
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: David Durette, PE
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

FROM: Melissa Buciak, PG
Engineering Geologist

DATE: 6 November 2025

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF NITROGEN AND SETBACK CONDITIONS FOR
EAGLE RIDGE RV PARK, WATER QUALITY ORDER 2014-0153-DWQ-R5430,
BLAIRSDEN-GRAEAGLE, PLUMAS COUNTY**

Nitrogen is a nutrient normally present in domestic wastewater at a concentration that can degrade groundwater quality. The potential for degradation depends upon the wastewater treatment method and the environment into which the wastewater effluent is discharged. Nitrogen concentration reduction is not required in every situation, such as when wastewater treatment and application is performed in a way that is protective of the beneficial uses of water. Eagle Ridge RV Park's wastewater treatment and disposal system (Facility) case file was reviewed, including the October 2005 Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) and recent monitoring results. The purpose of the review is to determine if a nitrogen effluent limit should be imposed.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The Facility is owned by Virginia Bertrand and operated by Michael Bertrand (Dischargers) at 1519 Johnsville, Road, Blairsden-Graeagle, Plumas County (Section 9, T22N, R12E, MDB&M). The wastewater collection system is designed to collect approximately 5,400 gallons per day (gpd) of domestic wastewater which then is discharged between two leachfields.

POTENTIAL THREATS TO WATER QUALITY

Surface water drainage is to the Middle Fork of the Feather River, which flows into Lake Oroville. The water from this reservoir is then released into the Feather River, which joins the Sacramento River. Per Table 3 of Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ

(General Order), the setback requirements for a flowing stream are 50 feet for the septic tanks and 100 feet for leach fields. The Middle Fork of the Feather River is located greater than 100 feet from the Facility, therefore meets the setback requirements outlined in the General Order.

Domestic water for Eagle Ridge RV Park is supplied by an onsite well located upgradient of the Facility. The water system is regulated by the Plumas County Environmental Health Department.

NITROGEN EFFLUENT LIMIT EVALUATION

The General Order requires that the effluent limit for nitrogen be determined based on procedures in Attachment 1, which is a two-step process. In the first step, applicability of a nitrogen effluent limit is determined based on the flow rate and site-specific characteristics of the receiving environment; in the second step effluent limits are selected based on further evaluation of level of threat related to the site-specific characteristics of the discharge and the receiving environment.

Step A – Flow and Site-Specific Considerations

A1 Exceed 20,000 gpd Flow Rate? The General Order allows a flow rate up to 100,000 gpd. However, discharges with flow rates of less than 20,000 gpd are not required to meet a nitrogen effluent limit.

The Facility is designed to collect approximately 5,400 gpd and to date, the average daily flow in 2025 was approximately 1,500 gpd.

Per requirements of Order 2014-0153-DWQ, because the discharge flow rate does not exceed 20,000 gpd, a nitrogen effluent limit is not required.