

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
17/18 February 2022 Board Meeting

Response to Comments
for the
City of Lathrop
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 parties regarding the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit CA0085359 for the City of Lathrop (Discharger) Consolidated Treatment Facility (Facility).

The tentative NPDES Permit was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 19 November 2021 with comments due by 20 December 2021. 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 Discharger submitted minor editorial changes which included correcting typographical errors and clarifying changes, all of which were accepted by Central Valley Water Board staff. The submitted comments were accepted into the record, and are summarized below, followed by Central Valley Water Board staff responses.

DISCHARGER COMMENTS

1. Pretreatment Requirements.

The proposed Order requires the Discharger develop and submit an Industrial Pretreatment Program by 1 February 2024. The Discharger requests language be added to section VI.C.5 of the Waste Discharge Requirements (Pretreatment Requirements) to make it clear that the pretreatment requirements are not effective until the Industrial Pretreatment Program is approved by the Central Valley Water Board.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised the proposed Order accordingly.

2. Compliance Determination for Temperature Effluent Limitation.

The Discharger requests language be revised in section VII.G to clarify how temperature measurements collected after the cooling ponds (at EFF-002) will be used to determine compliance. For example, when the cooling ponds are in use

effluent temperature will be taken after the cooling ponds at EFF-002, in lieu of the temperature at monitoring location EFF-001.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised the section per the comment.

- 3. Compliance Determination for Delta Regional Monitoring Program (DRMP).**
The Discharger requests the last sentence of Compliance Determination Section VII.N be removed because the sentence refers to a section of the Monitoring and Reporting Program that does not describe how DRMP, or other data, can be used to evaluate compliance with the Order.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has deleted the sentence per the comment.

4. Attachment B - Map

The Discharger requests the EFF-001 shown on the map in Attachment B be revised to Discharge Point No. 001

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised EFF-001 to Discharge Point 001.

5. Attachment C – Flow Schematic

The Discharger provided an updated facility process flow diagram which includes the dechlorination system that will be constructed prior to initiating discharge. The Discharger requests that the revised flow schematic be incorporated into Attachment C of the Order.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has included the updated facility process flow diagram in Attachment C of the Order.

6. Attachment E – Table E-1. EFF-001 Description

The Discharger requests to change the description of Monitoring Location EFF-001 in Table E-1 because it believes it would require the Discharger to furnish an additional flow meter. The Discharger can monitor the effluent flow to the San Joaquin River that comes directly from dechlorination or through the cooling ponds, without installing a second flow meter.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs that it was not intended to require an additional flow meter and have revised the proposed Order to clarify that the flow meter is located downstream of EFF-001. In addition, the requirement for flow monitoring at monitoring location EFF-002 has been removed because it is unnecessary.

7. Attachment E – Table E-4. Dissolved Oxygen at EFF-002.

The Discharger requests that the Minimum Sampling Frequency for dissolved oxygen be changed from two per month to once every two weeks to avoid the need to take multiple dissolved oxygen measurements on a single day for short duration discharges through the cooling ponds.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs that the Minimum Sampling Frequency for dissolved oxygen at monitoring location EFF-002 should be clarified to avoid the Discharger needing to take multiple dissolved oxygen samples on a single day for short duration discharges through the cooling ponds. Central Valley Water Board staff revised the Tentative Order to include table notes for Tables E-3 (EFF-001 Monitoring requirements) and E-4 (EFF-002 Monitoring requirements). Central Valley Water Board staff also revised Table E-11 of the Tentative Order to include a monitoring period description for a Sampling Frequency of twice per month that addresses the Discharger's concern.

8. Attachment E – Frequency of Sensitive Species Testing, Attachment E Section V.E.

The Discharger requests a clarifying change regarding the need to conduct a second set of most sensitive species testing for chronic toxicity only if there are significant changes to the nature of the effluent after the initial screening.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised the section per the comment.

9. Attachment E – Table E-12. Technical Reports.

The Discharger noted various revisions or additions are needed for the Technical Reports Table, including revising the Report of Waste Discharge due date, adding a Local Limit evaluation, and adding progress reports for the Salinity Best Management Practices Plan.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised the Report of Waste Discharge due date and included the Salinity Best Management Practice Plan annual reports on the Technical Reports Table. The Local Limit Evaluation was added to the requirements to be submitted with the Report of Waste Discharge, section X.D.3.f.

10.Attachment F – Planned Changes, Section II.E.

The Discharger requests language to clarify the plans to increase the Facility permitted flow.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised the section per the comment.

11.Attachment F – Mercury Water Quality Objective, Section IV.C.3.a.ii.

The Discharger requests language to clarify that the Facility is being granted a portion of the unassigned waste load allocation permitted by the Delta Mercury Control Program.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised the section per the comment.

12.Attachment F – Chloroform Plant Performance and Attainability, Section IV.C.3.c.v.(d).

The Discharger requests to remove the inaccurate reference to volatilization being used for the development of the chloroform effluent limitation.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised the section per the comment.

13.Attachment F – Dichlorobromomethane (DCBM) Plant Performance and Attainability, Section IV.C.3.c.vi.(d).

The Discharger requests to reference the Maximum Effluent Concentration for dichlorobromomethane from the chlorine optimization testing scenarios when the Chlorine Contact Time was less than 450 milligrams minutes per milliliter, which provides a more accurate representation of the Facility performance for the surface water discharge.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has revised the section per the comment.

14.Attachment F – Figure F-3. WET Accelerated Monitoring Flow Chart.

The Discharge requests the WET accelerated monitoring flow chart be revised since decision No. 3 on the flowchart is reversed from what it should read.

RESPONSE: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has corrected the question for decision No. 3 on the flowchart text.