

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2023-0027

AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER
R5-2016-0092
FOR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION
PLEASANT VALLEY STATE PRISON
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
FRESNO COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereafter Central Valley Water Board or Board) finds that:

Background

1. On 6 August 2015, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR or Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for proposed upgrades to the Pleasant Valley State Prison wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The proposed upgrades consisting of upgrading the WWTF to produce disinfected tertiary wastewater.
2. On 6 December 2016, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2016-0092, prescribing requirements for the WWTF. WDRs Order R5-2016-0092 authorized the continued discharge of disinfected secondary wastewater from the WWTF until the proposed WWTF upgrades were completed allowing the WWTF to produce disinfected tertiary wastewater.
3. On 9 June 2017, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Order R5-2017-0072, which amended WDRs Order R5-2016-0092 by making specific corrections to Effluent Limitations C.1.d and Provision G.13.
4. Effluent Limitations C.2. of WDRs Order R5-2016-0092 states the following:
 - a) *Effluent shall not exceed the following limitations when disinfected tertiary wastewater is discharged and once Provision G.13 has been satisfied and approved by the Executive Officer. [Compliance shall be determined at EFF-0011]*

Constituent	Units	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum
<i>BOD₅ (See 1 below)</i>	<i>mg/L</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>

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Constituent	Units	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum
TSS (See 2 below)	mg/L	10	20
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	10	---

1. *Five-day biochemical oxygen demand at 20°C.*
 2. *Total Suspended Solids.*
- b) *The arithmetic mean of BOD₅ and TSS in effluent samples collected over a monthly period shall not exceed 10 percent of the arithmetic mean of the values for influent samples collected at approximately the same times during the same period (90 percent removal).*
 - c) *The 12-month rolling average EC of the discharge shall not exceed the 12-month rolling average EC of the source water plus 500 µmhos/cm. Compliance with this effluent limitation shall be determined monthly.*
 - d) *The median concentration of total coliform bacteria in disinfected tertiary recycled water shall not exceed the following (Title 22, section 60301.230(b)):*
 - i. *a MPN of 2.2 total coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters utilizing the bacteriological results of the last seven days for which the analyses have been completed; and*
 - ii. *an MPN of 23 total coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters in more than one sample in any 30-day period; and*
 - iii. *a MPN of 240 total coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters at any time.*
5. WDRs Order R5-2016-0092, Provision G.13 (per Amendment Order R5-2017-0072) states the following:
 13. ***Upon completion of construction and prior to operation of the WWTF, the Discharger shall submit a technical report in the form of an engineering report and certification that demonstrates the upgrades to the WWTF have been completed and the effluent can meet the requirements of disinfected tertiary wastewater for Executive Officer approval. Upon approval of the engineering report from the Executive Officer the Discharger shall comply with WDRs Order R5-2016-0092, Effluent Limitations C.2.a through C.2.d and continue monitoring in accordance to the requirements in Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2016-0092.***
 6. On 30 April 2021, CDCR submitted a technical report titled *Engineer's Certification Report for Wastewater Treatment Upgrade for the Production of Title 22 Recycled Water at California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Pleasant Valley State Prison Wastewater Treatment Plant Coalinga, CA (2021 Technical Report)*. The stated

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purpose of the 2021 Technical Report is to satisfy Provision G.13. According to the 2021 Technical Report, the WWTF features a mechanically cleaned bar screen, a manual bar screen, four aerations ponds operated in series, a suspended air flotation unit (SAF), three dual media filters operated in parallel, two six-pass serpentine chlorine contact tanks (CCT) operated in series, and four effluent storage ponds. Sodium hypochlorite is injected at a point located at the beginning of the first CCT.

7. Mechanical completion and startup for the tertiary process began in November 2017. The startup process was extended after several mechanical issues were encountered such as difficulties with valve position feedback, failure of the filter system, corrosion issues affecting SAF operation, thickened algae on the rotary lobe pump etc. After mechanical and operational issues were resolved, a 30-day operational test was conducted between November 1 through November 30 in 2020 to demonstrate the WWTF's ability to comply with disinfected tertiary effluent requirements in WDRs Order R5-2016-0092. Results from the 30-day operational test showed that the WWTF's disinfected tertiary treatment system could comply with the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), total nitrogen, electrical conductivity (EC), and total coliform effluent limitations established Effluent Limitations C.2. of WDRs Order R5-2016-0092.
8. Based on the test results and findings submitted in the 2021 Technical Report, the Central Valley Water Board has determined the Discharger has satisfied Provision G.13 of WDRs Order R5-2016-0092 and that the Discharge should be required to comply with the disinfected tertiary effluent limitations in Effluent Limitations C.2.

California Environment Quality Act

9. This action to amend WDRs Order R5-2016-0092 is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, which exempts the "operation, repair, maintenance, [and] permitting ... of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features" from environmental review.

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Public Notice

10. The Discharger, interested agencies and other interested persons were notified of the Central Valley Water Board's intent to prescribe the WDRs in this Order, and provided an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations at a public hearing. (See California Water Code, section 13167.5.)
11. The Central Valley Water Board, in a public meeting, heard, and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant sections 13263 and 13267 of the California Water Code, Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2016-0092 is amended to confirm that Discharger's 2021 Technical Report has satisfied Provision G.13. Therefore, the Discharger shall comply with Effluent Limitations C.2.a through C.2.d in WDRs Order R5-2016-0092 (starting 1 July 2023) and continue monitoring in accordance to the requirements in Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2016-0092. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Pleasant Valley State Prison, its agents, successors, and assigns, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with amended Order R5-2016-0092 as follows:

Effluent Limitation C.2 shall be modified as shown below (shown using strikeout/underline):

2. *Effluent shall not exceed the following limitations **beginning 1 July 2023**~~when disinfected tertiary wastewater is discharged and once Provision G.13 has been satisfied and approved by the Executive Officer. [Compliance shall be determined at EFF-001']~~*

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Order, 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 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:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality

or will be provided upon request.

This Order is effective as of the date of adoption.

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I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 22 June 2023.

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer