



**CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**

**895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401**

**PROPOSED GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
ORDER NO. R3-2020-0020**

**FOR  
DISCHARGES FROM DOMESTIC WASTEWATER SYSTEMS  
WITH FLOWS GREATER THAN 100,000 GALLONS PER DAY**



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**I. List of Frequently Used Acronyms and Abbreviations**

Antidegradation Policy	State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16
Basin Plan (BP)	Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CWC	California Water Code
DDW	State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
e.g.	Latin <i>exempli gratia</i> (for example)
General Permit	General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2020-0020
MCL	Maximum contaminant level
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
MRP	General Monitoring and Reporting Program
N	Nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
Central Coast Water Board	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Recycled Water Policy	State Water Board's Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water
RV	Recreational vehicle
State Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board
title 22	California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4, chapter 3
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements
Wastewater System	Wastewater treatment and disposal system

**II. Findings**

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) finds that:

**A. Background Information**

1. California Water Code section 13260(a) requires that any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste within any region, other than to a community sewer plant, that could affect the quality of the waters of the state, file a report of waste discharge to obtain coverage under waste discharge requirements (WDRs) or a waiver of WDRs. "Waste" is defined in California Water Code section 13050(d). A report of waste discharge is also referred to as an application.
2. Discharges to land from domestic wastewater treatment and disposal systems (Wastewater Systems) have certain common characteristics, such as similar wastes, concentrations of wastes, disposal techniques, flow ranges, and they use the same or similar treatment methods. These types of discharges are

appropriately regulated under a general waste discharge requirements permit<sup>1</sup>. Currently many of the Wastewater Systems in the central coast region are regulated through individual permits. Once effective, this General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2020-0020 for Discharges from Domestic Wastewater Systems with Flows Greater than 100,000 Gallons per Day (General Permit) will allow for enrollment of domestic Wastewater Systems and reduce the need for individual permits.

3. For the purposes of this General Permit, the term “Wastewater Systems” shall mean the collection system, treatment equipment, pumping stations, treatment ponds, biological treatment systems, chemical treatment systems, clarifiers, sand/media filters, disinfection systems, recycled water systems (including distribution systems), storage ponds, land application areas, disposal ponds, and other systems associated with the collection, treatment, storage, and disposal of wastewater.
4. Wastewater Systems with monthly average flow rates<sup>2</sup> of more than 100,000 gallons per day that discharge to land are eligible for coverage under this General Permit. Wastewater Systems are typically located at commercial or residential subdivisions, communities, cities, and correctional facilities. An owner and/or operator of a Wastewater System(s) is referred to as a Discharger(s) in this General Permit.
5. Wastewater Systems with monthly average flow rates of 100,000 gallons per day or less may be regulated by State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ. Wastewater Systems regulated by Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ may continue that coverage unless otherwise directed by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.
6. Domestic wastewater treatment may include ponds (e.g., facultative, aerobic, anaerobic); constructed wetlands; aerobic treatment systems (e.g., activated sludge; sequencing batch reactors; extended aeration; membrane biological reactors, etc.); biofiltration (e.g., attached growth system, trickling filters, etc.); filtration; clarification; settling; and disinfection systems. The level to which wastewater is treated must be based upon the receiving water quality at the wastewater disposal location.
7. Disposal options for treated effluent may include land application, disposal ponds (evaporation/percolation ponds), non-potable onsite water reuse<sup>3</sup> or another engineered alternative approved by the Executive Officer.
8. This General Permit allows the production and onsite use of recycled water (as defined in California Water Code section 13050(n)) and requires all recycled water to comply with the applicable requirements described in California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4, chapter 3, (title 22). Compliance with title 22 water

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<sup>1</sup> The terms “permit” and “waste discharge requirements” are used in this document and are referring to a set of requirements for a permitted discharge of wastewater to land.

<sup>2</sup> See Attachment A for a definition of monthly average flow rate.

<sup>3</sup> Water reuse refers to water reclamation and water recycling for non-potable uses. See Attachment A.

recycling criteria and title 17 sanitation requirements will be determined by the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW), who are responsible for reviewing and approving title 22 Engineering Reports. Should a recycled water producer choose to use recycled water offsite, that use is regulated under State Water Board Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use.

9. The discussion in this General Permit of treatment, disposal, and water reuse is not intended to limit the selection of alternatives available to the wastewater system designer.
10. This General Permit implements the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan)<sup>4</sup> and therefore requires Dischargers to comply with all applicable requirements in the Basin Plan, including any prohibitions and water quality objectives, governing the discharge of treated wastewater.
11. Wastewater and treated wastewater quality vary depending upon source water quality, the activities generating the wastewater, water conservation efforts, inflow and infiltration, and treatment technology. Some examples of typical domestic wastewater and treated wastewater characteristics are presented in Table 1. Peer reviewed published wastewater books and/or United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) wastewater publications may also be used to characterize wastewater characteristics. Water conservation efforts by some communities in recent years has resulted in increased wastewater strength.

**Table 1: Summary of Domestic Wastewater Characteristics**

Constituent	Units <sup>[1]</sup>	Typical Domestic Wastewater	Secondary Treatment Effluent
Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-Day	mg/L	200-488 <sup>[2] [6] [7]</sup>	30-45 <sup>[3]</sup>
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	200-389 <sup>[2] [6]</sup>	30-45 <sup>[3]</sup>
Ammonia (as N)	mg/L	6-41 <sup>[2] [6]</sup>	0-65 <sup>[4]</sup>
Nitrite and Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	<1 <sup>[2] [6]</sup>	0-65 <sup>[4]</sup>
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	35-100 <sup>[2] [6]</sup>	5-35 <sup>[5]</sup>
Total Phosphorus	mg/L	5.6-12 <sup>[2] [6]</sup>	0-10 <sup>[5]</sup>

[1] mg/L denotes milligrams per liter

[2] Table 4-3, USEPA Wastewater Treatment/Disposal for Small Communities, Manual, September 1992, EPA/625/R-92/005.

[3] 40 CFR section 133.102.

[4] Value highly variable depending upon treatment technology.

[5] USEPA Case Studies on Implementing Low-Cost Modifications to Improve Nutrient Reduction at Wastewater Treatment Plants. <https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/case-studies-implementing-low-cost-modifications-improve-nutrient-reduction>.

[6] Tchobanoglous et. al., (2014) Wastewater Engineering Treatment Resource Recovery, Fifth Edition, Metcalf & Eddy/AECOM, McGraw-Hill Education, page 221, Table 3-18.

<sup>4</sup> Please refer to the current Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin adopted by the Central Coast Water Board.

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications\\_forms/publications/basin\\_plan/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/basin_plan/)

- [7] Data reported in the City of Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant 2019 Annual Laboratory Report to the Central Coast Water Board.
12. Discharges from holding tanks (e.g., recreation vehicles [RV], portable toilets, airplane wastewater, etc.) may contain chemicals that can pollute water. Some commercially available products used to control holding tank/portable toilet odors may contain harmful chemicals such as formaldehyde, zinc, or phenol. The harmful chemicals can kill the bacteria in the Wastewater System and cause wastewater to be inadequately treated. Inadequately treated wastewater may cause additional problems such as disposal system failure, surfacing wastewater, and potential exposure and health risks.
  13. The USEPA recommends *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) and enterococci bacteria, which exist in fecal material from humans and other warm-blooded animals, as the best indicators of health risk from water contact<sup>5</sup>. Because both bacteria are present in domestic wastewater, there is no need to monitor separately for them in wastewater effluent. The effectiveness of disinfection procedures is similar for both bacteria, therefore total coliform<sup>6</sup>, which is a less expensive analysis, is appropriate to determine if wastewater effluent is effectively disinfected for bacteria. Total coliform monitoring is also required for recycled water production consistent with title 22.
  14. Beneficial uses for groundwater are determined by the Central Coast Water Board and are listed in the Basin Plan. Beneficial uses for groundwater are municipal supply (MUN), industrial service supply (IND), and agricultural supply (AGR). Some beneficial uses only apply to certain geographic areas within the central coast region.
  15. The Basin Plan establishes water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses. The objectives may be narrative, numerical, or both. This General Permit requires the Discharger to comply with those objectives in receiving waters.

## **B. Treated Wastewater Disposal**

1. Treated wastewater disposal occurs by different methods. Treated wastewater is often percolated and/or evaporated from ponds and spreading basins or land applied to the ground surface by spray or drip methods. The disposal method will depend upon the amount of wastewater generated, the quality of the wastewater, land availability, site characteristics, and the receiving water.
  - i. Untreated wastewater discharged to an unlined pond for treatment, storage, or disposal (e.g., percolation pond) has the potential to degrade water quality to an unacceptable extent or result in nuisance odors.

Reducing the volume of wastewater percolated from a treatment, storage, or evaporation pond by lining the pond with a synthetic or low permeability liner

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<sup>5</sup> USEPA Internet page accessed June 10, 2014

<http://water.epa.gov/type/rsl/monitoring/vms511.cfm>

<sup>6</sup> *Escherichia coli* is a subset of fecal coliforms and fecal coliforms are a subset of total coliforms.



can control the percolation rate and reduce the potential threat to water quality from the percolated wastewater.

Discharging high quality, treated wastewater to an adequately designed percolation pond (e.g., adequately sized with appropriate percolation rates and sufficient separation to groundwater) will reduce the potential threat to surface water and groundwater quality from the percolated wastewater.

Overloading a wastewater pond with waste that elevates biochemical oxygen demand can result in nuisance odor generation. Source control of biochemical oxygen demand, additional pretreatment prior to discharge to the pond, or mechanical aeration of wastewater in the pond are typically used to prevent a pond from generating nuisance odors.

Burrowing animals can result in rapid failure of a containment berm and containment berms should be managed to mitigate any associated impacts.

- ii. When land application of treated wastewater is selected as a disposal method, adequate acreage must be available to allow application rates that will not create nuisance conditions (e.g., vectors, nuisance odors, offsite discharge, ponding, etc.), degrade water quality, or impact public health.

Hydraulic loading of a land application area must be controlled to prevent offsite wastewater discharge and impacts to either surface or groundwater.

