

**17 APRIL 2026 BOARD MEETING
CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 11

SUBJECT:

Following are proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). Items indicated as updates on the summary agenda make the requirements consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of revised WDRs.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Firebaugh (City or Discharger) owns and operates the Firebaugh Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) and the adjacent land application areas (LAAs) at 8000 Helm Canal Road, Firebaugh, CA in Fresno County. The WWTF treats domestic wastewater from the City of Firebaugh and currently discharges wastewater to land via several onsite evaporation/percolation ponds located. The City is proposing substantial upgrades to the WWTF through funding from the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance's Clean Water State Revolving Funds.

Discharge from the WWTF is currently regulated under WDRs 98-230, which authorizes a discharge of up to 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd) to approximately 105 acres of reclamation areas owned by the Discharger. The proposed WDRs would revise the WWTF's current waste discharge requirements to reflect proposed treatment system upgrades.

The proposed WWTF upgrades include replacement of the current treatment system (aeration treatment ponds) with an extended aeration activated sludge system with biological nutrient removal, and conversion of some unlined disposal ponds to lined ponds for long term recycled water storage. The proposed WDRs include an effluent flow limit of 1.5 mgd, effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), and total nitrogen, establish a Salinity Action Level of 2,250 umhos/cm for electrical conductivity (calculated as an annual average), and requires compliance with the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs, via participation in the Prioritization and Optimization Study and the local Nitrate Management Zone, respectively. Additionally, the proposed WDRs would require the Discharger to prepare and implement a Salinity Minimization and Evaluation Plan, Wastewater and Nutrient Management Plan, an Operation and Maintenance Plan, a Post Construction Report, a Groundwater Quality Study Report, and store domestic wastewater and solids in/on engineered lined surfaces prior to land application or removal.

ISSUES

Comments were received from Central Valley Clean Water Association on 16 March 2026 and from Mr. David Wells on 17 March 2026. A Response to Comments

document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses from Central Valley Water Board staff. Revisions were made to the tentative WDRs based on the comments received, and other minor edits to improve clarity.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	ASM 3/19/26
Legal Review:	CM 3.20/26

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

City of Clovis Council Chambers
1033 Fifth Street
Clovis, CA 93612

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE