



## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 January 2024

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7021 1970 0001 5446 6140**

Jennifer Smith, General Manager  
Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort, LLC  
PO Box 1188  
Pinecrest, CA 95364

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7021 1970 0001 5446 6133**

James Junette  
United States Forest Service  
19777 Greenley Road  
Sonora, CA 95370

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ-2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; DODGE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RESORT, LLC AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE; DODGE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RESORT ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM; TUOLUMNE COUNTY**

On 30 August 2023, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) requesting for coverage under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ-2014-0153-DWQ *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (Small Domestic General Order) for the Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort LLC (Dodge Ridge) Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS or Disposal Systems). The RWD was prepared by Alison Furuya (C58943), a registered professional civil engineer with Blackwater Consulting Engineers and included a Form 200 signed by the Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort LLC. A copy of the RWD signed and stamped by Ms. Furuya was received on 14 September 2023 and a second Form 200 completed by the United States Forest Service was received on 19 September 2023. An updated RWD was submitted on 3 October 2023 that included the disposal system of the Mid Mountain Lodge.

The OWTS are owned and operated by Dodge Ridge with the landowner being the United States Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest (hereafter jointly referred to as Discharger). The OWTS are currently covered under State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* and was assigned Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5078. The OWTS is at 1 Dodge Ridge Road, Pinecrest, CA 95346 and is currently permitted with an average daily flow of about

3,000 gallons per day (gpd) and peak flows up to 13,000 gpd of domestic wastewater to septic tanks that discharge to subsurface leach fields.

Based on the information provided in the RWD, the OWTS treats and disposes of less than 100,000 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-R5405** for your system. This letter and coverage under the Small Domestic General Order 2014-0153-DWQ supersedes NOA Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5078.

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) No. **2014-0153-DWQ-R5405**. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

### **DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

The Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort and its OWTS are located about 4 miles southeast of Pinecrest in Tuolumne County as shown on Attachment A. The OWTS consists of four individual disposal systems that serve a Maintenance Building and three lodges: the Family Lodge and the Creekside Lodge as shown in Attachment B, and the Mid Mountain Lodge as shown in Attachment C. The systems are depicted in a flow diagram presented as Attachment D.

The Maintenance Building disposal system includes a 1,200-gallon septic tank and Leach Field No. 1. Leach Field No. 1 has two zones, and each zone has three 100-foot long leach lines. The Family lodge contains a 1,200-gallon grease trap, a 2,000-gallon septic and a 3,000-gallon septic tank that is used as a pump station to deliver domestic wastewater to Leach Field No. 2. Leach Field No. 2 has two zones, and each zone has two 100-foot long leach lines. The Creekside Lodge has a 1,200-gallon grease trap, a 9,000-gallon septic tank, and a 3,000-gallon septic tank that serves an adjacent rental shop that delivers wastewater to Leach Field No. 3. Design information for Leach Field No. 3 was not available. The Mid-Mountain lodge system includes a 2,000-gallon septic tank and Leach Field No. 4. Design information for Leach Field No. 4 was not available.

The domestic wastewater is not metered. The Discharger estimates flows by using 65 percent of the source water supplied to the Resort. The OWTS has seasonal variations due to the flow from buildings serving a seasonal ski resort and special events in the summer. For example, peak winter months might see higher wastewater flows due to increased attendance at the resort for skiing activities, while summer months might attract more visitors for hiking and other outdoor activities. According to

the RWD, peak monthly flows from the Creekside Lodge can reach approximately 6,500 gpd. Flows during the months of May through October range from 1,300 to 3,000 gpd with an average annual flow of domestic wastewater of about 3,000 gpd. Peak flows were previously reported in Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5078 to be 13,000 gpd.

### FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

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, all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405.

In accordance with Section B.1.a of the General Order, the combined monthly average discharge from the septic tanks to the leach fields shall not exceed **13,000 gpd**.

The General Order states in Section B.1 that the Discharger shall comply with the setbacks as described in Table 3 of the General Order. This table summarizes different setback requirements for wastewater treatment 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 Table 1 below:

**Table 1 – Site Specific Applicable Setback Requirements**

<b>Equipment or Activity</b>	<b>Domestic Well (feet)</b>	<b>Flowing Stream (feet)</b>	<b>Ephemeral Stream Drainage (feet)</b>	<b>Property Line (feet)</b>	<b>Lake or Reservoir (feet)</b>
Septic Tank, Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System	150	50	50	5	200
Leach Field	100	100	50	5	200

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

1. Septic Systems requirements in Section B.2. of the General Order;
2. Subsurface Disposal Systems requirements in Section B.6 of the General Order;
3. Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal requirements in Section B.8 of the General Order; and
4. Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations specified in Section C.1 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 **30 April 2024** of issuance of the NOA.

- Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Provision E.1.a.).

- Sampling and Analysis Plan (Provision E.1.b).
- Sludge Management Plan (Provision E.1.c).

A copy of the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan and the Sampling and Analysis Plan, and Sludge Management Plan shall be maintained at the OWTS and shall be presented to the Regional Water Board staff upon request. The Sludge Management Plan shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board **within 90 days** of the issuance of the NOA.

As stated in Section E.2.w., in the event any change in control or ownership of the OWTS 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.

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and **MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405** 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. If wastewater flows to the OWTS substantially increase and the peak flows approach or exceed 7,000 gpd, the Central Valley Water Board staff must be contacted to determine if further analysis is required.

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 Program are met.

All monitoring reports and other correspondences shall 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 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:** 220429,  
**Facility Name:** Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort OWTS,  
**Order:** 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405

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 Jeff Pyle. Mr. Jeff Pyle can be reached at (559) 445-5145 or by email at [Jeffrey.Pyle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Pyle@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. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Pyle by phone at (559) 445-5145 or by email at [Jeffrey.Pyle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Pyle@waterboards.ca.gov).

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of General Order WQO 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)).

*Original Signed by Alexander S. Mushegan*  
For Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

(See next page for attachments, enclosures' and cc's)

Attachments:

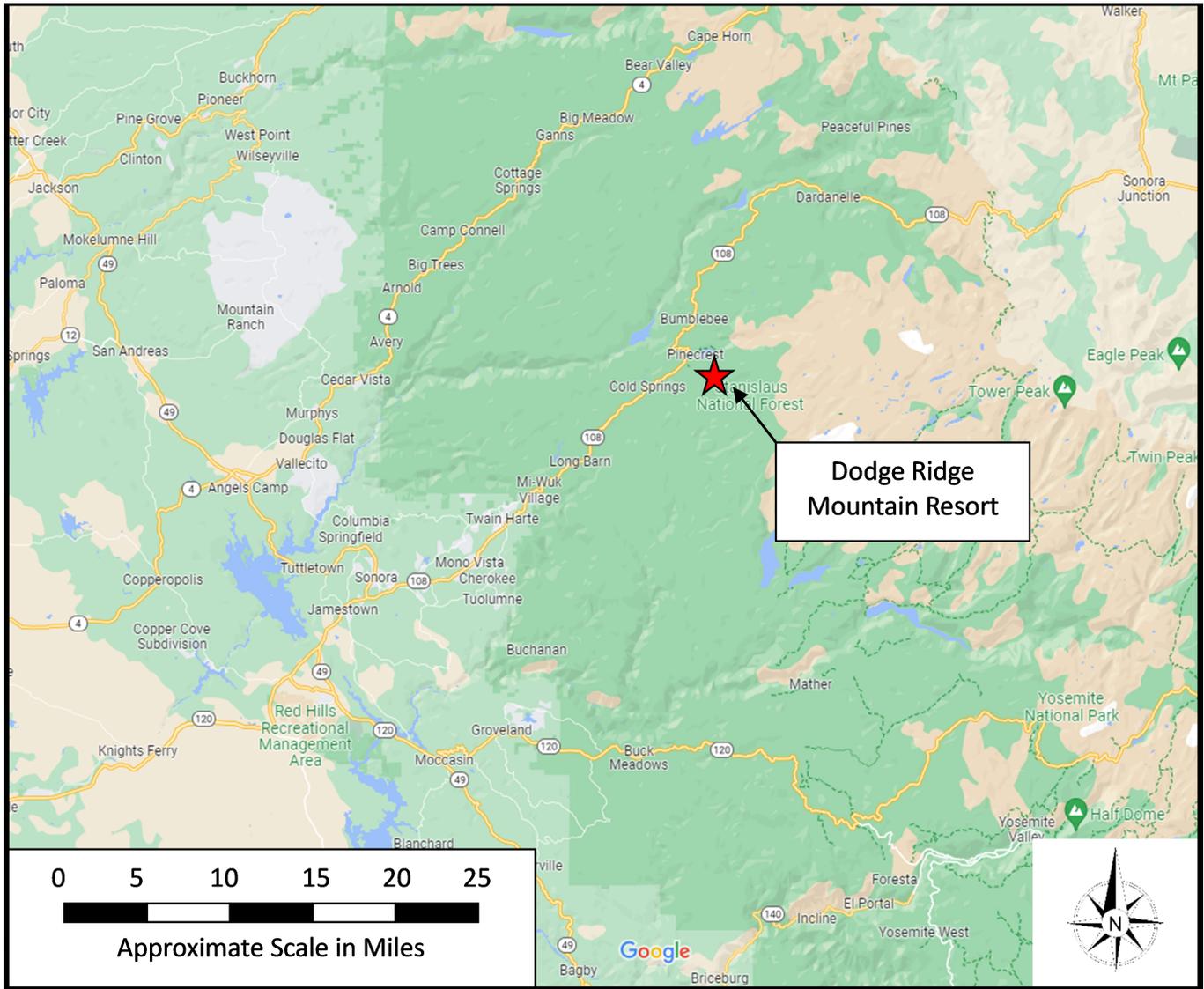
- Attachment A – Site Location Map
- Attachment B – Lower Mountain Site Plan
- Attachment C – Mid Mountain Site Plan
- Attachment D – Process Flow Diagram

