

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT R5-2015-0540

MANDATORY PENALTY  
IN THE MATTER OF

QUINCY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
QUINCY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
PLUMAS COUNTY

WDID NO. 5A320103001

This Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint) is issued to the Quincy Community Services District (Discharger), Quincy Wastewater Treatment Plant pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13385, which authorizes the imposition of Administrative Civil Liability, CWC section 13323, which authorizes the Executive Officer to issue this Complaint. This Complaint is based on findings that the Discharger violated provisions of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R5-2010-0032 (NPDES No. CA0078981).

The Assistant Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) finds the following:

1. The Discharger owns and operates the Quincy Wastewater Treatment Plant. Treated wastewater is discharged from, Discharge Point D-002 to Spanish Creek, tributary to the North Fork of the Feather River. The North Fork of the Feather River is a water of the United States.
2. On 18 March 2010 and effective the same day, the Central Valley Water Board issued WDRs Order No. R5-2010-0032, which contained new requirements and rescinded WDRs Order No. R5-2004-0152, except for enforcement purposes. At the same time, the Board also issued Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2010-0033. Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2010-0033 required the Quincy Community Services District to comply with interim effluent limitations for copper.
3. This Complaint addresses administrative civil liability for effluent violations that occurred from Discharge Point D-002 during the period from 16 January 2015 through 13 March 2015. These violations are specifically identified in Attachment A to this Complaint as subject to mandatory minimum penalties. Attachment A to this Complaint hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
4. On 16 July 2015 Central Valley Water Board staff issued the Discharger a Notice of Violation and draft Record of Violations for effluent limitation violations from 16 January 2015 through 13 March 2015.

5. Water Code sections 13385(h) and (i) require the assessment of mandatory penalties and state, in part, the following:

Water Code section 13385(h)(1) states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, and except as provided in subdivisions (j), (k), and (l), a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be assessed for each serious violation.

Water Code section 13385 (h)(2) states,

For the purposes of this section, a 'serious violation' means any waste discharge that violates the effluent limitations contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements for a Group II pollutant, as specified in Appendix A to Section 123.45 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by 20 percent or more or for a Group I pollutant, as specified in Appendix A to Section 123.45 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by 40 percent or more.

Water Code section 13385(i)(1) states

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this division, and except as provided in subdivisions (j), (k), and (l), a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be assessed for each violation whenever the person does any of the following four or more times in any period of six consecutive months, except that the requirements to assess the mandatory minimum penalty shall not be applicable to the first three violations.

- a) violates a waste discharge requirement effluent limitation;
- b) fails to file a report pursuant to California Water Code section 13260;
- c) files an incomplete report pursuant to California Water Code section 13260; or
- d) violates a toxicity effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge pollutant-specific effluent limitations for toxic pollutants.

6. Water Code section 13323 states, in part:

Any executive officer of a regional board may issue a complaint to any person on whom administrative civil liability may be imposed pursuant to this article. The complaint shall allege the act or failure to act that constitutes a violation of law, the provision authorizing civil liability to be imposed pursuant to this article, and the proposed civil liability.

7. WDR's Order No. R5-2010-0032 Final Effluent Limitations IV.A. states, in part:

1. Final Effluent Limitations – Discharge Points D- 001 and D-002

d. **Total Residual Chlorine.** Effluent total residual chlorine shall not exceed (*to be sampled at the end of the chlorine contact basin*):

- i. 0.01 mg/L, as a 4-day average; and
- ii. 0.02 mg/L, as a 1-hour average.


8. According to the Discharger's self-monitoring reports, the Discharger committed eight (8) serious Group II violations of the above effluent limitations contained in WDR Order No. R5-2010-0032, as shown in Attachment A. These violations are defined as serious because measured concentrations of Group II constituents exceeded maximum prescribed levels in the WDRs by 20 percent or more. Per 13385(h), the mandatory penalty for these serious violations is three thousand (\$3,000) per violation.
9. The total amount of the mandatory penalties assessed for the alleged effluent violations is **twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000)**. As stated herein, a detailed list of the alleged effluent violations is included in Attachment A. The Complaint addresses administrative civil liability for violations that are specifically identified in Attachment A as subject to mandatory minimum penalties.
10. Issuance of this Administrative Civil Complaint to enforce Water Code Division 7, Chapter 5.5 is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15321 subsection (a)(2).

**QUINCY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, QUINCY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IS HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE THAT:**

1. The Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board proposes that the Discharger be assessed an Administrative Civil Liability in the amount of **twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000)**.
2. A hearing on this matter will be conducted at the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled on **10/11 December 2015**, unless either of the following occurs by **14 October 2015**:
  - a) The Discharger waives the hearing by completing the attached form (checking off the box next to Option #1) and returning it to the Central Valley Water Board, along with payment for the proposed civil liability of **twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000)**; or
  - b) The Central Valley Water Board agrees to postpone the hearing after the Discharger waives its right to a hearing within 90-days of the date of this complaint and requests to engage in settlement discussions by checking off the box next to Option #2 on the attached form, and returns it to the Board along with a letter describing the issues to be discussed; or
  - c) The Central Valley Water Board agrees to postpone the hearing after the Discharger waives its right to a hearing within 90-days of the date of this Complaint and requests a

continuance checking off the box next to Option #3 on the attached form, and returns it to the Board along with a letter describing the issues to be discussed.