2. Wastewater discharged to land near a surface waterbody has the potential to impact surface water quality via runoff, surfacing effluent, or underflow to a gaining stream. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may require additional monitoring to evaluate the potential for surface water degradation from discharge of treated effluent that would be incorporated into a revised monitoring and reporting program.
3. Setbacks from wastewater treatment areas, land application by spray or drip methods areas, or wastewater impoundment areas from domestic wells, water courses (perennial or ephemeral), lakes/reservoirs, wetlands, and property lines are required in this General Permit. Setbacks are included as a means of reducing potential impacts to water quality associated with wastewater. Setbacks provide attenuation of such impacts through physical, chemical, and biological processes. The setbacks required in this General Permit are based on the title 22 water recycling criteria, the California Well Standards, the California Plumbing Code, and commonly imposed setbacks by regulatory agencies.

### **C. Recycled Water**

1. Use of recycled water in lieu of potable water is encouraged by the State Water Board. The State Water Board's Water Quality Control Policy for Recycled Water (Recycled Water Policy) states the following goals (in part):
  - i. Increase the use of recycled water.
  - ii. Reuse dry weather direct discharges of treated wastewater to enclosed bays, estuaries and coastal lagoons, and ocean waters that can be viably put to a beneficial use.

- iii. Maximize the use of recycled water in areas where groundwater supplies are in a state of overdraft, to the extent that downstream water rights, instream flow requirements, and public trust resources are protected
2. The Recycled Water Policy calls on local water and wastewater entities together with other stakeholders who contribute salt and nutrients to a groundwater basin or sub-area, to fund and develop salt and nutrient management plans to comprehensively address all sources of salts and nutrients. The comprehensive salt and nutrient management plans should be implemented to manage salts and nutrients consistent with the Recycled Water Policy. It is the intent of the Recycled Water Policy that every groundwater basin/sub-basin in California ultimately has a salt and nutrient management plan. One way to address salt and nutrient issues is through the development of regional or sub-regional salt and nutrient management plans. Dischargers may be directed to perform or participate in salt and nutrient management plan planning activities as described in the Provisions of this General Permit.

#### **D. Pretreatment Program for Publicly Owned Treatment Works**

1. Under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2233, subdivision (a), WDRs for publicly owned treatment works treating or designed to treat an average dry weather flow of five million gallons per day or more of community wastewater must include provisions that the discharger must have and enforce an adequate pretreatment program approved by the appropriate regional board. A regional board may determine that it is appropriate to require a local pretreatment program for publicly owned treatment works treating or designed to treat an average dry weather flow of less than five million gallons per day. A pretreatment program is a regulatory program administered by the discharger that implements national pretreatment standards. USEPA in accordance with section 307(b) and (c) of the Clean Water Act promulgate these standards. This General Permit incorporates General Pretreatment Regulations of Codified Federal Regulation, Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 403, as reference.
2. Pretreatment programs are necessary for some facilities to prevent the introduction of pollutants/wastes which will interfere with the operation of the treatment works, pass through the treatment system, reduce opportunities to recycle and reuse domestic wastewater and sludge, or expose publicly owned treatment works employees to hazardous chemicals.

#### **E. Antidegradation Analysis**

1. State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16, the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California (Antidegradation Policy) requires the following:
  - i. Higher quality water will be maintained until it has been demonstrated to the state that any change will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state, will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of the water, and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the policies.
  - ii. Any activity that produces a waste and discharges to existing high quality waters will be required to meet WDRs that will result in the best practicable

treatment or control of the discharge necessary to ensure pollution or nuisance will not occur, and the highest water quality consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained.

2. The Antidegradation Policy requires maintenance of high quality of waters of the state unless limited degradation is consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state. When issuing a notice of applicability under this General Permit, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer must ensure that Dischargers implement best practicable treatment or control as necessary to maintain the highest water quality consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state.
3. This General Permit allows discharges to numerous groundwater basins/sub-areas, each with its own chemical characteristics. To the extent a discharge covered under this General Permit may be to high quality waters, this General Permit authorizes limited degradation consistent with the Antidegradation Policy as described in the findings below.
4. This General Permit authorizes discharges of domestic wastewater from Wastewater Systems, which are centralized facilities. Limited degradation of groundwater by some wastes associated with domestic wastewater effluent, after effective source control, treatment, and control measures are implemented, pursuant to this General Permit, is consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state because the technology, energy use, water recycling, and waste management at centralized Wastewater Systems are far more efficient than at individual wastewater systems that would otherwise be used to treat domestic wastewater. The impacts of centralized Wastewater Systems on water quality are typically less than the cumulative impacts from individual wastewater systems, which tend to be concentrated by location.
5. Wastes that have the potential to degrade groundwater include salts, nutrients, chemicals, and pathogens. In addition, excessive biochemical oxygen demand loading of treatment systems (e.g., pond systems, activated sludge systems, etc.) or land application areas may result in nuisance odors or anaerobic conditions, which are not favorable biological treatment conditions.
6. This General Permit includes effluent limitations and a process to determine how to apply these limits. Implementation of the applicable effluent limitations will result in the best practicable treatment or control for the wastewater, and corresponding monitoring requirements specified in this General Permit will ensure the best practicable treatment or control is effective and confirms that water quality will be maintained at a level that is protective of beneficial uses.
7. This General Permit also includes technology-based effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids to create conditions that support nitrogen reduction and the protection of beneficial uses.
8. Compliance with the General Permit, the notice of applicability, DDW requirements, and any mitigation measures will ensure compliance with the Basin Plan necessary to ensure pollution or nuisance will not occur.

## **F. Title 27 Exemption**

1. The wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal activities regulated by this General Permit are exempt from the requirements of *Consolidated Regulations for Treatment, Storage, Processing, or Disposal of Solid Waste* in California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20005, et seq, which allows a conditional exemption from some or all of the provisions of title 27. The following exemptions apply:
  - i. California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20090(a), which exempts discharges of domestic sewage or treated effluent which are regulated by WDRs (e.g., this General Permit) issued pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 9, or for which WDRs have been waived, and which are consistent with applicable water quality objectives, and treatment or storage facilities associated with municipal wastewater treatment plants, provided that residual sludge or solid waste from wastewater systems must be discharged only in accordance with the applicable State Water Board promulgated provisions of this division (California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20090(a)).
  - ii. California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20090(b), which exempts discharges of wastewater to land, including but not limited to evaporation ponds, percolation ponds, or applied to the ground surface by spray, flood, or drip methods if the following conditions are met:
    - a. The Central Coast Water Board has issued WDRs, reclamation requirements, or waived such issuance;
    - b. The discharge is in compliance with the applicable water quality control plan; and
    - c. The wastewater does not need to be managed according to California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4.5, chapter 11, as a hazardous waste.
  - iii. California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20090(i), which exempts waste treatment in fully enclosed facilities, such as tanks, or in concrete lined facilities of limited areal extent, such as oil water separators designed, constructed, and operated according to American Petroleum Institute specifications.

## **G. California Environmental Quality Act**

1. This General Permit is intended to cover both new and existing Wastewater Systems. Existing Wastewater Systems are those that were under construction or operating prior to the adoption date of this General Permit.
  - i. The adoption of this General Permit for existing domestic Wastewater Systems is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (ongoing or existing projects), section 15302 (replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems), and section 15303 (new construction or conversion of structures).

- ii. Discharges from new domestic Wastewater Systems and expanded domestic Wastewater Systems may not be covered by this General Permit until after CEQA requirements have been satisfied. New or expanded systems are subject to further CEQA evaluation on a case-by-case basis by local agencies performing CEQA evaluations of proposed projects. The potential significant environmental impacts from discharges of domestic wastewater from new and expanded Wastewater Systems may be mitigated to less than significant impacts by compliance with this General Permit, the notice of applicability, and any mitigation measures adopted by local agencies.

## H. Monitoring and Reporting Program

1. A General Monitoring and Reporting Program is included as Attachment D and includes monitoring for Wastewater Systems, water supply, influent, effluent, recreational vehicle discharge, recycled water, wastewater disposal, sludge/biosolids disposal, and groundwater. Required reporting includes electronic submittal of technical, quarterly, and annual reports.
2. The Central Coast Water Board is transitioning to using the GeoTracker database for waste discharge requirement monitoring and reporting programs. GeoTracker is the State Water Board's Internet-accessible database system used by the State Water Board, regional boards, and local agencies to track and archive compliance data from authorized or unauthorized discharges of waste to land, or unauthorized releases of hazardous substances from underground storage tanks. This system consists of a relational database, on-line compliance reporting features, a geographical information system (GIS) interface and other features that are utilized by the State Water Board, regional boards, local agencies, regulated industry, and the public to input, manage, or access compliance and regulatory tracking data.
3. California Water Code section 13267(b)(1) states:  
*In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region ... shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the board requires. The burden, including costs of these reports, shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.*
4. California Water Code section 13268 states:  
*(a)(1) Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of section 13267, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of section 13399.2, or falsifying any information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b).  
  
(b)(1) Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with article 2.5 (commencing with section 13323) of chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs.*

5. The technical and monitoring reports required by this General Permit, the notice of applicability, and the attached General Monitoring and Reporting Program are necessary to ensure compliance with this General Permit. The evidence supporting the need for the reports are contained in the information provided by the dischargers subject to this General Permit and in the files of the Central Coast Water Board. The burden, including costs, of providing the technical reports required by this General Permit bears a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports and is consistent with the best interest of the state in maintaining water quality. Prior to enrollment in this General Permit, the Central Coast Water Board will develop a facility-specific monitoring and reporting program to ensure that the burden and benefits fit the specific circumstances.
6. Failing to furnish the reports by the due date or falsifying information in the reports, are misdemeanors that may result in assessment of civil liability against the Discharger in accordance with California Water Code section 13268.
7. The Central Coast Water Board authorizes the Executive Officer to modify the attached General Monitoring and Reporting Program and to issue facility-specific monitoring and reporting programs to Dischargers tailored to the individual facility treatment and disposal systems consistent with the attached General Monitoring and Reporting Program framework and the Discharger's notice of applicability. Facility-specific monitoring and reporting programs will ensure that the burden of the reports is reasonable.

**I. Other Regulatory Requirements and Considerations**

1. Dischargers that meet the criteria for coverage under State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, or updated order, are required to enroll in State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ.
2. California Water Code section 13263(a) requires the Central Coast Water Board to consider the factors in section 13241 when adopting WDRs. Consistent with California Water Code section 13241, the Central Coast Water Board, in establishing the requirements contained in this General Permit, considered factors including, but not limited to, the following:
  - i. Past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of water.
  - ii. Environmental characteristics of the hydrographic unit under consideration, including the quality of water available thereto.
  - iii. Water quality conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all factors which affect water quality in the area.
  - iv. Economic considerations.
  - v. The need for developing housing within the region(s).
  - vi. The need to develop and use recycled water.
  - vii. The need to support the human right to clean water.
  - viii. The need to implement management strategies that adapt to climate change.