Enclosures:

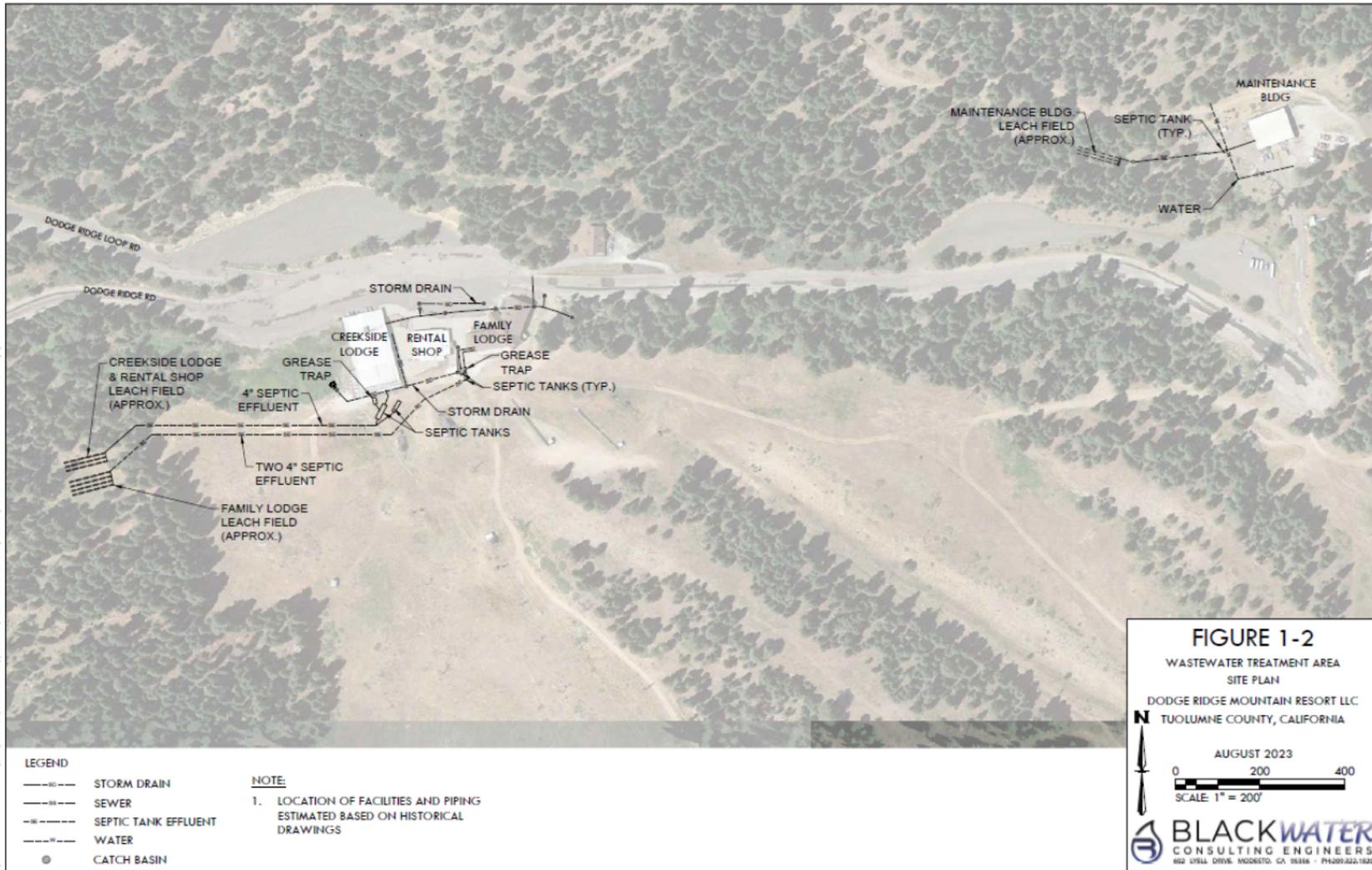
- Monitoring and Reporting Program 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405
- Staff Review Memorandum for Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort OWTS
- State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (Discharger only)

