Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

5 November 2026

Sonny Lunde
EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility
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REVISED NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER 2016-0068-DDW
WATER RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RECYCLED WATER USE
SACRAMENTO AREA SEWER DISTRICT
URBAN AND HARVEST WATER RECYCLED WATER PROGRAMS
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) submitted the October 2022 Final Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for the Urban Recycled Water Systems, for regulatory coverage under Water Quality Order 2016-0068-DDW, Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use (General Order). The ROWD included a previously approved *Title 22 Engineering Report for the Production, Distribution, and Use of the Recycled Water,* dated July 2018, and its subsequent *First Amendment* (Amendment), dated September 2022. On 22 May 2026, SacSewer submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board), seeking coverage under the General Order for their new Harvest Water Recycled Water Program. The May 2026 NOI references a new Title 22 Engineering Report specifically for the Harvest Water Recycled Water Program dated March 2025.

On 7 June 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the General Order to regulate the use of recycled water for all Title 22 uses except groundwater recharge. The General Order delegates responsibility for administering water recycling programs to a designated Administrator. Based on the information provided in the 2022 ROWD, July 2018 Title 22 Engineering Report, September 2022 Title 22 Engineering Report Amendment, 2026 NOI, and the March 2025 Harvest Water Recycled Water Title 22 Engineering Report, SacSewer's Urban and Harvest Water Recycled Water Programs satisfy the general and specific conditions of the General Order. Therefore, this serves as formal notice that General Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW is applicable and SacSewer will act as the Administrator of

the Urban and Harvest Water Recycled Water Programs (Recycled Water Programs). SacSewer's existing enrollee number **WQ-2016-0068-DDW-R5023**, remains the same. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

SacSewer (Discharger) owns and operates the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility (EchoWater Facility) which produces disinfected tertiary treated effluent for discharge to the Sacramento River in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) CA0077682 Order R5-2026-0036. The EchoWater Facility serves the Cities of Sacramento, Folsom, and West Sacramento, the communities of Courtland and Walnut Grove, and the SacSewer service area. The SacSewer service area includes the Cities of Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Height, as well as portions of the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County.

The EchoWater Facility is located at 8521 Laguna Station Road in the City of Elk Grove, Sacramento County. The treatment processes include influent screening, grit and scum removal, primary sedimentation, biological nutrient removal, secondary sedimentation, secondary effluent screening, coagulation and polymer addition, granular media filtration, and disinfection with sodium hypochlorite. Recent treatment upgrades completed in 2023, as part of the EchoWater Project, include a biological nutrient removal (BNR) facility and a tertiary treatment facility (TTF). The TTF has a capacity of 217 million gallons per day (MGD) and supplies recycled water meeting the uniform water recycling criteria found in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22, division 4, chapter 3 (Title 22). Flow from the TTF is distributed to different recycled water pump stations located on site. Flow sent to the Water Reclamation Facility Transfer Pumping Station supplies in-plant use or feeds the 2.18 million gallon (MG) storage tank which supplies recycled water for urban uses. Flow sent to the Harvest Water Pumping Station supplies the Harvest Water users in unincorporated Sacramento County via a 15-mile-long transmission pipeline. Additional storage tanks may be constructed in the future to accommodate the demand of recycled water.

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) is for the reuse of disinfected tertiary treated recycled water produced at the EchoWater Facility's TTF for non-potable reuse by existing and future users as described in the July 2018 Title 22 Engineering Report, September 2022 Title 22 Engineering Report Amendment and the March 2025 Harvest Water Recycled Water Title 22 Engineering Report.

RECYCLED WATER APPLICATION

SacSewer administers the Recycled Water Programs for the distribution of disinfected tertiary recycled water for non-potable reuse. SacSewer serves as the Producer of the recycled water and the Administrator. As the Administrator, SacSewer is responsible for the administration of the Recycled Water Programs authorized pursuant to the General Order, including the requirements of Title 22.