- ix. The need to support disadvantaged communities' access to wastewater treatment and disposal.
3. Human Right to Water - California Water Code section 106.3, subdivision (a) provides that "that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitation purposes."

Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2017-0004 recognizes the human right to water as a core value, affirms the realization of the human right to water and protecting human health as one of the Central Coast Water Board's top priorities, and also directs staff to conduct specific activities and prioritize regulatory programs to prevent and address discharges that could threaten human health by causing or contributing to pollution or contamination of drinking water sources.

This General Permit incorporates the human right to water resolution by containing requirements that will protect the drinking water beneficial use.

4. Climate Change – This General Permit addresses the threat of climate change, sea-level rise, flooding, and fire by including provisions that require the Dischargers to assess and implement mitigation and adaptation strategies as necessary (section VI.A.3).
5. Disadvantaged Community Status – A disadvantaged community is a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income. Data from the US Census American Community Survey Data from 2013 to 2017 identifies 12 cities and 36 Specific Census Tract or Block Group areas designated as disadvantaged communities in the central coast region. Being designated a disadvantaged community does make certain grant funds or loans accessible to these Wastewater Systems that serve these communities for the planning and implementation of actions to improve operations and upgrade the Wastewater Systems.
6. California Water Code section 13263(i) states, *the state board or regional board may prescribe general waste discharge requirements for a category of discharges if the state board or that regional board finds or determines that all the following criteria apply to the discharges in that category:*
  - i. *The discharges are produced by the same or similar operations.*
  - ii. *The discharges involve the same or similar types of waste.*
  - iii. *The discharges require the same or similar treatment standards.*
  - iv. *The discharges are more appropriately regulated under general waste discharge requirements than individual waste discharge requirements.*

Wastewater Systems that will be regulated under this General Permit are consistent with the criteria listed above, and therefore, a General Permit is appropriate. All discharges regulated under this General Permit are produced by the same or similar operations, i.e., domestic wastewater. All discharges regulated under this General Permit consist of the same or similar types of wastes, specifically domestic wastewater, i.e., sewage, from households, commercial establishments, and industries consistent with the description of domestic wastewater treatment as defined in section II.A.6. Dischargers use similar

treatment and disposal methods (e.g., screening, settling, biological/chemical treatment, clarification, and application to land through ponds, activated sludge, biofiltration, and sequencing batch reactors systems) and because the waste is similar, the discharges require the same or similar treatment standards.

Although the wastewater flows and strength of the Wastewater Systems that will be regulated under this General Permit vary in size and concentration of waste, the requirements of this General Permit are specific to the type of waste and necessary to protect water quality and associated beneficial uses. Individual WDRs are not necessary because the discharges are similar and discharge requirements would be similar if individual WDRs were issued. The variability of influent flow or concentration will be addressed in the design and operation of the Wastewater Systems such that the effluent discharged meets the limitations of the General Permit.

The discharges are more appropriately regulated under general waste discharge requirements rather than individual waste discharge requirements to ensure consistency between these similar operations, to more efficiently use the Central Coast Water Board's administrative functions because more time will be available to implement and oversee permit compliance, and to reduce administrative burdens on dischargers. Of the approximately 185 facilities that are regulated by individual permits in the central coast region, more than 40 facilities treat domestic wastewater with flows greater than 100,000 gallons per day. This General Permit regulating these higher flow domestic wastewater discharges is an effective way to update the waste discharge requirements for more than 40 facilities in the central coast region, while simultaneously creating permitting efficiency by decreasing the number of permits requiring development and regular updating.

7. The biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids effluent limitations contained in this General Permit are technology-based. USEPA has developed technology-based effluent limits for secondary treatment for use in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. However, pond treatment systems often cannot comply with the limits that apply to activated sludge treatment systems due to algae growth in the pond. In response, USEPA developed an equivalent to secondary treatment definition for alternative biological treatment technologies such as a trickling filter or wastewater treatment pond (Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 133.105). Although this General Permit only authorizes discharges to land, some of the secondary treatment standards are appropriate to demonstrate that wastewater is adequately treated.
8. Discharge to the waters of the state is a privilege, not a right, and authorization to discharge is conditional upon the discharges complying with provisions of division 7 of the California Water Code and any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to implement water quality control plans, to protect beneficial uses, and to prevent nuisance.
9. This General Permit does not preempt or supersede the authority of municipalities, flood control agencies, or other local agencies to prohibit, restrict, or control discharges of waste subject to their jurisdiction.
10. To avoid multiple permits simultaneously imposing similar requirements on the same discharge, when a Wastewater System currently regulated by an individual



permit enrolls in this General Permit, the existing individual permit is terminated upon issuance of a notice of applicability.

#### **J. Public Participation**

1. On February 12, 2020, the Central Coast Water Board held a public outreach meeting with Dischargers and interested persons to discuss the proposed development of a waste discharge requirement permit for the discharge of domestic wastewater with monthly average flow rates of greater than 100,000 gallons per day and solicited comments for consideration during the proposed General Permit development.
2. On June 18, 2020, the Central Coast Water Board notified facilities that currently have WDRs for domestic wastewater with design flows greater than 100,000 gallons per day and other interested persons of its intent to issue a general waste discharge requirements permit for the discharge of domestic wastewater flows of greater than 100,000 gallons per day and provided them with a copy of the proposed General Permit. The Central Coast Water Board has also provided them with an opportunity to submit written comments.
3. During the comment period, Central Coast Water Board staff held four public outreach meetings (on June 25, June 30, July 8, and July 15, 2020) using a virtual platform to facilitate interested persons' review of the draft General Permit. Central Coast Water Board staff presented key components of the draft General Permit and answered questions.
4. The Central Coast Water Board, in a public hearing held on September 25, 2020, has heard and considered all comments pertaining to the proposed discharge.
5. After considering all comments pertaining to this General Permit during a public hearing on September 25, 2020, this General Permit was found consistent with the above findings.
6. Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Coast Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and title 23 California Code of Regulations sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., within 30 calendar days of the date of adoption of this General Permit at the following address, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this General Permit falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day:

State Water Resources Control Board  
Office of Chief Counsel  
P.O. Box 100, 1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Or by email at [waterqualitypetitions@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:waterqualitypetitions@waterboards.ca.gov)

For instructions on how to file a petition for review, see [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality/wqpetition\\_in\\_str.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/wqpetition_in_str.shtml).

### **K. Application Process (Applicable to New and Existing Wastewater Systems)**

1. Dischargers seeking enrollment in this General Permit must submit an application (also referred to as a report of waste discharge) to the Central Coast Water Board. The application process is summarized in Attachment B. The Central Coast Water Board has procedures for electronic submittal of application documents. An application consists of:
  - i. A completed Form 200, which is available at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications\\_forms/forms/docs/form200.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/forms/docs/form200.pdf)
  - ii. An application fee that serves as the first annual fee. Fees are charged annually and are based on threat and complexity ratings, and the treatment technology employed. Threat and complexity ratings are defined in the fee schedule listed in California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2200 and available at: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/>
  - iii. A technical report that describes the wastewater generation, treatment, storage, and disposal. See Attachment C Permit Application Format.
2. Upon review of the application, Central Coast Water Board staff will determine if coverage under this General Permit is appropriate. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer will issue a notice of applicability when coverage under this General Permit has been authorized. The notice of applicability will contain the necessary site-specific monitoring and reporting requirements.
3. Although a Discharger may be eligible for coverage under this General Permit, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may determine that the discharge would be better regulated by a waiver of WDRs, individual WDRs, or different general WDRs.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that upon adoption of this General Permit, pursuant to California Water Code sections 13263, 13267, and 13523, the Discharger, its agents, successors, and assigns, to meet the provisions contained in division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted hereunder, must comply with the requirements in this General Permit. It is further ordered that where a Wastewater System discharge is currently regulated by an individual permit, that permit is terminated upon the enrollment of the Wastewater System into this General Permit.

### **III. Prohibitions**

The following actions are prohibited:

1. The direct or indirect discharge of any wastewater to surface waters or surface water drainage courses. <sup>CWC</sup>
2. Discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater. <sup>CWC</sup>
3. The treatment, storage, and/or disposal of waste in or at the Wastewater System that may cause or contribute to a condition of pollution, contamination, or nuisance as defined in California Water Code section 13050. <sup>CWC</sup>

4. The discharge of wastewater other than treated domestic<sup>7</sup> wastewater.
5. Bypass or overflow of treated or untreated waste.
6. The discharge of waste to land not owned, operated, or controlled<sup>8</sup> by the Discharger.
7. Discharge to any areas other than those designated in the notice of applicability.
8. The discharge of waste classified as hazardous (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2521(a)), or designated (California Water Code, section 13173).  
CWC
9. The Discharger's use of agricultural chemicals inconsistent with product labeling, storage instructions, or California Department of Pesticide Regulation requirements for pesticide<sup>9</sup> applications.
10. The discharge of waste in violation of, or not consistent with, the Basin Plan.
11. A physical connection between a recycled water system and a potable water system.
12. The production of recycled water in a manner different than described in the DDW conditionally accepted title 22 Engineering Report.
13. Transportation of undisinfected recycled water within a pipeline designated for the transport of disinfected tertiary treated recycled water.<sup>DDW</sup>
14. The production of recycled water for direct human consumption, indirect human consumption, or for processing of food or drink intended for human consumption.  
DDW
15. The use of equipment used to convey recycled water (e.g., tanks, piping, valves) also used for potable water supply.
16. The discharge of waste in concentrations which are toxic to human, animal, aquatic, or plant life.
17. Cause a statistically significant increase of mineral concentrations in underlying groundwater, as determined by comparison of samples collected from wells located upgradient and downgradient of the disposal area.
18. Cause groundwater to contain taste or odor producing substances in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses.<sup>BP</sup>
19. Cause groundwater to exhibit an instantaneous pH of less than 6.5 or greater than 8.4.<sup>BP</sup>
20. Cause nitrate as nitrogen concentrations in underlying groundwater to exceed 10 mg/L, total nitrogen to exceed Basin Plan water quality objectives, or background concentrations, whichever is less.

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<sup>7</sup> See Attachment A.

<sup>8</sup> By property ownership or permanent easement.

<sup>9</sup> See Attachment A.