cc's

- 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, DDW, (via email)
- Tuolumne County Environmental Health Division, (via email)
- Alison Furuya, Blackwater Engineers, Inc., Modesto (via email)
- Jenifer Smith, Dodge Ridge, Pinecrest (via email)
- James Junette, USFS, Sonora (via email)



**ATTACHMENT A – SITE LOCATION MAP  
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405**



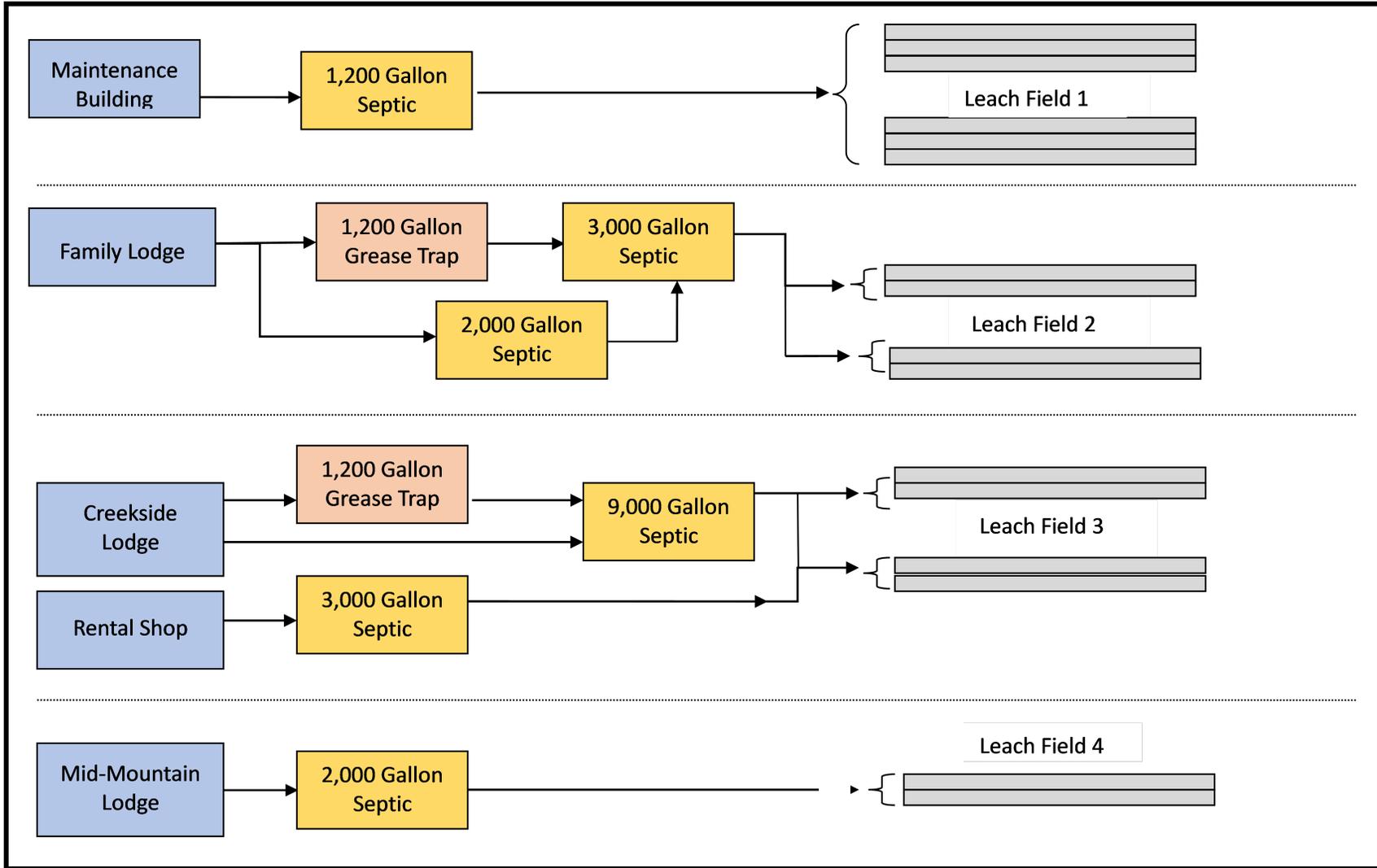
Original from updated 3 October 2023 Report of Waste Discharge.

**ATTACHMENT B – LOWER MOUNTAIN SITE PLAN PHOTO  
 NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405**



Original from updated 3 October 2023 Report of Waste Discharge

**ATTACHMENT C – MID MOUNTAIN SITE PLAN PHOTO  
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405**



**ATTACHMENT D – PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM  
 NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405**

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

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405  
FOR  
DODGE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RESORT, LLC  
AND THE  
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE  
DODGE RIDGE SKI RESORT ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM  
TUOLUMNE COUNTY**

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for the Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS). This MRP is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267. Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort LLC and the United States Forest Service (hereafter collectively referred to as 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 the OWTS that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405, which enrolls the OWTS 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 Inspections/Monitoring**

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 1 - Septic Tank Monitoring**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Measurement Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
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)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Annually

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.

### **SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL AREA INSPECTION MONITORING**

Monitoring of the combined flows from the septic tanks to the leach fields shall be conducted as listed below:

**Table 2 – Leach Field Effluent Flow Monitoring Requirements**

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow	gpd	Metered (see 1 below)	Continuous	Annually

1. Flow rate may be metered or estimated based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method.

### **Leach Field Inspection/Monitoring**

In general, monitoring shall be sufficient to determine if wastewater is evenly applied, the disposal area is not saturated, burrowing animals and/or deep-rooted plants are not present, and odors are not present. Inspection of dosing pump controllers, automatic distribution valves, etc. is required to maintain optimum treatment in the disposal area (and any sand or media filter, if present). Monitoring of the leach field systems shall, at a minimum, include the monitoring specified in Table 3.

**Table 3 - Subsurface Disposal Monitoring**

Constituent	Inspection Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Pump Controllers, Automatic Valves, etc.	Quarterly	Annually
Nuisance Odor Condition	Quarterly	Annually

<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Inspection Frequency</b>	<b>Reporting Frequency</b>
Saturated Soil Conditions	Quarterly	Annually
Plant Growth	Quarterly	Annually
Vectors or Animal Burrowing	Quarterly	Annually

The Discharger shall report on the handling and disposal of all solids (e.g. screenings, grit, sludge, biosolids, etc.) generated at the wastewater treatment facility. 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.

### **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 treatment facility. 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:** 220429,  
**Facility Name:** Dodge Ridge OWTS,  
**Order:** 2014-0153-DWQ-R5405

#### **A. 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. 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. Tabular and graphical summaries of all monitoring data collected during the year.
4. A copy of the logs from the wastewater collection system observations conducted during the year. The Discharger shall note if any repairs were conducted or need to be conducted.).
5. 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.
6. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies/redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.
7. 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 begin implementing the above monitoring program on  
**1 February 2024.**

Ordered by:

*Original Signed by Alexander S. Mushegan for:*  
PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

*1/31/2024*  
(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:** Alexander S. Mushegan  
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

**FROM:** Jeffrey Pyle  
Engineering Geologist

**DATE:** 31 January 2024

**APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; DODGE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RESORT LLC AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE; DODGE RIDGE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM; TUOLUMNE COUNTY**

On 30 August 2023, Alison Furuya (C58943) with Blackwater Consulting Engineers submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for the Dodge Ridge Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) on behalf of Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort LLC (Dodge Ridge) and the United States Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest. The OWTS is owned and operated by Dodge Ridge and land is owned by the United States Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest (hereafter collectively referred to as Discharger). The OWTS is currently enrolled under State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ, *General Waste Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* and was assigned enrollee No. 97-10-DWQ-R5078.