Recycled water users must obtain a use permit from the Administrator for recycled water use. As appropriate, obtaining a permit requires completing an application (use application or application for recycled water service), submitting plans if applicable for review and approval, and receiving training. Training covers the approved Title 22 uses, use requirements, prohibited uses and any additional training specific to the distribution and use of recycled water. Urban recycled water Users are required to comply with the County of Sacramento Rules and Regulations for Recycled Water Use and Distribution; a User Reclamation Plan, which identifies the parties, the responsibility of each party, and site information related to the use of recycled water; and Title 22 requirements. Harvest Water program recycled water Users are required to comply with the Harvest Water Rules and Regulations. Per the General Order, SacSewer is required to maintain records of outside entities who receive training and recycled water for their own use.

As part of the Urban Recycled Water Program, SacSewer also administers a Recycled Water Fill Station Program that allows residential and commercial users to pick up and haul disinfected tertiary treated wastewater from the designated fill station located at EchoWater Facility. This program is made available to recycled water users within SacSewer's service areas. Users are required to obtain a Recycled Water Use Permit from SacSewer. Obtaining a use permit requires completing a Use Application and receiving training coordinated by SacSewer.

Portions of the Recycled Water Program's administration may be delegated by the Discharger to others including, but not limiting to, the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA), Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD), and through interagency agreements with the roles and responsibilities varying in each use area. A recycled water service map is included as Attachment A.

Current recycled water use applications include the following:

1. EchoWater Facility: process needs, landscaping, dust control, and construction (soil conditioning, compaction, etc.);
2. Urban Recycled Water Program:
    a. Recycled Water Fill Station, located at the EchoWater Facility for residential and commercial customers
    b. Campbell Power Plant (formerly known as SPA Cogen Facility) - industrial use at the cooling towers;
    c. City of Elk Grove Phase I (Laguna West, Lakeside, and Stonelake communities) - landscape irrigation at parks, schools, streetscapes, and commercial and multifamily facilities within Elk Grove;
3. Harvest Water Recycled Water Program:
    a. Harvest Water Use Areas – Agriculture irrigation of crops, pasture, nurseries, ecological habitat, and managed wetlands.

b. Harvest Water Recycled Water Fill Station – Truck fill station with controlled access only for SacSewer staff and SacSewer contractors. Used for temporary ecological irrigation in the Harvest Water Service Area in support of the Harvest Water EcoPlan.

c. Emergency Fire Service – use of Harvest Water wharf hydrants to supply fire trucks for emergency fire service; and

d. De-Watering for Emergency Repairs – discharge to irrigated lands within the harvest water service area that have a temporary agreement with SacSewer for irrigation with recycled water.

Future planned recycled water use applications include but are not limited to the following:

1. EchoWater Facility (Nicolaus Dairy) - landscape, garden, and agricultural use and future constructed wetland;
2. EchoWater Facility- agricultural irrigation of Bufferlands north of Morrison Creek;
3. Urban Recycled Water Program- City of Elk Grove Phase II (East Franklin and Laguna Ridge communities) - landscape irrigation to parks, schools, streetscapes, golf courses, and commercial and multifamily facilities;
4. Urban Recycled Water Program- City of Sacramento – landscape irrigation to parks, schools, golf courses, and streetscapes, and commercial and multifamily facilities; and
5. Urban Recycled Water Program- Satellite Recycled Water Fill Station (Intersection of 25th and 24th Street in Sacramento) – City of Sacramento Department of Utilities, municipal, and commercial users

Any changes to the Recycled Water Programs, including use areas outside of the Discharger's recycled water service area or recycled water uses not previously specified in the 2022 ROWD, July 2018 Title 22 Engineering Report, September 2022 Title 22 Engineering Report Amendment, 2026 NOI, or the March 2025 Harvest Water Recycled Water Title 22 Engineering Report may require submittal of a new ROWD and revised Title 22 report for review. Recycled water use for constructed wetlands at the Nicolaus Dairy requires Central Valley Water Board notification and submittal of a ROWD.