21. Cause groundwater to contain concentrations of chemical substances or its by-products in amounts that adversely affect any designated beneficial uses. <sup>BP</sup>
22. Cause groundwater to contain concentrations of:
- i. Organic chemicals more than the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for primary drinking water standards specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4, chapter 15, article 5.5, section 64444, Table 64444-A.
  - ii. Inorganic chemicals more than the maximum contaminant levels for primary drinking water standards specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4, chapter 15, article 4, section 64431, Table 64431-A.
  - iii. Inorganic chemicals (optimal fluoride levels) more than the maximum contaminant levels for primary drinking water standards specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4, chapter 15, article 4.1, section 64433.2, Table 64433.2-A.
  - iv. Radionuclides more than the limits specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4, chapter 15, article 5, section 64443, Table 64443.
- This incorporation-by-reference is prospective, including future changes to the incorporated provisions as the changes take effect. <sup>BP</sup>
23. Cause groundwater to contain concentrations of chemicals in amounts that adversely affect the agriculture beneficial use provided in Tables 3-1 and 3-2 of the Basin Plan. <sup>BP</sup>

#### **IV. Specifications**

##### **A. All Wastewater Systems**

1. The permitted flow rate of wastewater discharged to the headworks must be greater than or equal to 100,000 gallons per day as a monthly average. Headworks are defined as the facilities where wastewater enters a wastewater treatment plant. Headworks may include bar screens, comminutors, a wet well, and pumps.
2. Treatment and disposal of wastewater and sludge/solids/biosolids must demonstrate best practicable treatment or control for domestic wastewater. Best practicable treatment or control must be demonstrated by compliance with all the following:
  - i. Compliance with this General Permit.
  - ii. Compliance with the notice of applicability, which will specify the following (at a minimum):
    - a. Wastewater System-specific flow or volume limit(s).
    - b. Treatment and disposal methods provided in this General Permit.
    - c. Disposal locations.
    - d. Applicable effluent limitations as described in this General Permit.

- e. For Wastewater Systems that produce recycled water, requirements for operation of the Wastewater Systems and disinfection requirements specified in DDW's conditionally accepted title 22 Engineering Report.
  - f. Water quality related mitigation measures from an approved site-specific CEQA document addressing the Wastewater System (if one is prepared<sup>10</sup>).
- iii. Approved technical reports required by this General Permit.
3. The siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the Wastewater System must comply with the requirements of the notice of applicability, the Basin Plan, and this General Permit.
  4. Public contact with wastewater/recycled water must be precluded through use of fences, signs, and/or other appropriate means.
  5. Technical reports required as part of the application must be stamped by a California licensed or credentialed professional.<sup>11</sup>
  6. For new or expanding Wastewater Systems within or nearby the boundaries of a centralized wastewater district or regional service area, the Discharger must demonstrate a good faith effort to connect to the centralized system and provide evidence that connection to the system was not approved.
  7. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may require additional investigations or monitoring to demonstrate beneficial uses of water are protected.
  8. Owners and/or operators of a Wastewater System that accepts wastes from RVs or other waste systems that utilize holding tanks (e.g., portable toilets, airplane wastewater, etc.) must ensure that such wastes do not deleteriously affect the wastewater system and adversely affect beneficial uses of groundwater with holding tank additives that may contain, among other chemicals, formaldehyde, zinc, or phenol. Use of holding tank chemicals must be discouraged by the Wastewater System owner/operator.
  9. Once any of the following plans (see section VII.A and the General Monitoring and Reporting Program) is approved, no material changes can be made without approval by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer. The Discharger must notify the Central Coast Water Board in writing at least 90 days in advance of any proposed material change in any of the plans.
    - i. Pretreatment Program Plan.
    - ii. Operations and Maintenance Manual.
    - iii. Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

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<sup>10</sup> Discharges from new domestic Wastewater Systems and expanded domestic Wastewater Systems may not be covered by this General Permit until after CEQA requirements have been satisfied.

<sup>11</sup> For example, Professional Engineer or Registered Environmental Health Specialist, etc. performing work pursuant to their area of expertise.

iv. Salt and Nutrient Management Plan.

10. The Discharger must comply with the setbacks described in Table 2 unless an approved variance is obtained from the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer. Setbacks provided in this General Permit are the distances of wastewater treatment areas, land application by spray or drip methods areas, or wastewater impoundment areas from domestic wells, water courses (perennial or ephemeral), lakes/reservoirs, wetlands, and property lines.

Some existing Wastewater Systems may not comply with the setbacks provided herein. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may choose to enroll such existing, noncomplying Wastewater Systems in this General Permit after approving a variance.

For new or expanded facilities where a Wastewater System will not comply with the setbacks included in the General Permit, these systems will need further evaluation of the setbacks and approval of a variance by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer is required.

In some cases, more than one setback standard exists. For all existing, expanded, or new Wastewater Systems, the following procedures must be implemented when determining the appropriate setback.

- i. When the setback requirement comes from title 22, approval of a variance must be obtained from both DDW and the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.
- ii. When the setback comes from the California Well Standards, a reduced setback may be allowed based on site-specific conditions with approval from the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.
- iii. When the setback comes from the Basin Plan, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may allow a reduced setback based upon site-specific conditions.
- iv. When the setback comes from the California Plumbing Code, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may not approve a reduced setback.

Approval of a variance for setbacks that are not referenced to a requirement listed above will be based on professional judgment and may be revised by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer based on site-specific conditions.

**Table 2: Summary of Wastewater System Setbacks <sup>[1]</sup>**

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Water Course <sup>[2]</sup>	Ephemeral Water Course <sup>[3]</sup>	Property Line	Lake, Wetland, or Reservoir <sup>[5]</sup>
Treatment System or Collection System <sup>[6]</sup>	100 <sup>[12]</sup> 50 <sup>[4]</sup>	50 <sup>[4]</sup>	50	5 <sup>[4]</sup>	200 <sup>[17]</sup> 50 <sup>[4]</sup>

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Water Course <sup>[2]</sup>	Ephemeral Water Course <sup>[3]</sup>	Property Line	Lake, Wetland, or Reservoir <sup>[5]</sup>
<b>LAND APPLICATION BY SPRAY OR DRIP METHODS</b>					
Land Application Area (disinfected tertiary recycled water) <sup>[7] [10] [19]</sup>	50 <sup>[11]</sup>	25	50	25	200
Land Application Area (disinfected secondary-2.2 or secondary-23 recycled water) <sup>[8]</sup>	100 <sup>[14]</sup>	50	50	Spray - 100 <sup>[18]</sup> Drip - 50 <sup>[13]</sup>	200
Land Application Area (undisinfected secondary recycled water <sup>[9]</sup> , undisinfected secondary treated wastewater)	150 <sup>[15]</sup>	100	100	Spray - 100 <sup>[18]</sup> Drip - 50 <sup>[13]</sup>	200
<b>WASTEWATER IMPOUNDMENT (TREATMENT PONDS, STORAGE PONDS, DISPOSAL PONDS<sup>[20]</sup> AND LAND APPLICATION BY CONTROLLED FLOOD METHODS)</b>					
Impoundment (disinfected tertiary recycled water) <sup>[7]</sup>	100 <sup>[16]</sup>	100	100	50	200
Impoundment (disinfected secondary-2.2 or secondary-23 recycled water) <sup>[8]</sup>	100 <sup>[14]</sup>	100	100	50	200
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water <sup>[9]</sup> , undisinfected secondary treated wastewater)	150 <sup>[15]</sup>	150	150	50	200

[1] All units are in feet

[2] A flowing water course must be measured from the ordinary high-water mark established by fluctuations of water elevation and indicated by characteristics such as shelving, changes in soil character, vegetation type, presence of litter or debris, or other appropriate means.

[3] Ephemeral water course denotes a surface water drainage feature that flows only after rain or snowmelt and does not have enough groundwater seepage (baseflow) to maintain a condition of flowing surface water. The drainage must be measured from a line that defines the limit of the ordinary high-water mark (described in "a" above). Irrigation canals are not considered ephemeral drainage features. The ephemeral water course must be a "losing stream" (discharging surface water to groundwater) at the proposed Wastewater System site.

[4] Setback established by California Plumbing Code, Table K-1.

[5] Lake, wetland, or reservoir boundary measured from the high-water line.

[6] Treatment system (includes all parts of the Wastewater System and piping) and collection system addresses equipment located below ground or that impedes leak detection by routine visual inspection.

[7] Disinfected tertiary recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.230.

- [8] Disinfected secondary-2.2 recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.220. Disinfected secondary-23 recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.225.
- [9] Undisinfected secondary recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.900.
- [10] Additional restrictions for spray irrigation of recycled water are contained in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(f).
- [11] Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(a). A reduced setback is allowed as described in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(a) if all the conditions in the section are met and compliance is documented in the application and notice of applicability.
- [12] California Well Standards, part II, section 8. Site-specific conditions may allow reduced setback or require an increased setback. See discussion in Well Standards.
- [13] Setback for drip or flood application methods. Spray irrigation is subject to additional setbacks and restrictions (see footnote [10]).
- [14] Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(c).
- [15] Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(d).
- [16] Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(b).
- [17] Setback established by the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, section 7.5.5.
- [18] Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(f).
- [19] No spray irrigation of any recycled water, other than disinfected tertiary recycled water, shall take place within 100 feet of a residence or a place where public exposure could be similar to that of a park, playground, or school yard.
- [20] Disposal ponds include evaporation and percolation ponds.

#### **B. Pond Systems (Treatment, Storage, and Disposal)**

1. All treatment, storage, and evaporation ponds must be lined<sup>12</sup> to protect groundwater and associated beneficial uses. Existing wastewater treatment, storage, or evaporation ponds constructed prior to the adoption date of this General Permit where the type of existing lining systems is unknown must be evaluated by a California licensed Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist for permeability and a report submitted to the Central Coast Water Board for Executive Officer approval within **one year** of the date of enrollment in this General Permit (issuance of the notice of applicability).

Existing wastewater treatment, storage, or evaporation ponds, that do not have permeability of less than  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  centimeters per second constructed prior to the adoption date of this General Permit, must be evaluated by a California licensed Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist for permeability and a report submitted to the Central Coast Water Board for Executive Officer approval within **one year** of the date of enrollment in this General Permit. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may require these ponds to be lined on a case by case basis depending on the threat to water quality.

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<sup>12</sup> Liner must have a permeability of less than  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  centimeters per second and may be constructed with synthetic materials, two feet of low permeable soils, or another engineered alternative. Discharger must provide documentation for Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer approval to confirm that a treatment, storage, or evaporation pond is sufficiently impermeable to prevent discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater.



