 gpd. Therefore, a Nitrogen Effluent Limit Evaluation is not required for the Facility.

### **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 (Resolution R5-2018-0034). The Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020 and were revised by the Central Valley Water Board in 2020 with [Resolution R5-2020-0057](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057\\_res.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf)). For the Salt Control Program, 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 known as the Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study) to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. The Discharger submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 15 July 2021. They selected to participate in pathway 2 of the CV Salts program, Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach (**CV-SALTS ID: 1990**).

For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility is not within a designated groundwater basin. Implementation of the Nitrate Control program outside a prioritized basin/sub-basin will occur at the direction of the Executive Officer.

More information on the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs can be found at the [CV-SALTS Website](https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info) (<https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info>).