3. If a hearing on this matter is conducted, the Central Valley Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed Administrative Civil Liability, or whether to refer the matter to the Attorney General for recovery of judicial civil liability.

 for  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLINT E. SNYDER, P.G.  
Assistant Executive Officer  
  
14 Sept 2015  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Attachment A: Record of Violations

**WAIVER FORM  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT**

By signing this waiver, I affirm and acknowledge the following:

I am duly authorized to represent the Quincy Community Services District (Discharger) in connection with Administrative Civil Liability Complaint **R5-2015-0540** - (Complaint). I am informed that California Water Code section 13323, subdivision (b), states that, "a hearing before the regional board shall be conducted within 90 days after the party has been served. The person who has been issued a complaint may waive the right to a hearing."

**(OPTION 1: Check here if the Discharger waives the hearing requirement and will pay in full.)**

- a. I hereby waive any right the Discharger may have to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board.
- b. I certify that the Discharger will remit payment for the proposed civil liability in the full amount of **twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000)** by check that references "ACL Complaint **R5-2015-0540**" made payable to the *State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account*. The check shall be sent to, "State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Administrative Services, ATTN: ACL Payment, P.O. Box 1888, Sacramento, California 95812-1888. Payment must be received by **14 October 2015**.
- c. I understand the payment of the above amount constitutes a proposed settlement of the Complaint, and that any settlement will not become final until after a 30-day public notice and comment period. Should the Central Valley Water Board receive significant new information or comments during this comment period, the Central Valley Water Board's Executive Officer may withdraw the complaint, return payment, and issue a new complaint. I also understand that approval of the settlement will result in the Discharger having waived the right to contest the allegations in the Complaint and the imposition of civil liability.
- d. I understand that payment of the above amount is not a substitute for compliance with applicable laws and that continuing violations of the type alleged in the Complaint may subject the Discharger to further enforcement, including additional civil liability.

**(OPTION 2: Check here if the Discharger waives the 90-day hearing requirement in order to engage in settlement discussions.)** I hereby waive any right the Discharger may have to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board within 90 days after service of the complaint, but I reserve the ability to request a hearing in the future. I certify that the Discharger will promptly engage the Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team in settlement discussions to attempt to resolve the outstanding violation(s). By checking this box, the Discharger requests that the Central Valley Water Board delay the hearing so that the Discharger and the Prosecution Team can discuss settlement. It remains within the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board to agree to delay the hearing. Any proposed settlement is subject to the conditions described above under "Option 1."

**(OPTION 3: Check here if the Discharger waives the 90-day hearing requirement in order to extend the hearing date and/or hearing deadlines. Attach a separate sheet with the amount of additional time requested and the rationale.)** I hereby waive any right the Discharger may have to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board within 90 days after service of the complaint. By checking this box, the Discharger requests that the Central Valley Water Board delay the hearing and/or hearing deadlines so that the Discharger may have additional time to prepare for the hearing. It remains within the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board to approve the extension.

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(Print Name and Title)

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(Signature)

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(Date)

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT NO. R5-2015-0540**

**Quincy Community Services District**  
**Quincy Wastewater Treatment**  
**CALCULATION OF MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES**

**RECORD OF VIOLATION (16 January 2015 – 13 March 2015) MANDATORY PENALTIES**  
(Data reported under Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2010-0032)

Violation Date	Discharge Point	Parameter	Units	Effluent Limit	Reported Value	Percent Exceedance	Period	Violation Type	CIWQS ID	MMP Amount
1/16/2015	D-002	Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.02	0.07	350%	1-Hour Average	Serious, Group II	988680	\$3,000
1/20/2015	D-002	Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.01	0.03	300%	4-Day Average	Serious, Group II	988682	\$3,000
1/23/2015	D-002	Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.02	0.14	700%	1-Hour Average	Serious, Group II	988681	\$3,000
2/5/2015	D-002	Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.02	0.29	1450%	1-Hour Average	Serious, Group II	988691	\$3,000
2/6/2015	D-002	Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.02	0.09	450%	1-Hour Average	Serious, Group II	988692	\$3,000
2/9/2015	D-002	Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.02	0.38	1900%	1-Hour Average	Serious, Group II	988694	\$3,000
2/20/2015	D-002	Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.02	0.09	450%	1-Hour Average	Serious, Group II	988693	\$3,000
3/13/2015	D-002	Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.02	0.30	1500%	1-Hour Average	Serious, Group II	990472	\$3,000
									<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>

Notes: Serious Group I: any waste discharge that exceeds the effluent limitations for a group I pollutant by 40% or more.  
Serious Group II: any waste discharge that exceeds the effluent limitations for a group II pollutant by 20% or more.