2. Two feet of freeboard must always be maintained in ponds to provide adequate storage capacity and prevent wastewater spills. Freeboard must be measured vertically from the lowest elevation of the pond berm to the pond water surface. Wastewater ponds must contain permanent markers indicating depth and freeboard. If freeboard is less than two feet,<sup>13</sup> the Discharger must immediately implement the contingency plan contained in the spill prevention and emergency response plan.<sup>14</sup>
3. Pond systems must have capacity to accommodate wastewater, design seasonal precipitation, ancillary inflow and infiltration, and wind driven waves. Design seasonal precipitation must be based on the following precipitation criteria:
  - i. If wastewater spills occur (e.g., breaches in the pond walls, flows spilling over the pond walls, etc.) at existing pond systems, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may require pond upgrades consistent with the size specification defined below (section IV.B.3.ii).
  - ii. For new or expanded pond systems, seasonal precipitation used in the pond sizing water balance calculations must be based on the following:
    - a. The 100-year return annual total precipitation value distributed monthly in accordance with average (mean) precipitation values. The calculations must demonstrate adequate capacity to maintain two feet of freeboard in the pond(s).
    - b. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may allow a lower standard for the return annual total precipitation value, with approval of a technical report describing how operation of the Wastewater System will not result in wastewater spills. If the Discharger seeks relief from the 100-year return annual total precipitation value, the Discharger must certify that the spill prevention and emergency response plan is adequate to respond to forecast conditions using the 100-year return annual total precipitation value distributed monthly in accordance with average (mean) precipitation values. The calculations must demonstrate adequate capacity to maintain two feet of freeboard in the pond(s).
4. All ponds must be managed to control breeding of mosquitoes including, but not limited to, the following:
  - i. An erosion control program must be implemented to ensure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface of the pond(s).
  - ii. Weeds must be minimized through control of water depth, a shoreline synthetic liner, harvesting, or other suitable measures.
  - iii. Vegetation and debris must be removed from the water surface.

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<sup>13</sup> Reference – Tchobanoglous, George (1979) "Wastewater Engineering: Treatment, Disposal, Reuse," Metcalf & Eddy, Inc.

<sup>14</sup> See section VI.A.2.iv.

- iv. Coordination with the local mosquito abatement or vector control district to supplement the measures described above in cases where other methods are infeasible.
5. A dissolved oxygen concentration of 1.0 mg/L must be maintained in the upper one foot of wastewater ponds to prevent nuisance odors.
6. Burrowing animals active in areas that may compromise the integrity of pond containment must be promptly controlled and repairs to the containment completed as soon as possible.
7. Prior to any removal, drying, treatment, or disposal of sludge for pond maintenance, the Discharger must implement and comply with the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer approved sludge management plan.
8. Constructed ponds must be graded to prevent the accumulation of stormwater runoff into the pond.

### **C. Land Application by Spray or Drip Methods**

1. Wastewater must not be applied to a land application area within 24 hours of forecasted precipitation with a greater than 50-percent probability of occurring, during precipitation events, or when the land application area surface soil is saturated.
2. Spray irrigation with treated wastewater is prohibited when wind speed (including gusts) exceeds 10 miles per hour. Wind speed may be measured onsite or at a nearby weather station operated by a governmental organization. If the Discharger's land application areas are isolated from receptors, the Discharger may request Executive Officer approval to spray irrigate when wind speeds exceed 10 miles per hour.
3. Land application of treated wastewater must be managed to prevent ponding, runoff, and erosion.
4. Discharge of wastewater (e.g., surface flow, spray drift, etc.) from a land application area is prohibited.
5. If undisinfected wastewater is applied to a land application area, stormwater runoff from the land application area is prohibited.
6. If stormwater can run off from a land application area (during the time of year wastewater is not applied), all applied wastewater must meet disinfection requirements at a level equivalent to disinfected secondary-23 recycled water (California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.225). Land application of more highly treated water is acceptable. Alternatively, a Discharger may submit a technical report, for Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer approval, describing how the land application area will be operated to prevent pathogens from migrating off the land application area with stormwater.
7. Land application areas must be managed to control breeding of mosquitoes including, but not limited to the following:
  - i. There must be no standing water 48 hours after application of wastewater.

- ii. Low-pressure and unpressurized pipelines and ditches accessible to mosquitoes must not be used to store wastewater or recycled water.
- iii. The Discharger must coordinate with the local mosquito abatement or vector control district to supplement the measures described above in cases where other methods are infeasible.

#### **D. Land Application by Controlled Flood Methods**

The following requirements apply to areas where land application occurs by controlled flood methods (e.g., Spreading Basins, Rapid Infiltration Beds, etc.).

1. Two feet of freeboard must always be maintained in bermed flood areas to provide adequate storage capacity and prevent wastewater spills. Freeboard must be measured vertically from the lowest elevation of the berm to the water surface.
2. Controlled flood areas must have capacity to accommodate wastewater, design seasonal precipitation, ancillary inflow and infiltration, and wind driven waves. Design seasonal precipitation must be based on the following precipitation criteria:
  - i. If wastewater spills occur (e.g., breaches in berms, flows spilling over the berms, etc.) at existing controlled flood areas, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may require upgrades consistent with the size specification defined in section IV.B.3.ii.
  - ii. For new or expanded controlled flood areas, seasonal precipitation used in the sizing water balance calculations must be based on the following:
    - a. The 100-year return annual total precipitation value distributed monthly in accordance with average (mean) precipitation values. The calculations must demonstrate adequate capacity to maintain two feet of freeboard in the bermed flood area(s).
    - b. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may allow a lower standard for the return annual total precipitation value, with approval of a technical report describing how operation of the Wastewater System will not result in wastewater spills. If the Discharger seeks relief from the 100-year return annual total precipitation value, the Discharger must certify that the spill prevention and emergency response plan is adequate to respond to forecast conditions using the 100-year return annual total precipitation value distributed monthly in accordance with average (mean) precipitation values. The calculations must demonstrate adequate capacity to maintain two feet of freeboard in the bermed flood area(s).
3. Controlled flood areas must be managed to control breeding of mosquitoes including, but not limited to, the following:
  - i. An erosion control program must be implemented to ensure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the bermed flood area (s).
  - ii. Weeds must be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or other suitable measures.
  - iii. Vegetation and debris must be removed from the water surface.

- iv. Coordination with the local mosquito abatement or vector control district to supplement the measures described above in cases where other methods are infeasible.
4. Burrowing animals active in areas that may compromise the integrity of controlled flood containment must be promptly controlled and repairs to the containment/berms completed as soon as possible.
5. Constructed flood area(s) must be graded to prevent the accumulation of stormwater runoff into the controlled flood area(s).

#### **E. Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal**

1. Sludge and solid waste must be removed from screens, sumps, tanks, and ponds as needed to ensure optimal plant operation.
2. Treatment and storage of sludge/biosolids must be confined to the Wastewater System property and must be conducted in a manner that precludes runoff or infiltration of waste into soil.
3. Any storage of residual sludge, solid waste, or biosolids at the Wastewater System must be temporary, and the waste must be controlled and contained in a manner that minimizes leachate formation and precludes runoff or infiltration of waste into soils and groundwater.
4. Residual sludge and solid waste must be disposed of in a manner approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer and consistent with the Consolidated Requirements for Treatment, Storage, Processing, or Disposal of Solid Waste (California Code of Regulations, title 27 division 2). Removal for further treatment, disposal, or reuse at disposal sites operated in accordance with valid WDRs issued by the State Water Board or Central Coast Water Board will satisfy this specification.
5. Use and disposal of biosolids must comply with the USEPA Part 503 Biosolids Rule (Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 503).
6. Dischargers that meet the criteria for coverage under State Water Board Order No. 2004-0012-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Biosolids to Land for Use as a Soil Amendment in Agricultural, Silvicultural, Horticultural, and Land Reclamation Activities, are required to enroll in State Water Board Order No. 2004-0012-DWQ.
7. Modifications to an approved sludge management plan deemed part of an emergency action must be noticed to the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer within **five-days** of disposal with a rationale for the emergency modification.

#### **F. Pretreatment Specifications**

1. These Pretreatment Specifications apply to:

- i. Dischargers that own or operate publicly owned treatment works<sup>15</sup> treating or designed to treat an average dry weather flow of 5 million gallons per day or more of community wastewater.
- ii. Wastewater Systems that the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer has determined a pretreatment program is necessary to prevent the introduction of pollutants/wastes which will interfere with the operation of the treatment works, pass through the treatment system, reduce opportunities to recycle and reuse domestic wastewater and sludge, or expose Wastewater System employees to hazardous chemicals.

2. The Discharger must:

- i. Submit a Pretreatment Program Plan to the Central Coast Water Board for Executive Officer review and approval. This plan must provide a clear, long-term plan for addressing the pretreatment requirements contained in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 403. The Pretreatment Program Plan must be maintained at the wastewater treatment facility and must be presented to the Central Coast Water Board staff upon request or as required by the notice of applicability.
- ii. Comply with the pretreatment requirements contained in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 403. The Discharger must implement and enforce its pretreatment program. The Discharger's pretreatment program is hereby made an enforceable condition of this General Permit. The Central Coast Water Board may initiate enforcement action against an industrial user for noncompliance with applicable standards and requirements as provided in the Clean Water Act.<sup>CFR</sup>
- iii. Enforce the requirements promulgated under section 307(b), 307(c), 307(d), and 402(b) of the Clean Water Act. The Discharger must cause industrial users subject to Federal Categorical Standards to achieve compliance no later than the date specified in those requirements or, in the case of a new industrial user, upon commencement of its discharge.<sup>CFR</sup>
- iv. Perform the pretreatment functions as required in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 403.8(f), including but not limited to:
  - a. Implement the necessary legal authorities as provided in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 103.8(f)(1);
  - b. Enforce the pretreatment requirements under Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, parts 403.5 and 403.6;
  - c. Implement the programmatic functions as provided in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 403.8(f)(2); and

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<sup>15</sup> Publicly owned treatment works is defined in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 403.3.

- d. Provide the requisite funding and personnel to implement the pretreatment program as provided in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 403.8(f)(3) CFR.

## V. Limitations

### A. Effluent Limitations

This General Permit establishes effluent limitations consistent with USEPA secondary treatment standards, the Basin Plan, and title 22 requirements (if title 22 is applicable).