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Title 22 Engineering Report for the Production, Distribution, and Use of Recycled Water dated July 2018 was conditionally approved by State Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) in a letter dated 5 October 2018. The Title 22 Engineering Report Amendment dated September 2022 was conditionally accepted by DDW in a letter dated 19 October 2022. The Harvest Water Recycled Water Title 22 Engineering Report dated March 2025 was conditionally approved by DDW in a letter dated 21 August 2025. All letters require that all future changes or expansion of irrigation areas

beyond those described in the approved Title 22 Engineering Report(s) be incorporated in a revised Title 22 report for review and comment by DDW.

WATER RECYCLING USE REQUIREMENTS

Recycled water distribution and use shall meet all requirements of the General Order, including but not limited to the following:

1. The production, distribution, and use of recycled water shall be managed in accordance with the applicable NPDES permit (CA0077682), Title 22 Engineering Reports approved by DDW, ROWD, NOI and this NOA.

2. Application of recycled water shall be limited to the uses described in the Title 22 Engineering Report approved by DDW, the ROWD, NOI and this NOA.

3. The use of recycled water shall not cause pollution or nuisance, as defined by CCR section 13050.

4. The recycled water shall be disinfected tertiary recycled water as defined by CCR Title 22, section 60301.230, or through treatment approved as equivalent by the DDW.

5. The Administrator shall promptly notify the Central Valley Water Board of any recycled water spills or unauthorized uses in accordance with CCR 13529.2.

Use Area Requirements

1. An engineering report shall be submitted to DDW and the Central Valley Water Board for review and approval of any future use of RW or expansion of existing irrigation areas beyond those described in the approved Title 22 Engineering Report(s).

2. The installation of RW pipeline(s) at the use site area(s) must be in accordance with the separation criteria pursuant to the California Waterworks Standards Chapter 16, Article 3, Section 64572.

3. Pipeline(s), control valves and other appurtenances located at the recycled water use areas must have identification markings and color coding. Purple color coding must be used, such as purple identification tape, or a purple polyethylene vinyl wrap color Pantone 522C to tag the RW pipelines and appurtenances. Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 116815(b), purple color-coding requirements do not apply to recycled water delivered for agriculture use. This exception is applicable to pipelines and appurtenances within use areas in the Harvest Water service area.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Administrator shall comply with the Specifications, Water Recycling Administration Requirements, and General Provisions of the General Order. Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the proposed Recycled Water Programs. If the Administrator violates the terms or conditions, the Central Valley Water Board may take enforcement action, including the assessment of an administrative civil liability. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order, including MRP WQ-2016-0068-DDW-R5023, and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions, as authorized by provision of the California Water Code.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Resources Control Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. The Administrator must submit in writing a Notice of Termination once the Recycled Water Programs have ended.

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating the Salt Control Program and Nitrate Control Program at its 31 May 2018 (Resolution R5-2018-0034). The Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020. On 10 December 2020, the Central Valley Water Board adopted revisions to the Basin Plan amendments with Resolution R5-2020-0057. (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf). Those revisions became effective on 10 November 2021. For the Salt Control Program, SacSewer participates in a basin-wide planning effort (Priority & Optimization Study or P&O Study) to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. SacSewer was issued **CV-SALTS ID: 2428**.

For the Nitrate Control Program, the recycled water use areas fall within the South American Subbasin, which is currently a Non-Prioritized Basin.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

The Discharger must submit all monitoring reports and analytical monitoring results to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) GeoTracker database. GeoTracker is an Internet-accessible database system used by the State Water Board, regional boards, and local agencies to track and archive compliance data from authorized or unauthorized discharges of waste to land, or unauthorized releases of hazardous substances from underground storage tanks. This system consists of a relational database, online compliance reporting features, a geographical information system (GIS) interface, and other features that are utilized by regulatory agencies, regulated industries, and the public to input, manage, or access compliance and regulatory tracking data. Guidance for creating an account and submitting reports to the GeoTracker database is provided in the attached MRP.

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 are available to the public on the internet at the Water Boards Water Quality Petitions webpage (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

Now that this Notice of Applicability has been issued, the Water Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Johnnie Tucker is your point of contact for any questions regarding compliance with the General Order. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Johnnie will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Johnnie at (916) 464-4702 or at Johnnie.Tucker@waterboards.ca.gov.

Digitally signed by
John J. Baum
Date: 2026.11.05
17:43:25 -08'00'

Water Boards

for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachment:

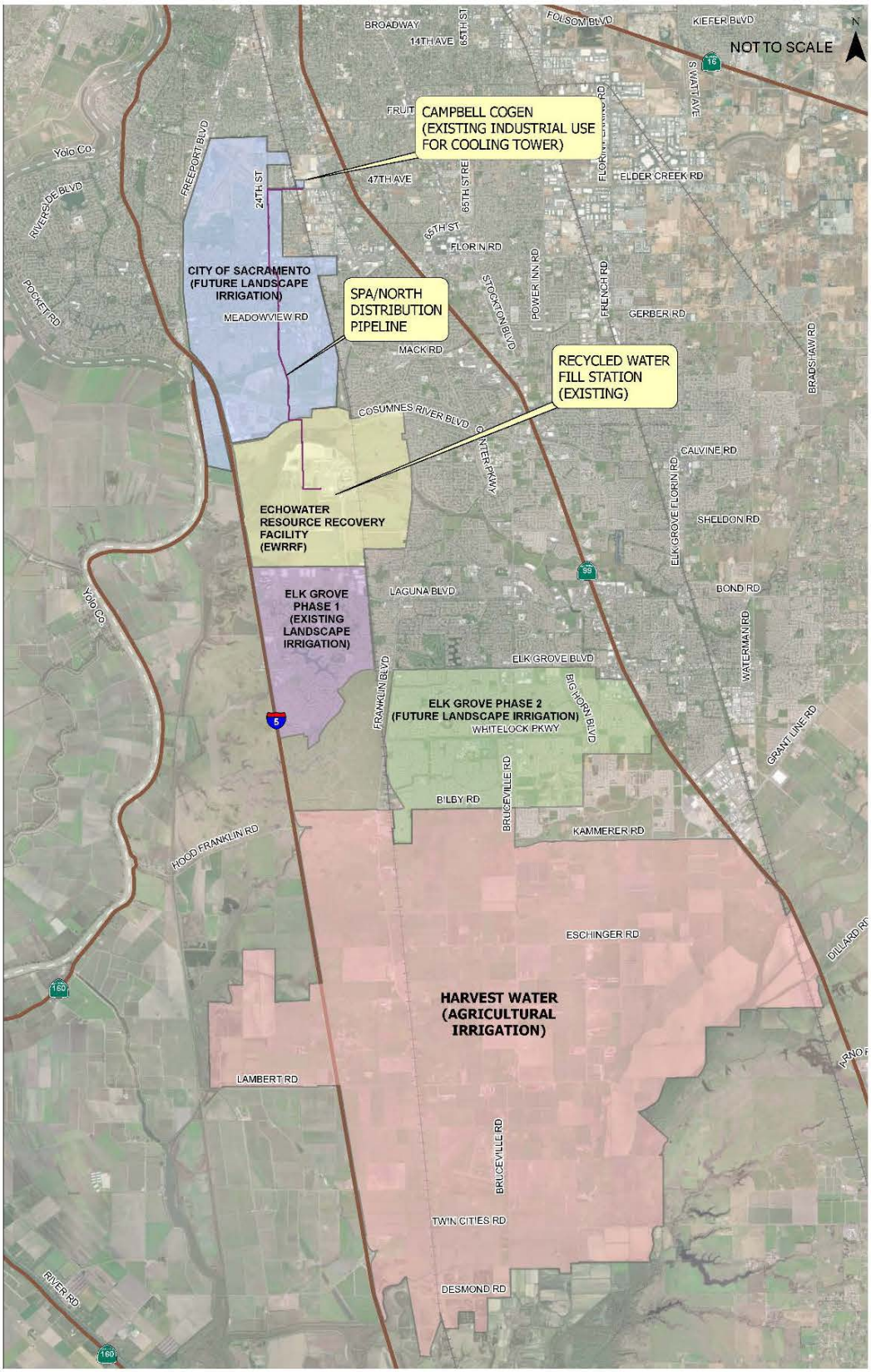
Attachment A: Recycled Water Service Map

