

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION  
1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706-2007

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

concerning

**TENTATIVE ORDERS**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER **R5 2025-XXXX**  
AND TIME SCHEDULE ORDER **R5-2025-XXXX****

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM  
PERMIT CA0081759**

**FOR**

**THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK  
EL PORTAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY,  
MARIPOSA COUNTY**

**Discharger and Tentative Order Information**

The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park Service (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), located at 5083 Foresta Road, El Portal, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the community of El Portal and the Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park. The Facility provides tertiary treatment for up to an average monthly daily flow of 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The Facility is permitted to discharge tertiary-treated wastewater to the Merced River, a water of the United States, either directly or via adjacent percolation ponds.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will consider the renewal of the Waste Discharge Requirements/NPDES Permit for the discharge described above. The proposed NPDES permit includes new or updated effluent limitations for ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, copper, total suspended solids and zinc. The proposed permit removes effluent limitations for acute toxicity, electrical conductivity, and mass based effluent limits for phosphorus. The electrical conductivity effluent limit will be replaced by an effluent trigger that, if exceeded, will trigger an evaluation of salinity sources and an update to the Discharger's Salinity Evaluation and Minimization Plan.

The Discharger submitted an infeasibility analysis requesting time to come into compliance with the final effluent limitations for total copper and total zinc. Therefore, a Time Schedule Order is proposed containing a schedule for compliance with final effluent limitations by 31 May 2030.

### **Public Hearing Date and Location**

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

DATE: 24-25 April 2025  
TIME: 8:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1685 "E" Street, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93706  
(Physical Meeting Location with Remote Meeting Option)

The [final meeting agenda](#) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/](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 Orders.

### **Nature and Purpose of Hearing**

At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will hear testimony and oral comments regarding the tentative Orders. This proceeding will be a formal adjudicatory proceeding. The [procedures governing Central Valley Water Board adjudicatory hearings](#) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/](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**

The **Discharger** is a party to this 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 March 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board email at [CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov) and copy [Lovdeep.Singh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lovdeep.Singh@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 Orders shall submit comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **7 March 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board email at [CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov) and copy [Lovdeep.Singh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lovdeep.Singh@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.

### **Requesting Party Status**

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a party must submit a request in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on **7 March 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board email at [CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov) and copy [Lovdeep.Singh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lovdeep.Singh@waterboards.ca.gov). The request must include facts demonstrating how the person will be substantially affected by the proceeding.

The Board Chair will not designate a person as a party if the Board Chair determines the designation will impair the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding. The Board Chair, when granting a request for party status, may impose restrictions on the requestor's hearing participation, including limiting or excluding the use of cross-examination and other procedures to promote the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding.

### **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 **21 April 2025**.

### **Hearing Procedure and Time Limits**

The hearing on the tentative Orders 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.

The **Discharger** will be advised in advance of the hearing of the total amount of time allocated for its presentation and closing statement. The Discharger is invited to contact staff in advance of the hearing to discuss how much time it believes 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](mailto: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.

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EL PORTAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
MARIPOSA COUNTY

**Availability of Documents**

The tentative Orders and related documents may be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](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 office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706-2007 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 Lovdeep Singh at (559) 445-5130 or at [Lovdeep.Singh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lovdeep.Singh@waterboards.ca.gov).

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

*Original signed by Alexander Mushegan*  
ALEXANDER MUSHEGAN, Supervising Engineer