For any Wastewater System regulated by this General Permit that is not able to achieve immediate compliance with the effluent limitations (as specified in Table 3 through 7 of this General Permit), that Discharger must comply with interim effluent limitations specified in their notice of applicability, which will be based on the effluent limitations specified in their preexisting individual waste discharge requirements (individual permit). These interim effluent limitations will remain in effect for a maximum of 24 months after the date of issuance of the notice of applicability.

Where a Discharger believes that additional time (more than 24 months) is needed to achieve compliance with the effluent limitations (as specified in Table 3 through 7 of this General Permit), that Discharger must request a time schedule order pursuant to Water Code section 13300 for consideration by the Central Coast Water Board no later than 12 months after the date of issuance of the notice of applicability. The request for a time schedule order must be submitted as set forth in section VI.A.5.

Central Coast Water Board staff will identify the applicable Wastewater System specific effluent limitations and corresponding monitoring requirements for a Wastewater System in the notice of applicability.

The parameters used within this General Permit to determine Wastewater System specific effluent limitations includes, but is not limited to:

1. **Treatment Technology:** In the application, the Discharger must identify the treatment technology used at the Wastewater System. The Discharger is required to comply with the applicable secondary treatment effluent limitations specified in Tables 3, 4, and 5.
2. **Underlying Groundwater Basin/Sub-Area:** In the application, the Discharger must identify the groundwater basin/sub-area that underlies the Wastewater System disposal area and is required to proceed with one of the two options presented below.
  - i. **Option 1:** The Discharger complies with effluent limitations specified in Table 6 (for wastewater disposal overlying designated groundwater basins<sup>16</sup>) or Table 7 (for wastewater disposal overlying non-designated groundwater basins<sup>17</sup>). The Discharger must demonstrate within 24 months of issuance of the notice of applicability that the quality of effluent discharged from the Wastewater System meets effluent limitations specified in Table 6 or Table 7. If the Discharger is unable to comply with the effluent limitations within 24

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<sup>16</sup> See Attachment A for definition of designated groundwater basin.

<sup>17</sup> See Attachment A for definition of non-designated groundwater basin.

months, the Discharger may be required to implement the groundwater monitoring program as described in Option 2. Even if the Discharger chooses Option 1, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may require groundwater monitoring to ensure protection of beneficial uses.

Designated Groundwater Basin - If the Wastewater System discharges treated wastewater or non-potable treated recycled water to a designated basin, use effluent limitations in Table 6.

Non-Designated Groundwater Basin - If the Wastewater System discharges treated wastewater or non-potable treated recycled water into a non-designated groundwater basin use effluent limitations in Table 7.

If a Wastewater System overlies a non-designated groundwater basin, the Discharger may request Executive Officer approval to use the effluent limitations established for an adjacent designated groundwater basin (Table 6).

- ii. Option 2: The Discharger does not comply with the effluent limitations specified in Table 6 or Table 7. The Discharger will be required to implement a groundwater monitoring program to demonstrate compliance with the water quality objectives specified in the Basin Plan.
3. Reclamation of Non-Potable Treated Wastewater: In the application, the Discharger must disclose whether they are a non-potable recycled water producer. If treated non-potable recycled water from the Wastewater System is discharged to land for the purposes of reuse, the Discharger must comply with the effluent limitations specified in Table 8. The requirements established in the DDW conditionally accepted title 22 Engineering Report and DDW conditional acceptance letter for the Wastewater System also apply. If the effluent limitations or requirements established in the conditionally accepted title 22 Engineering Report for the Wastewater System cannot be met, the Central Coast Water Board reserves the right to:
- i. Not permit the proposed discharge to land until effluent limitations can be achieved with proposed source control or treatment design, or
  - ii. Require the Discharger to provide supplemental technical report(s) (e.g., modeling); conduct additional monitoring (i.e., groundwater monitoring, etc.); or implement best management practices (i.e., wastewater disposal management plan, etc.) to confirm compliance with conditions and requirements of this General Permit, to avoid unreasonably affecting present and anticipated beneficial uses, and to ensure that any change to water quality will be consistent with the maximum benefit of the people of the State.

**Table 3: Secondary Treatment Effluent Limitations - Treatment Ponds <sup>[13]</sup>**

Constituent	Units	30-Day Average	7-Day Average	Sample Maximum
Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-Day	mg/L <sup>[1][2]</sup>	45 <sup>[6]</sup>	65 <sup>[6]</sup>	Not Applicable
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	45 <sup>[6]</sup>	65 <sup>[6]</sup>	Not Applicable

Constituent	Units	30-Day Average	7-Day Average	Sample Maximum
Settleable Solids	mL/L <sup>[3]</sup>	0.3	Not Applicable	0.5
pH	Not Applicable	between 6.5 and 8.4 <sup>[4]</sup>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

See notes after Table 8.

**Table 4: Secondary Treatment Effluent Limitations - Trickling Filters <sup>[13]</sup>**

Constituent	Units	30-Day Average	7-Day Average	Sample Maximum
Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-Day	mg/L	30 <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	45 <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	Not Applicable
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	30 <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	45 <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	Not Applicable
Settleable Solids	mL/L	0.3	Not Applicable	0.5
pH	Not Applicable	between 6.5 and 8.4 <sup>[4]</sup>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

See notes after Table 8.

**Table 5: Secondary Treatment Effluent Limitations - Activated Sludge, Membrane Biological Reactor, Sequencing Batch Reactor, or Similar Systems**

Constituent	Units	30-Day Average	7-Day Average	Sample Maximum
Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-Day	mg/L	30 <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	45 <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	Not Applicable
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	30 <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	45 <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>	Not Applicable
Settleable Solids	mL/L	0.1	0.3	0.5
pH	Not Applicable	between 6.5 and 8.4 <sup>[4]</sup>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

See notes after Table 8.

**Table 6: Effluent Limitations for Designated Groundwater Basins<sup>[4]</sup> <sup>[11]</sup>, 25-Month Rolling Median in mg/L**

Basin/Sub-Area	Total Dissolved Solids	Chloride	Sulfate	Boron	Sodium	Total Nitrogen <sup>[14]</sup> <sup>[15]</sup>
<b>Big Basin</b>						
Near Felton	100	20	10	0.2	10	10
Near Boulder Creek	250	30	50	0.2	20	10



Basin/Sub-Area	Total Dissolved Solids	Chloride	Sulfate	Boron	Sodium	Total Nitrogen <sup>[14][15]</sup>
<b>Pajaro Valley</b>						
Hollister	1,200	150	250	1.0	200	10
Tres Pinos	1,000	150	250	1.0	150	10
Llagas	300	20	50	0.2	20	10
<b>Salinas Valley</b>						
Upper Valley	600	150	150	0.5	70	10
Upper Forebay	800	100	250	0.5	100	10
Lower Forebay	1,500	250	850	0.5	150	10
180-foot Aquifer	1,500	250	600	0.5	250	10
400-foot Aquifer	400	50	100	0.2	50	10
<b>Paso Robles Area</b>						
Central Basin	400	60	45	0.3	80	10
San Miguel	750	100	175	0.5	105	10
Paso Robles	1,050	270	200	2.0	225	10
Templeton	730	100	120	0.3	75	10
Atascadero	550	70	85	0.3	65	10
Estrella	925	130	240	0.75	170	10
Shandon	1,390	430	1,025	2.8	730	10
<b>Estero Bay</b>						
Santa Rosa	700	100	80	0.2	50	10
Chorro	1,000	250	100	0.2	50	10
San Luis Obispo	900	200	100	0.2	50	10
Arroyo Grande	800	100	200	0.2	50	10
<b>Santa Maria River Valley</b>						
Upper Guadalupe	1,000	165	500	0.5	230	10
Lower Guadalupe	1,000	85	500	0.2	90	10
Lower Nipomo Mesa	710	95	250	0.15	90	10
Orcutt	740	65	300	0.1	65	10
Santa Maria	1,000	90	510	0.2	105	10

Basin/Sub-Area	Total Dissolved Solids	Chloride	Sulfate	Boron	Sodium	Total Nitrogen <sup>[14][15]</sup>
Cuyama Valley	1,500	80	250	0.4	250	10
<b>San Antonio Creek Valley</b>	600	150	150	0.2	100	10
<b>Santa Ynez River Valley</b>						
Santa Ynez	600	50	10	0.5	20	10
Santa Rita	1,500	150	700	0.5	100	10
Lompoc Plain	1,250	250	500	0.5	250	10
Lompoc Upland	600	150	100	0.5	100	10
Lompoc Terrace	750	210	100	0.3	130	10
<b>South Coast</b>						
Goleta	1,000	150	250	0.2	150	10
Santa Barbara	700	50	150	0.2	100	10
Carpinteria	700	100	150	0.2	100	10

See notes after Table 8.

**Table 7: Effluent Limitations for Non-Designated Groundwater Basins**

Constituent	Units	25-Month Rolling Median	Sample Maximum
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	500 <sup>[8]</sup>	1,000 <sup>[8]</sup>
Chloride	mg/L	250 <sup>[8]</sup>	500 <sup>[8]</sup>
Sulfate	mg/L	250 <sup>[8]</sup>	500 <sup>[10]</sup>
Boron	mg/L	0.5 <sup>[4][9]</sup>	Not Applicable
Sodium	mg/L	250 <sup>[8]</sup>	Not Applicable
Total Nitrogen <sup>[14][15]</sup>	mg/L	10 <sup>[11]</sup>	Not Applicable

See notes after Table 8.

**Table 8: Effluent Limitations for Non-Potable Recycled Water Producers - All Wastewater Systems**

Constituent	Unit	Regulatory Limitations
Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL <sup>[5]</sup>	title 22 <sup>[12]</sup>
Turbidity	NTU	title 22 <sup>[12]</sup>
Chlorine residual	mg/L	title 22 <sup>[12]</sup>
Other constituents or operational requirements identified in a title 22 Engineering Report	Not Applicable	title 22 <sup>[12]</sup>

[1] mg denotes milligrams.

[2] L denotes liter.