Enclosures:

Monitoring and Reporting Program WQ 2016-0068-DDW-R5023
Urban Recycled Water Program Staff Memorandum
Harvest Water Recycled Water Program Staff Memorandum

Cc via email:

Jennea Monasterio, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department
John Nurmi, SacSewer
Heidi Oriol, SacSewer
Jose Ramirez, SacSewer
Ginachi Amah, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
Christopher Barber, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
Howard Hold, Central Valley Water Quality Control Board
Johnnie Tucker, Central Valley Water Quality Control Board



Source: May 2026 NOI Supplemental Information	**RECYCLED WATER SERVICE MAP** SACRAMENTO AREA SEWER DISTRICT URBAN AND HARVEST RECYCLED WATER PROGRAMS

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: 19 December 2022

APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2016-0068-DDW, SACRAMENTO REGIONAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT, URBAN RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM; SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Central Valley Water Board staff reviewed the Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) dated October 2022, for regulatory coverage under Water Quality Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use (hereafter, General Order). The ROWD included a previously approved *Title 22 Engineering Report of the Production, Distribution, and Use of the Recycled Water* dated July 2018 and the *Title 22 Engineering Report (July 2018) for the Production, Distribution and Use of Recycled Water First Amendment* (Amendment) dated September 2022. This memorandum provides a summary of Central Valley Water Board staff's review of the ROWD and the applicability that the proposed recycled water program is eligible for enrollment under the General Order.

Background Information

Regional San (Discharger) owns and operates the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP), which provides tertiary treatment and disinfection. Treated effluent is discharged to the Sacramento River in compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) CA0077682, Order R5-2021-0019-01. Recent treatment upgrades as part of the EchoWater Project include the new biological nutrient removal (BNR) facility and the new tertiary treatment facility (TTF). The TTF has the capacity to produce up to 217 million gallons per day (MGD) of recycled water. However, the Discharger will supply up to 10 MGD of recycled water in accordance with their change petition to reduce the discharge of treated wastewater from the SRWTP into the Sacramento River and direct that water for Regional San's recycled water program.

Historically, the Discharger has operated a 5 MGD tertiary treatment water reclamation facility (WRF) that consisted of chemical conditioning, coagulation, flocculation, filtration, and chlorination to produce recycled water for non-potable uses in accordance with Master Water Reclamation Permit Order No. 97-146. The Master Reclamation Permit allowed for the distribution and use of recycled water for the following use applications:

1. SRWTP - process needs, landscaping, dust control, and construction (soil conditioning, compaction, etc.).

2. Via a Recycled Water Fill Station located at SRWTP for residential and commercial customers during the dry season.

3. Campbell Power Plant (formerly SPA Cogen Facility) – industrial use at the cooling towers.

4. City of Elk Grove Phase I (Laguna West, Lakeside, and Stonelake communities) - landscape irrigation at parks, schools, streetscapes, and commercial and multifamily facilities within Elk Grove.

The new TTF, which provides treatment and disinfection of the secondary effluent from the new BNR facility, will replace the existing WRF, and supply all non-potable reuse water to existing and future users as described in the Notice of Applicability, the July 2018 Title 22 Engineering Report, and September 2022 Title 22 Engineering Report Amendment. Once the TTF is fully functional and reliably producing Title 22 equivalent recycled water, and Regional San has completely transitioned from the WRF to the TTF, Master Reclamation Permit Order No. 97-146 will be rescinded at a future Water Board meeting and the WRF will be decommissioned. Decommissioning of the WRF is anticipated between early spring to early summer of 2023.

