Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
9/10 June 2022 Board Meeting

Response to Comments
for the
Bear Valley Water District
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements

The following are Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff responses to comments submitted by interested persons and parties regarding the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit CA0085146 renewal for the Bear Valley Water District (Discharger) Bear Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility).

The tentative NPDES Permit was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 6 April 2022 with comments due by 6 May 2022. The Central Valley Water Board received public comments regarding the tentative Permit by the due date from the Discharger. Some changes were made to the proposed Permit based on public comments received.

The submitted comments were accepted into the record, and are summarized below, followed by Central Valley Water Board staff responses.

DISCHARGER COMMENTS

1. **Recycled Water Annual Reports.**

   The Discharger requested that Attachment E, Section X.D.3, Table E-10 be updated to include Recycled Water Policy Annual Reports, and that associated table references be corrected to Table E-10.

   RESPONSE:
   Central Valley Water Board staff concur and have added the Recycled Water Policy Annual Reports to Table E-10 and corrected minor typos related to table numbering.

2. **Mixing Zone Analysis Requirement for ROWD.**

   The Discharger requested clarification be added about what is required in Attachment E, Section X.D.4.f “mixing zone analysis” for the ROWD if requesting a mixing zone for the next permit renewal.

   RESPONSE:
   Central Valley Water Board staff concur and have added clarifying language as follows:

"If flow conditions in the receiving water and effluent discharge have not changed since the last mixing zone dilution study was conducted, the ROWD may include a request for continuation of dilution credits based on the last mixing zone dilution study. However, the mixing zone analysis shall include updated background receiving water monitoring data demonstrating assimilative capacity is available and updated effluent data to determine Facility performance and demonstrate the need for allowance of a mixing zone for each constituent. In addition, any source control measures that have been implemented or are proposed to be implemented, if applicable, shall be discussed in the mixing zone request."

3. **Copper Maximum Background Concentration.**

The Discharger asked for clarification in Attachment F, Section IV.C.2.c.v.c about using the maximum background copper concentration of 0.24 ug/L.

RESPONSE:
Central Valley Water Board staff conducted the RPA based on data collected from March 2017 through May 2020 during periods of discharge, which includes effluent and ambient background data. The Discharger provided a memo on 20 September 2021, which stated that the effluent and receiving water data collected during 2017 should not be used for the RPA or effluent limitation calculations. The 2016/2017 snow year was extraordinary and exhibited 98.36 inches in total precipitation, which exceeds the 1 in 100-year total precipitation of 83 inches. Considering this information, the data was determined to not be representative of the discharge and was removed from the dataset. Since the only background receiving water sampling event during the term of the permit was conducted in 2017, the background receiving water sample from 2016 (0.24 µg/L sampled on 24 May 2016) was used for conducting the RPA and calculating the water quality-based effluent limitations.

4. **Mixing Zone Size for Aluminum.**

The Discharger commented that the aluminum text section in Attachment F, Section IV.C.2.c.v.a, reads that the mixing zone length is 14 feet, but Table F-5 on page F-30 shows the aluminum mixing zone as 18 feet long. Further, the aluminum text section notes a chronic aquatic life dilution credit of 4.8:1, but Table F-5 on page F-30 shows a chronic dilution credit of 3.6:1. The Discharger requests clarification on this.

RESPONSE:
Central Valley Water Board staff concur there were typographical errors and have revised the proposed Order to correct the inconsistencies. The aluminum

mixing zone is 14 feet long based on acute and chronic dilution credits of 3.8:1 and 3.6:1, respectively.

5. **Mixing Zone Size for Ammonia.**

   The Discharger commented that the ammonia text in Attachment F, Section IV.C.2.c.v.b reads that the mixing zone length is 4 feet, but Table F-5 on page F-30 shows the ammonia mixing zone as 18 feet long. The Discharger requests clarification on this.

   RESPONSE:
   Central Valley Water Board staff concur there were typographical errors and have revised the proposed Order to correct the inconsistencies. The ammonia mixing zone is 4 feet long based on acute and chronic dilution credits of 1.9:1.

6. **Exclusion of 2017 Effluent and Receiving Water Data.**

   The Discharger requested the reasonable potential analyses discussed in Attachment F, Section IV.C.3.b.iv.(b) for copper and Section IV.C.3.b.v.(b) for lead, include a discussion noting that the 2017 data set was excluded.

   RESPONSE:
   Central Valley Water Board staff concur and have added clarifying language to both sections.

7. Other **Editorial Comments.**

   The Discharger notes other editorial comments, cross-references, and clarifications that should be corrected in the proposed Order.

   RESPONSE:
   Central Valley Water Board staff concur and have modified the proposed Order accordingly.