- [3] mL denotes milliliters.
- [4] Basin Plan. For pH, the effluent limitation values shown are a range, not an average or maximum.
- [5] MPN denotes most probable number.
- [6] USEPA Office of Wastewater Management, Water Permits Division, State and Regional Branch, EPA-833-K-10-001, September 2010.
- [7] USEPA, Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 133.102, Secondary Treatment Standards, Technology-Based Effluent Limits.
- [8] California Division of Drinking Water secondary MCL. California Code of Regulations, Title 22 Division 4. Environmental Health Chapter 15. Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations Article 16. Secondary Drinking Water Standards.
- [9] Water Quality for Agriculture, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1985, contains criteria protective of various agricultural uses of water, including irrigation of various types of crops and stock watering.
- [10] USEPA primary MCL.
- [11] California Division of Drinking Water primary MCL.
- [12] As specified in State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water title 22 conditional acceptance letter. Disinfection methods will vary between plants. Some customization of this table will occur in the notice of applicability based on the title 22 conditional acceptance letter.
- [13] To be eligible for discharge limitations based on equivalent to secondary standards, a Wastewater System must meet all three criteria as specified in Code of Federal Regulations, section 133.105. An applicant must provide an analysis documenting that their Wastewater System meets all three criteria.
- [14] If a Discharger can demonstrate nitrogen loading associated with discharge to a land application area is reduced through agronomic uptake, the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may approve an adjustment to the nitrogen effluent limits.
- [15] Total nitrogen is the sum of total inorganic nitrogen (nitrate + nitrite + ammonium + ammonia) and organic nitrogen.

**B. Organic Loading Limitations**

If a Wastewater System land applies treated wastewater or treated non-potable recycled water, Organic Loading Limitations listed in Table 9 apply. For operational and management requirements refer to sections IV.C and IV.D.

**Table 9: Organic Loading Rate Limitations**

Constituent	Units	30-Day Average	Maximum
Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-Day	pounds/acre/day	100	300

**C. Groundwater Limitations**

The discharge shall not cause the underlying groundwater to exceed the water quality objectives set forth in the Basin Plan.

**VI. Provisions**

**A. Technical Report Requirements**

The Discharger must submit the following technical reports in accordance with the schedule specified in the General Monitoring and Reporting Program. The General Monitoring and Reporting Program prescribes the details on the required components of each plan. The Discharger must implement each required plan in accordance with a Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer approved schedule.

1. **Pretreatment Program Plan** - If directed by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer, the Discharger must submit a Pretreatment Program Plan to the

Central Coast Water Board for Executive Officer review and approval. See section IV.F.2.i.

2. **Operations and Maintenance Manual** -The Discharger must submit a written Operations and Maintenance Manual for Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer review and approval. The Operations and Maintenance Manual must be maintained at the wastewater treatment facility and must be presented to Central Coast Water Board staff upon request. In addition to the required components specified in the attached Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements dated December 5, 2013 (Standard Provisions) A.12 and A.28, the Operations and Maintenance Manual must contain the following components:
  - i. **Sampling and Analysis Plan** - The sampling and analysis plan must be sufficient to ensure compliance with the terms of this General Permit and the notice of applicability. If the Central Coast Water Board issues a revised monitoring and reporting program, the Discharger must update the sampling and analysis plan as needed to comply with the revised monitoring and reporting program.
  - ii. **Sludge Management Plan** - The sludge management plan must be sufficient to ensure compliance with the terms of this General Permit and the notice of applicability.
  - iii. **Wastewater Disposal Management Plan** - The wastewater disposal management plan must be sufficient to ensure compliance with the terms of this General Permit and the notice of applicability.
  - iv. **Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan** - The spill prevention and emergency response plan must be sufficient to ensure compliance with the terms of this General Permit and the notice of applicability. The spill prevention and emergency response plan must describe operation and maintenance activities to prevent accidental releases of wastewater and to effectively respond to such releases and minimize the environmental impact.
3. **Climate Change Adaptation Plan** - The Discharger must submit a Climate Change Adaptation Plan<sup>18</sup> to the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer for review and approval. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan must describe the Discharger's long-term approach for identifying and addressing climate change hazards and vulnerabilities for their Wastewater System, including all associated infrastructure (e.g., treatment facilities, conveyances to discharge points, and discharge facilities). The Climate Change Adaptation Plan must be maintained at the wastewater treatment facility.
  - i. **Recycled Water Feasibility Plan** – For Dischargers with Wastewater System design flows over 1,000,000 gallons per day, the Climate Change Adaptation Plan must contain a recycled water feasibility plan for the production and reuse of non-potable recycled wastewater.

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<sup>18</sup> In place of a static document, the Discharger may develop a living document and/or set of tools that fulfills the components outlined in section VI.A.3.

4. **Salt and Nutrient Management Plan** - If directed by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer, a Discharger must prepare and submit a salt and nutrient management plan, to ensure that the overall impact of treated wastewater and/or water recycling projects does not degrade groundwater resources.

The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may direct the development and implementation of a salt and nutrient management plan when one of following occurs:

- i. Non-potable recycled water is produced. It is the intent of the Recycled Water Policy that every groundwater basin/sub-basin in California has a salt and nutrient management plan.
  - ii. If a Discharger does not treat the wastewater to the effluent limitations specified in Table 6 or Table 7.
  - iii. Effluent/groundwater data from a Wastewater System demonstrates negative impacts or trends towards negative impacts to groundwater from a discharge.
  - iv. Central Coast Water Board learns of a current or past discharge that has/had the potential to negatively impact groundwater or surface water.
5. **Time Schedule Order Request** – If the Discharger requests a time schedule order as allowed by section V.A, a Discharger must prepare and submit for Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer review and approval a time schedule compliance plan to revise its operations and upgrade the Wastewater System as necessary to achieve compliance with effluent limitations in this General Permit. The revised operation practices and/or upgrades must be designed to ensure compliance with General Permit limitations and other requirements, improve consistency of effluent quality, improve the performance of current Wastewater System operations, and provide redundancy, as appropriate, for some existing operations.

**B. General Provisions for All Wastewater Systems:**

1. The Discharger must comply with all items of Standard Provisions and any updates to the Standard Provisions adopted by the Central Coast Water Board, unless exempted in writing by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer. The Central Coast Water Board will provide the Discharger notice of proposed updates to the Standard Provisions in accordance with procedures for public participation. A copy of the 2013 Standard Provisions currently in effect is available electronically at the following link and is Attachment E of this General Permit:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_decisions/docs/wdr\\_standard\\_provisions\\_2013.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/docs/wdr_standard_provisions_2013.pdf)
2. The Discharger must ensure that all site operating personnel are familiar with the contents of the Wastewater System notice of applicability, this General Permit, the General Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Operations and Maintenance Manual, and the conditionally accepted title 22 Engineering Report (for non-potable recycled water production and onsite use when applicable). The Discharger must at a minimum document training provided to all new site operating personnel and refresher training annually to ensure they meet this requirement. A copy of this General Permit, the notice of applicability, and technical reports required by this

General Permit must be kept at the wastewater treatment facility for reference by operating personnel.

3. The Discharger must operate and maintain all Wastewater Systems in accordance with an Operations and Maintenance Manual for the Wastewater System that is subject to the approval of the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer. The Operations and Maintenance Manual, including expected performance criteria, a process flow diagram, and a copy of as-built plans, must be kept onsite and periodically updated whenever there is a change in operational procedures or an expansion of the system. See Standard Provisions A.12 and A.28 and the General Monitoring and Reporting Program for additional requirements of the Operations and Maintenance Manual.
4. The Discharger must maintain in good working order, and operate as efficiently as possible, any Wastewater System, control system, or monitoring device installed to achieve compliance with this General Permit and the notice of applicability.
5. The Discharger must take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact to waters of the state resulting from noncompliance with this General Permit.
6. Access to the Wastewater System must be limited to authorized persons.
7. This General Permit does not relieve the Discharger from responsibility to obtain other necessary local, state, or federal permits to construct Wastewater Systems necessary for compliance with this General Permit, nor does this General Permit prevent imposition of additional standards, requirements, or conditions by any other agency.
8. The prohibitions, specifications, limitations, and provisions of this General Permit are severable. If any provision of this General Permit is held invalid, the remainder of this General Permit shall not be affected.
9. The Discharger must take all reasonable steps to prevent any discharge in violation of this General Permit.
10. The Central Coast Water Board will review this General Permit periodically and will revise requirements when necessary.
11. Before making a material change in the character, location, or volume of discharge, the Discharger must notify the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer. A material change includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:
  - i. A change in area or depth used for waste disposal beyond that specified in the notice of applicability.
  - ii. A significant change in disposal method, location, or volume (e.g., change from land application by spray or drip method to percolation pond or increase in flow).
12. The Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer may require that updated permit application documents be submitted.
13. Wastewater System repairs and expansions must be made in accordance with the conditions of this General Permit, the notice of applicability, and the California Water Code.

14. At least **90 days** prior to termination or expiration of any lease, contract, or agreement involving disposal or recycling areas or offsite reuse of effluent, used to justify the capacity authorized herein and ensure compliance with this General Permit, the Discharger must notify the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer in writing of the situation and of what measures have been taken or are being taken to ensure full compliance with this General Permit and the notice of applicability.
15. Except for material determined to be confidential in accordance with California law, all reports prepared in accordance with terms of this General Permit will be available for public inspection by the Central Coast Water Board. Data on waste discharges, water quality, geology, and hydrogeology are not confidential.
16. For any electrically operated equipment at the Wastewater System, the failure of which would cause loss of control or containment of waste materials, or violation of this General Permit, the Discharger must employ safeguards to prevent loss of control over wastes. Such safeguards may include alternate power sources, standby generators, retention capacity, operating procedures, or other means.
17. In the event of any change in control or ownership of the Wastewater System or wastewater disposal areas, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this General Permit by letter, a copy of which must be immediately forwarded to the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer.
18. The Discharger must pay an annual fee to the State Water Board in accordance with the fee schedule for each fiscal year (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2200). Fees are based on threat to water quality and complexity ratings, which will be determined based on information in the permit application and are subject to revision by the State Water Board. Annual invoices are issued by the State Water Board for the state fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

**C. General Reporting Requirements:**

1. The Discharger must report electronically via email and through the State Water Board's GeoTracker database or as otherwise specified in the General Monitoring and Reporting Program.
2. If the Discharger does not comply, or will be unable to comply, with a limit related to pond freeboard, flow rate, the conditionally accepted title 22 Engineering Report requirements, or has bypass or overflow, the Discharger must notify Central Coast Water Board staff by telephone. Current phone numbers for Central Coast Water Board offices may be found on the notice of applicability or on the Internet at:  
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>  
Notification must occur as soon as the Discharger or its agents have knowledge of such noncompliance or potential for noncompliance, and the Discharger must confirm this notification in writing within five days. The written notification must state the date, time, nature, cause of noncompliance, immediate response action, and schedule for corrective actions.
3. In the event of a wastewater containment failure, the Discharger must immediately notify California Office of Emergency Services. Notification must be provided as soon as possible and when the notice can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures (California Water Code, section

13271). A written report to the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer must be submitted within 10 days of the failure describing the cause of the failure and how a recurrence will be prevented. Such a failure must be promptly corrected in accordance with the requirements of this General Permit.