Future planned recycled water use includes the following:

1. SRWTP (Nicolaus Dairy) - landscape, garden, and agricultural use and future constructed wetland;

2. SRWTP - agricultural irrigation of Bufferlands north of Morrison Creek;

3. City of Elk Grove Phase II (East Franklin and Laguna Ridge communities) - landscape irrigation to parks, schools, streetscapes, golf courses, and commercial and multifamily facilities;

4. City of Elk Grove Southeast Policy Area (SEPA) – landscape irrigation to parks, schools, golf courses, and streetscapes, and commercial and multifamily facilities;

5. City of Sacramento – landscape irrigation to parks, schools, golf courses, and streetscapes, and commercial and multifamily facilities; and

6. Satellite Recycled Water Fill Station (Intersection of 25th and 24th Street in Sacramento) – City of Sacramento Department of Utilities, municipal, and commercial users.

Recycled Water Program Description

The Discharger will assume the role and responsibility of the “Administrator” under the General Order and will issue permits to recycled water users; train users on proper

recycled water handling; maintain records; conduct periodic oversight and inspections; monitor recycled water quality; and submit reports to the Central Valley Water Board. Portions of the Recycled Water Program administration may be delegated by the Discharger to others including but not limited to the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) or Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) through interagency agreements with the roles and responsibilities varying in each use area as shown in the table below. Roles and responsibilities may change as the demand for recycled water increases. The Discharger is the sole Producer and also serves as one of the Distributors of recycled water under the General Order.

Table 1 - Roles and Responsibilities of Recycled Water Program

Use Area	Production	Transmission	Distribution	Onsite Connection	Inspections	Compliance/ Enforcement	Permit Issuance	Program Administration
SRWTP	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San & EMD	Regional San	Regional San
City of Elk Grove Phase I	Regional San	SCWA	SCWA	SCWA	SCWA	SCWA & EMD	SCWA	Regional San
City of Elk Grove Phase II	Regional San	Regional San & SCWA	SCWA	SCWA	SCWA	SCWA & EMD	SCWA	Regional San
SEPA	Regional San	SCWA	SCWA	SCWA	SCWA	SCWA & EMD	SCWA	Regional San
City of Sacramento (including Satellite Fill Station Users)	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San & EMD	Regional San	Regional San
On-site Fill Station Users	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San	Regional San & EMD	Regional San	Regional San

The ROWD provided a description of the Discharger's Recycled Water Program, including:

- Cross-Connection Control Program,
- Monitoring and Reporting Program,
- User Inspection Program,
- Operations and Maintenance Program,
- Compliance Program,
- Staff and User Training, and
- Emergency Procedures and Notification

Information regarding transporting and hauling of recycled water was provided in the Recycled Water Fill Station Program included as Appendix 12 of the ROWD.

Monitoring Requirements

The monitoring requirements from Attachment B of the General Order that are appropriate for this Discharger are:

- Recycled Water Monitoring,
- Disinfection System Monitoring,
- Pond System Monitoring, and
- Use Area Monitoring.

Regional Water Boards have discretion regarding permitting storage of recycled water in ponds. Therefore, any ponds used for storage of recycled water are required to be monitored. The ROWD states that storage tanks will be encouraged when recycled water storage is needed near use areas. However, as part of a future planned project to provide recycled water to the Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course in the City of Sacramento, recycled water may be stored at the four ponds located at the golf course. The Bartley Cavanaugh Ponds are summarized below. Use of these ponds for recycled water storage shall be monitored.

Table 2 – Storage Capacity of Bartley Cavanaugh Ponds

Pond Number	Location	Storage Capacity
Pond 1	9th and 18th Fairways	14.2 acre-feet
Pond 2	17th Fairway	4.6 acre-feet
Pond 3	12th and 13th Fairways	5.0 acre-feet
Pond 4	6th Fairways	3.7 acre-feet

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 of Intent to comply with the Salt Control Program Option 2 - Alternative Option and participate in the Prioritization and Optimization Study.