In 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements For Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order 2014-0153-DWQ). General Order 2014-0153-DWQ superseded General Order 97-10-DWQ and no longer allowed new enrollees under General Order 97-10-DWQ. General Order 2014-0153-DWQ states that existing enrollees may continue discharging under 97-10-DWQ until notified by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) to update coverage under General Order 2014-0153-DWQ. On 5 April 2023, Central Valley Water Board staff sent a letter pursuant to Water Code Section 13260, requesting for the Discharger to enroll under General Order 2014-0153-DWQ.

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Dodge Ridge owns and operates the OWTS at the Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort. Due to the seasonal operations, wastewater flows are highly variable. According to the existing Order NOA No. 97-10-DWQ-R5078, peak flows in 2011 were about 13,000 gallons per day (gpd) for less than 30 days per year. In the summer months, flows averaged about 300 gpd. Currently, the August 2023 RWD estimates the peak flows to be about 6,500 gpd during the winter months and due to an increase in usage (mountain biking) from May to October, the average flow in the summer months was estimated to range from about 1,300 to 3,000 gpd. Overall average annual wastewater flow was reported to be approximately 3,000 gpd.

The onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) consists of four separate septic tank/leach field disposal systems that serve four distinct areas of the Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort that include a Maintenance Building, the Family Lodge, the Creekside Lodge, and the Mid Mountain Lodge. The Maintenance Building disposal system includes a 1,200-gallon septic tank and a leach field (Leach Field No. 1). The Family lodge contains a 1,200-gallon grease trap, a 2,000-gallon septic tank, and a 3,000-gallon septic tank that is used as a pump station to deliver domestic wastewater to a leach field (Leach Field No. 2). The Creekside Lodge has a 1,200-gallon grease trap, a 9,000-gallon septic tank, and a 3,000-gallon septic tank that serves an adjacent rental shop, and a leach field (Leach Field No. 3). The Mid Mountain Lodge has a 2,000-gallon septic tank and a leach field (Leach Field No. 4).

Residual solids contained within the septic tanks are removed periodically by a septic cleaning service. When a sufficient amount of solids accumulated at the top of the system, a septic tank remover collects the solids using a pump and hauls the solids offsite for disposal.

The General Order states facilities discharging under 100,000 gpd are eligible for coverage. Furthermore, since the Facility has flows under 20,000 gpd, no nitrogen evaluation is necessary.

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

The closest surface water body is the North Fork of the Tuolumne River that flows adjacent the Creekside and Family Lodges. The RWD does not discuss underlying groundwater occurrence or quality other than that Dodge Ridge operates a water system that provides drinking water to Dodge Ridge. The RWD states "*The primary sources are springs that are classified as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water.*" The springs are located about a mile east/northeast of the Family Lodge on a ridge line about 800 feet in elevation above the Family Lodge. Supply water for the Resort is collected in two spring boxes and routed to a water tank set about 300 feet above and about 1,500 feet north of the Family Lodge.

The RWD did not provide water quality results for the onsite spring boxes, but water quality data is available on the State Water Resources Control Board Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program (GAMA). The data is summarized in Table 1 below. Samples were collected on 8 March 2011, 13 August 2014, and 16 August 2017 except for the sampling for nitrate. Samples were collected annually and analyzed for nitrate 13 times from 8 March 2011 through May 2023. The results are presented below.

**Table 1 – Water Supply Quality (2011- 2023)**

<b>Constituent/Parameter)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Result</b>
Alkalinity	mg/L	43
Bicarbonate	mg/L	49
Chloride	mg/L	2.0
Sodium	mg/L	2.0
Sulfate	mg/L	1.5
Potassium	mg/L	2.5
Electrical Conductivity (EC)	µmhos/cm	89
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	51
Nitrate as Nitrogen	mg/L	0.4

### **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

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

- Septic Tank Monitoring,
- Subsurface Disposal, and
- Solids Disposal Monitoring.

### **SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS**

As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability (CVSALTS) initiative, 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). Pursuant to the Basin Plan amendments, dischargers were sent a Notice to Comply on 5 January 2021 with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program within one year of the effective date of the amendments. Upon receipt of the Notice to Comply, the Discharger was given until 15 July 2021 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 the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility and disposal areas are not within a prioritized basin. Implementation within a unprioritized basin/sub-basins will occur at the direction of the Executive Officer.

For the Salt Control Program, the Discharger (**CV-SALTS ID: 1971**) selected Pathway 2 (Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach). According to our records, the Discharger is in compliance with the Salt Control Program. In order to remain in compliance, all applicable fees must be paid.

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>).