4. Notification requirements for the delivery of off-specification recycled water:
  - i. In the event the Discharger of non-potable recycled water does not comply with the recycling specifications in section V.A.3, the Discharger must immediately notify, via telephone and email, the Central Coast Water Board and the applicable DDW District office. Within two weeks of the noncompliance, the Discharger must submit a written follow-up report to the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer and DDW District Engineer, including pertinent information explaining reasons for the noncompliance and steps being taken to prevent the problems from recurring.
  - ii. In the event the Discharger delivers recycled water not meeting the Uniform Statewide Recycling Criteria specification, the Discharger must immediately notify, via telephone and email, all enrollees of the State Water Board's Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use (Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW) with potential to have received recycled water from the Wastewater System.
5. All reports submitted in response to this General Permit, including monitoring reports, must be signed in accordance with Standard Provisions section C.14 (Attachment E) using the current transmittal document provided by Central Coast Water Board staff. In addition:
  - i. For an LLC, all reports must be signed by an LLC member or manager given signing authority by the operating agreement of the LLC if the wastewater discharge will occur on property owned by an LLC.
  - ii. To be considered a duly authorized representative, all the following must be completed:
    - a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above or in Standard Provisions.
    - b. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated Wastewater System or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a waste management unit, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility (a duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position).
    - c. The written authorization is submitted to the Central Coast Water Board.
6. All reports/documents and laboratory data must be submitted electronically as specified in the General Monitoring and Reporting Program and notice of applicability.

#### **D. Monitoring Requirements**

The Discharger must comply with the monitoring and reporting program issued with the notice of applicability, and any future revisions, as specified by the Central Coast



Water Board Executive Officer. A General Monitoring and Reporting Program is provided as Attachment D.

## **VII. Enforcement**

### **A. Violations**

Violations of these General Permit requirements may result in enforcement actions as authorized under the California Water Code.

### **B. Technical and Monitoring Reports**

All technical and monitoring reports submitted pursuant to this General Permit are required pursuant to section 13267 of the California Water Code. Failure to submit reports in accordance with schedules established by this General Permit or attachments to this General Permit, or failure to submit a report of sufficient technical quality to be acceptable to the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer, may subject the Discharger to enforcement action pursuant to section 13268 of the California Water Code.

## **VIII. Effective Date of the General Permit**

This General Permit takes effect upon Central Coast Water Board adoption.

I, Matthew T. Keeling, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the General Permit adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region on September 25, 2020.

Matthew T. Keeling  
Executive Officer

ECM Subject Name = General WDRs for Large Domestic WWTP, Permit No. R3-2020-0020  
\\ca.epa.local\RB\RB3\Shared\WDR\General WDRs for Large Domestic WWTP\General Order\Final Draft\Final Docs\item14\_att2.docx

## ATTACHMENT A DEFINITIONS

### **7-day average**

Calculated as the average concentration of the results for the last seven calendar days. If only one sample is collected within a seven-day period, then that one sample becomes the seven-day average value.

### **25-month rolling median**

The median is the value separating the higher half from the lower half of a data sample. For a data set, it may be thought of as the "middle" value. A 25-month rolling median is determined by using the most recent twenty-five months of data.<sup>19</sup>

### **30-day average**

The arithmetic mean of measurements recorded during a calendar month. If only one sample is collected in a calendar month, then that sample measurement is the 30-day average concentration.

### **Beneficial uses**

The uses of water protected against degradation, such as: domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply; hydropower generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation and preservation of fish and wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves. Existing beneficial uses are uses that were attained in the surface or groundwater after Nov. 28, 1975 and potential beneficial uses are uses that would develop in the future through control measures.

### **Biosolids**

Sludge that has undergone enough treatment and testing to qualify for reuse pursuant to the USEPA Part 503 Biosolids Rule (Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 503).

### **Constituents of emerging concern**

Chemicals in personal care products; pharmaceuticals including antibiotics; antimicrobials; industrial, agricultural, and household chemicals; hormones; food additives; transformation products; inorganic constituents; and nanomaterials.

### **Constituent**

An informal term used to describe a detectable element or component or attribute of waste or effluent.

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<sup>19</sup> Steps for determining the 25-month rolling median:

- a. Order 25-months of data from least to greatest. Put the smallest value first and arranging the values so that each following value is greater than the previous one.
- b. Find the middle number.
  - If there is an odd number of values, locate the middle number. This is the median.
  - If there is an even number of values, find the two middle numbers. Average of the two middle numbers. This is the median.

**Contaminant**

Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in air, water, or soil.

**Day**

The mean solar day of 24 hours beginning at mean midnight. All references to “day” in this General Permit are calendar days.

**Designated groundwater basin**

Designated groundwater basins are identified in Table 3-6 of the Basin Plan. Designated groundwater basins have basin-specific water quality objectives and water quality objectives associated with groundwater beneficial uses (municipal supply [MUN], industrial service supply [IND], and agricultural supply [AGR]).

**Disposal ponds**

Disposal ponds Include percolation and evaporation ponds.

**Domestic wastewater**

Wastewater from households, commercial establishments, and industries. Combined sewer/separate storm overflows are included in this category.

**Flow weighted sample**

A sample collected at varying time intervals (average interval one hour or less) so that each sample represents an equal portion of the cumulative flow. The duration of the sampling period will be specified in the monitoring and reporting program.

**Impoundment**

Impoundment refers to treatment ponds, storage ponds, disposal ponds, and land application by controlled flood methods.

**Indirect potable reuse**

Indirect potable reuse of treated wastewater use an environmental buffer, such as a lake, river, or a groundwater aquifer, before the water is treated at a drinking water treatment plant.

**Land application area**

The areas where wastewater is applied to land by spray, drip, or controlled flood methods. Ponds are not considered land application areas.

**Monthly average flow rate**

The total discharge to the headworks by volume during a calendar month divided by the number of days in the month that the wastewater system was discharging. This number must be reported in gallons per day or million gallons per day.

**Non-Designated groundwater basin**

Non-designated groundwater basins are not identified in Table 3-6 of the Basin Plan. Non-Designated groundwater basins have water quality objectives associated with groundwater beneficial uses (municipal supply [MUN], industrial service supply [IND], and agricultural supply [AGR]).

**Pesticide**

Any substance intended to control, destroy, repel, or otherwise mitigate a pest. The term pesticide is inclusive of all pest and disease management products, including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, nematicides, rodenticides, algicides, etc.

**Recycled water**

Water that is used more than one time before it passes back into the natural hydrologic system and is suitable for a beneficial use.

**Sample maximum**

The highest measurement recorded for any grab or composite sample collected during a day in a calendar month.

**Secondary treatment**

USEPA establishes secondary treatment standards for publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), which are minimum, technology-based requirements for municipal wastewater treatment plants. These standards are reflected in terms of five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>), total suspended solids (TSS) removal, and pH.

**Sludge**

The solid, semisolid, and liquid residues removed during primary, secondary, or other wastewater treatment processes. Residual sludge is sludge that will not be subject to further treatment at the Wastewater System.

**Solid waste**

Solid waste is the grit and screenings generated during preliminary treatment.

**Spreading basin/ Rapid infiltration beds**

Controlled flood methods used for wastewater disposal.

**Time-weighted sample**

A sample collected at equal time intervals, with a maximum interval of one hour.

**Title 22 Engineering Report**

Report that describes how a project will comply with the Water Recycling Criteria contained in California Code of Regulations, title 22, sections 60301 through 60355, inclusive and compliance with title 17 for cross connection control.

**Wastewater system**

Refers to the collection system, treatment equipment, pumping stations, treatment ponds, biological treatment systems, chemical treatment systems, clarifiers, sand/media filters, disinfection systems, recycled water systems (including distribution systems), storage ponds, land application areas, disposal ponds, and other systems associated with the collection, treatment, storage, and disposal of wastewater.

ATTACHMENT B  
PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS SUMMARY

The Discharger must complete the following steps:

Step 1: Feasibility Analysis:

- Evaluate the feasibility of connecting the discharge to a regional collection system.
- If it isn't feasible to connect to regional system, prepare a conceptual wastewater plan and go to Step 2.

Step 2: Set up a Meeting with Central Coast Water Board Staff to Discuss the Following:

- Conceptual wastewater plan including wastewater plan for characterization, treatment, and disposal.
- Water balance precipitation value.
- Threat and complexity/application fee.
- Is a title 22 Engineering Report needed?
- Is groundwater monitoring needed?
- Is the Sanitary Sewer System General Permit applicable?
- What level of operator certification may be required?
- California Environmental Quality Act status.
- Application and monitoring report procedures.

Step 3: Submit Permit Application that Includes:

- Completed application (also referred to as a report of waste discharge) and Form 200 or notice of intent.
- Application fee payment.
- Technical report (prepared consistent with the guidance in Attachment C, or as directed by Central Coast Water Board staff).
- Title 22 Engineering Report (if recycling).

Step 4: Central Coast Water Board Permit Application Review:

- If the application is complete, a notice of applicability will be prepared.
- If the application is incomplete, Central Coast Water Board staff will notify the Discharger.

Step 5: Notice of Applicability for Enrollment in the General Permit Issued:

- The notice of applicability authorizes the wastewater discharge consistent with the General Permit, additional requirements included in the notice of applicability, and conditionally accepted title 22 Engineering Report (if applicable).
- The notice of applicability will specify compliance criteria, monitoring requirements, and reporting requirements. Electronic reporting will be required.

ATTACHMENT C  
PERMIT APPLICATION FORMAT

The information presented in the permit application (also referred to as a report of waste discharge) is relied upon by staff to prepare the notice of applicability for coverage by this General Permit for Discharges from Domestic Wastewater Systems with monthly average flow rates greater than 100,000 gallons per day in the central coast region. The Discharger must ensure that the information presented in the application is accurate. Misstatements, errors, or omissions that exist in the application may be included in the notice of applicability and become enforceable.

Waste discharge requirement permits are generally updated at 10 or 15-year intervals depending on the waste's potential to impact water quality. The application must state realistic growth projections. Underestimating growth may result in additional or more frequent permitting requirements. Overestimating growth will result in the need for the Discharger to prepare more treatment, storage, and disposal capacity than might otherwise be immediately required.

Dischargers must submit an application that is consistent with the application format and instructions provided on the Central Coast Water Board webpage:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/wastewater\\_permitting/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/wastewater_permitting/)