For nitrate, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take an alternate compliance approach that involves providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. Dischargers may comply with the new nitrate program either individually or collectively with other dischargers. For the Nitrate Control Program, the recycled water use areas fall within the South American Subbasin, which is a Non-Prioritized Basin. At this time, a Management Zone does not currently exist. The Discharger may be subject to comply with the Nitrate Control Program through a later formed Management Zone.

As these programs are implemented, the Central Valley Water Boards 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 on the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs may be found on the internet (https://www.cvsalinity.org/).

TO: John Murphy
Supervising Geologist

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

Madeline Kelsch
Water Resource Control Engineer

DATE: 5 November 2026

APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2016-0068-DDW, SACRAMENTO AREA SEWER DISTRICT, HARVEST WATER RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM; SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Central Valley Water Board staff reviewed the Notice of Intent (NOI) dated May 2026, submitted by Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) for regulatory coverage under Water Quality Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use (hereafter, General Order). The NOI referenced previously approved Title 22 Engineering Reports for the EchoWater Facility including the *Title 22 Engineering Report of the Production, Distribution, and Use of the Recycled Water* dated July 2018, the *Title 22 Engineering Report (July 2018) for the Production, Distribution and Use of Recycled Water First Amendment* (Amendment) dated September 2022, and the *Harvest Water Recycled Water Distribution and Use Engineering Report* dated March 2025. This memorandum provides a summary of Central Valley Water Board staff's review of the NOI for the Harvest Water Recycled Water program and the applicability that the proposed recycled water program is eligible for enrollment under the General Order. The staff memorandum previously sent on 19 December 2022 provides a summary of the Central Valley Water Board Staffs review of the ROWD for the Urban Water Recycled Water Program.

Background Information

SacSewer (Discharger) owns and operates the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility (EchoWater Facility), which provides tertiary treatment and disinfection. Treated effluent is discharged to the Sacramento River in compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) CA0077682, Order R5-2026-0036. Up to 10 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated effluent is also currently recycled under the Discharger's Urban Water Recycled Water Program for various non-potable uses in the City of Sacramento and the City of Elk Grove.

Historically, the Discharger operated a 5 MGD tertiary treatment water reclamation facility in accordance with Master Water Reclamation Permit Order No. 97-146. Following the EchoWater Facility upgrades completed in 2023, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) issued the Discharger a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for coverage under Water Quality Order

2016-0068-DDW, Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use (General Order) and the Master Water Reclamation Permit was rescinded on 10 August 2023. On 30 January 2023, site specific NOA WQ-2016-0068-DDW-R5023 was issued to the Discharger, allowing for the distribution and use of recycled water for the following use applications:

1. EchoWater Facility - process needs, landscaping, dust control, and construction (soil conditioning, compaction, etc.).

2. Via a Recycled Water Fill Station located at the EchoWater Facility for residential and commercial customers during the dry season.

3. Campbell Power Plant (formerly SPA Cogen Facility) – industrial use at the cooling towers.

4. City of Elk Grove Phase I (Laguna West, Lakeside, and Stonelake communities) - landscape irrigation at parks, schools, streetscapes, and commercial and multifamily facilities within Elk Grove.

Future planned recycled water uses listed in the NOA include:

7. EchoWater Facility (Nicolaus Dairy) - landscape, garden, and agricultural use and future constructed wetland;

8. EchoWater Facility - agricultural irrigation of Bufferlands north of Morrison Creek;

9. City of Elk Grove Phase II (East Franklin and Laguna Ridge communities) - landscape irrigation to parks, schools, streetscapes, golf courses, and commercial and multifamily facilities;

10. City of Elk Grove Southeast Policy Area (SEPA) – landscape irrigation to parks, schools, golf courses, and streetscapes, and commercial and multifamily facilities;

11. City of Sacramento – landscape irrigation to parks, schools, golf courses, and streetscapes, and commercial and multifamily facilities; and

12. Satellite Recycled Water Fill Station (Intersection of 25th and 24th Street in Sacramento) – City of Sacramento Department of Utilities, municipal, and commercial users.

