

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

RENEWAL OF GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
(PERMIT CAG585001)

FOR

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER DISCHARGERS THAT MEET OBJECTIVES/CRITERIA
AT THE POINT OF DISCHARGE TO SURFACE WATER

Discharger and Tentative Order Information

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted General Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Wastewater Dischargers That Meet Objectives/Criteria at the Point of Discharge to Surface Water (Municipal General Order) on 11 August 2017 and amended the Municipal General Order on 16 April 2020 and 21 April 2022. The Municipal General Order is for major and minor discharges from publicly-owned treatment works or privately owned treatment works that provide secondary, advanced-secondary, or tertiary treatment for municipal and domestic wastewater and can comply with effluent limitations at the point of discharge to receiving surface waters within the Central Valley Region.

The tentative Order proposes the following significant changes from the existing Municipal General Order:

- Removal of redundant mass-based effluent limitations;
- Addition of screening levels, effluent limitations, and effluent monitoring for priority pollutants;
- Updated screening levels for ammonia, mercury, and aluminum based on revised criteria;
- Updated effluent limitations for ammonia and aluminum based on revised criteria;
- New requirements for implementing the [Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability Program](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/);
- New requirements for discharges to spray fields;
- New requirements for producers of recycled water who have enrolled under General Order for Water Recycling Requirements (WQ 2016-0068-DDW) and want to maintain coverage under the Municipal General Order;

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- New water-effects ratios for the City of Jackson Wastewater Treatment Plant and City of Clovis Sewage Treatment and Water Reuse Facility; and,
- Groundwater seepage monitoring for the City of Colfax

Additionally, the tentative Order proposes effluent limitations and other requirements to implement the *State Policy for Water Quality Control: [Toxicity Provisions](#)* (as amended Oct. 5, 2021)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/state_implementation_policy/aquatic_toxicity.html), while also maintaining existing effluent limitations and requirements similar to the existing Municipal General Order. The existing Municipal General Order toxicity effluent limitations and requirements are based on the Basin Plan's narrative toxicity objective and the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (2005). Including both sets of effluent limitations and requirements allows the Central Valley Water Board the ability to implement the appropriate requirements and effluent limitations, as applicable, depending on which provisions are in effect at the time of issuance of future Notices of Applicability under the proposed Order.

Public Hearing Date and Location

A public hearing concerning the tentative Order will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled for:

DATE: **27/28 April 2023**

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Online Meeting

AND

Kern County Board of Supervisors Chambers

1115 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

The [final meeting agenda](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) will be available at least **10 days** before the meeting. The agenda will provide the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item and anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the tentative Order.

Nature and Purpose of Hearing

At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will hear testimony and oral comments regarding the tentative Order. This proceeding will be a formal adjudicatory proceeding. The [procedures governing Central Valley Water Board adjudicatory hearings](#) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. and are available upon request.

Prehearing Submission of Written Comments and Evidence

Dischargers enrolled under the Municipal General Order are parties to this

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proceeding. As a party, the Discharger must submit written evidence or comments, if any, for the Board to consider no later than 5:00 p.m. on **7 April 2023** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Interested persons include any non-party that is interested in the outcome of the hearing. Interested persons wishing to comment, in writing, on the tentative Order shall submit comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **7 April 2023** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4, the Board Chair may refuse to admit written evidence or comments that are not submitted in accordance with this Notice and shall refuse to do so when there is a showing of prejudice to the Discharger or the Board. Excluded material will not be considered by the Board.

Visual Presentations

Hearing participants may use PowerPoint or other visual presentations at the hearing, but the presentation content shall not exceed the scope of previously submitted written material. Presentations, if any, must be provided to the below Central Valley Water Board Contact by 12:00 p.m. on **25 April 2023**.

Hearing Procedure and Time Limits

The hearing on the tentative Order will be conducted in the general order listed under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.5, except that the Board Chair may modify the order for good cause.

Dischargers will be advised in advance of the hearing of the total amount of time allocated for their presentation and closing statement. Dischargers are invited to contact staff in advance of the hearing to discuss how much time they believe is necessary.

Interested persons may speak at the hearing and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals, if any. Each interested person will have 3 minutes to present oral comments. Additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Hearing Accommodations

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call 916-464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Availability of Documents

The tentative Order and related documents may be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders Page](#)

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(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's Rancho Cordova office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670-6114; Fresno Office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706-2007; or Redding Office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, #205, Redding, California 96002 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Scheduling an appointment to review the file by contacting the below Central Valley Water Board Contact in advance is not required but calling ahead will help ensure timely access to these documents.

Central Valley Water Board Contact

Anyone having questions regarding this hearing item should contact Michelle Snapp at (916) 464-4824 or Michelle.Snapp@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

ADAM LAPUTZ, Assistant Executive Officer
8 March 2023