The March 2025 Harvest Water Recycled Water Distribution and Use Engineering Report and May 2026 NOI describe the new Harvest Water Recycled Water Program, that will deliver up to 50,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water produced at the same EchoWater Facility to unincorporated south Sacramento County for agricultural uses. SacSewer met with Central Valley Water Board staff in the early development of the Harvest Water Program, and on 27 June 2022 the Central Valley Water Board issued a letter to SacSewer noting that the future Harvest Water program could be

permitted through NPDES Permit (recycled water treatment), a general order permit (recycled water distribution), and rely on the existing Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and/or Dairy Orders to ensure proper irrigation practices and reporting are implemented for irrigated lands.

Recycled Water Program Description

The Harvest Water Recycled Water Program supports a range of agricultural and ecological uses, including crop and pasture irrigation, nursery operations, and managed wetlands to provide seasonal habitat enhancement. Other infrequent uses of recycled water in the Harvest Water Recycled Water program include emergency fire service, and pipeline dewatering for emergency repairs. Reasonably practical measures for ensuring these uses are consistent with the California Code of Regulations Title 22 Criteria are addressed in the Discharger's Operation and Management Plan.

Recycled water is conveyed south from the EchoWater Facility to unincorporated Sacramento County through 15-mile long transmission pipeline. The Harvest Water service area includes approximately 26 miles of distribution system pipeline, with on-farm connection assemblies providing metering, control, and secure delivery to recycled water users. At the time of NOI submission, the Harvest Water Service Area included 82 users, covering approximately 13,000 acres, with an estimated recycled water demand over 35,000 acre-feet per year.

SacSewer will administer the program under the General Order, issuing permits, performing inspections, and ensuring compliance with monitoring, reporting, backflow prevention, and use-area containment measures. Users supplement recycled water with their existing agricultural wells and must maintain enrollment and compliance under applicable regulatory programs, such as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program or the Dairy General Order, to ensure agronomic use rates and water quality protections are upheld.

The Discharger will assume the role and responsibility of the "Administrator" under the General Order and will issue permits to recycled water users.

Monitoring Requirements

The monitoring requirements from Attachment B of the General Order that are appropriate for this Discharger are:

- Recycled Water Monitoring
- Disinfection System Monitoring
- Pond System Monitoring and
- Use Area Monitoring.

Regional Water Boards have discretion regarding permitting storage of recycled water in ponds. Therefore, any ponds used for storage of recycled water are required to be

monitored. The NOI states that there is one irrigation impoundment located on landlocked property in the northeast portion of the Harvest Water Service Area that will be supplied with recycled water. The irrigation impoundment is located on Assessor's Parcel Number 1340260002 near W Stockton Blvd & Eschinger Rd and has a depth ranging from 4-10 feet and a capacity between 106 to 219 acre-feet. The impoundment is located over 120 ft from the nearest domestic supply well. The site-specific monitoring and reporting plan (MRP) No. 2016-0068-DDW-R5023, requires quarterly monitoring of this pond for freeboard, odors and berm condition.

All agricultural users of recycled water issued a use permit from SacSewer under the Harvest Water Recycled Water Program are required to be permitted under the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Recycled water use area monitoring will be reported under MRP No. 2016-0068-DDW-R5023 for all Harvest Water Users, however nutrient management will continue to be regulated and reported under the ILRP.

Salt and Nitrate Control Programs

As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating the Salt Control Program and Nitrate Control Program at its 31 May 2018 (Resolution R5-2018-0034). The Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020. On 10 December 2020, the Central Valley Water Board adopted revisions to the Basin Plan amendments with Resolution R5-2020-0057. (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf). Those revisions became effective on 10 November 2021.

For the Salt Control Program, the SacSewer participates in a basin-wide planning effort (Priority & Optimization Study or P&O Study) to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. SacSewer was issued **CV-SALTS ID: 2428**.

For the Nitrate Control Program, the recycled water use areas fall within the South American Subbasin, which is a Non-Prioritized Basin.