
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

24 June 2015

WDID: 5A180806001

Steve Jackson
Lassen County Waterworks District No. 1
Bieber Sewage Treatment Facility
P.O. Box 68
Bieber, CA 96009

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA), WATER QUALITY ORDER 2014-0153-DWQ-R5175, LASSEN COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1, BIEBER SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY, LASSEN COUNTY

In May 2014 the Lassen County Waterworks District No. 1, Bieber Sewage Treatment Facility (hereafter "Discharger") responded with information pertaining to the Central Valley Regional Water Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff's request for updated information for the domestic wastewater treatment and disposal system at their facility in Lassen County.

Based on the information provided, the facility treats and disposes of less than 100,000 gallons of wastewater per day, and is therefore eligible for coverage under the general and specific conditions of State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order). This letter serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to your facility and the wastewater discharge described below. You are hereby assigned General Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5175 for your facility.

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments enclosed with this letter, which prescribes mandatory discharge and monitoring requirements. Sampling, monitoring, and reporting requirements that are applicable to your treatment and disposal methods must be completed in accordance with the sections of the General Order and the attached *Monitoring and Reporting Program* (MRP). This MRP was developed after consideration of your treatment system infrastructure and site conditions described in the attached *Technical Memorandum*.

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 93-071 was adopted for this facility by the Central Valley Water Board on 21 May 1993. The existing MRP requires monthly reporting of wastewater flow, dissolved oxygen, and pond water depth.

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Lassen County Waterworks District No. 1 operates the Bieber Sewage Treatment Facility located south of Bieber, near State Highway 299 in Section 23, Township 38 North, Range 7 East, MDB&M in Lassen County. The wastewater treatment system is comprised of a collection system with lift stations and three treatment ponds. The location is shown in Attachment A of this letter.

This is an existing facility; therefore enrollment under the General Order is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 which applies to ongoing or existing projects.

FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger will maintain exclusive control over the discharge, and shall comply with the terms and conditions of this NOA and the General Order 2014-0153-DWQ-R5175, with all attachments.

Additionally the General Order states in Section B.1.L that the discharger shall comply with the setbacks as described in Table 3. This table summarizes different setback requirements for wastewater system equipment, activities, land application areas, and storage and/or treatment ponds from sensitive receptors and property lines where applicable. The Discharger shall comply with the following applicable setback requirements as summarized in the following table.

Site Specific Applicable Setback Requirements					
Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir
Wastewater Storage and/or Treatment Ponds					
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water)	150 feet ¹	NA	NA	30 feet ²	NA
¹ Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, Section 60310(d). ² Initial set back requirements of 50 feet were waived in accordance with Section B.1, L. (v).					

Failure to comply with the requirements in the documents could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of wastes other than those described in this NOA is prohibited. If the method of waste disposal changes from that described in this NOA, you must submit a new Report of Waste Discharge describing the new operation.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing if the discharge regulated by the General Order ceases, so that we may terminate coverage and avoid unnecessary billing.

The Central Valley Water Board has gone to a Paperless Office System. All regulatory documents, MRPs, submissions, materials, data, monitoring reports, and correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the appropriate regional water board office, in this case 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002. To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any email used to transmit documents to this office: Program: Non-15, W DID: 5A180806001, Facility Name: Bieber STF, Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5175

Please note that WDRs Order No. 93-071 is proposed to be rescinded at the 30/31 July 2015 meeting of the Central Valley Water Board. Upon rescission of your individual WDRs, coverage for your facility under the General Order shall become applicable subject to this Notice of Applicability.

If you have any questions regarding submitting an updated report of waste discharge, making changes to your permitted operations, compliance or enforcement please contact George Low at (530) 224-3208, George.Low@waterboards.ca.gov, or the footer address.


(for) Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

SJR:lmw

Attachment: Bieber Sewage Treatment Facility Location Map
Technical Memorandum
Monitoring and Reporting Program
General Order No. 2014-0153-DWQ

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5175

FOR

LASSEN COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO.1
BIEBER SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY
LASSEN COUNTY

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for monitoring a wastewater treatment system. This MRP is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267. The Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) Executive Officer.

Water Code section 13267 states, in part:

“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, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report 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.”

Water Code section 13268 states, in part:

“(a) 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.”

The Discharger owns and operates the wastewater system that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) of Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ. The reports are necessary to ensure that the Discharger complies with the NOA and General Order. Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall implement this MRP and shall submit the monitoring reports described herein.

All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The name of the sampler, sample type (grab or composite), time, date, location, bottle type, and any preservative used for each sample shall be recorded on the sample chain of custody form. The chain of custody form must also contain all custody information including date, time, and to whom samples were relinquished. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Regional Water Board staff.

Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided that they are used by a State Water Board California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program certified laboratory, or:

1. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
2. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
3. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and
4. Field calibration reports are maintained and available for at least three years.

POND SYSTEM MONITORING
Influent Monitoring

Influent samples shall be taken from a location that provides representative samples of the wastewater and flow rate. At a minimum, influent monitoring shall consist of the following:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sample Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Flow Rate ^a	gpd	Meter	Continuous	Quarterly
gpd denotes gallons per day				
a. At a minimum, the total flow shall be measured monthly to calculate the average daily flow for the month.				

Wastewater Pond Monitoring

All wastewater and treated wastewater storage ponds (lined and unlined) shall be monitored as specified below:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sample Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Freeboard	0.1 feet	Measurement	Monthly	Quarterly
Odors	--	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Berm condition	--	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.				

SOLIDS DISPOSAL MONITORING

The Discharger shall report the handling and disposal of all solids (e.g., screenings, grit, sludge, biosolids, etc.) generated at the wastewater system. Records shall include the name/contact information for the hauling company, the type and amount of waste transported, the date removed from the wastewater system, the disposal facility name and address, and copies of analytical data required by the entity accepting the waste. These records shall be submitted as part of the annual monitoring report.

REPORTING

In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, sample type (e.g., effluent, solids, etc.), and reported analytical or visual inspection results are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized to clearly illustrate compliance with the General Order and NOA as applicable. The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the locations specified in the MRP shall be reported in the next regularly scheduled monitoring report and shall be included in calculations as appropriate.

During the life of this General Order, the State Water Board or Regional Water Board may require the Discharger to electronically submit monitoring reports using the State Water Board's California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) program Internet web site or alternative database. Electronic submittal procedures will be provided when directed to begin electronic submittals. Until directed to electronically submit monitoring reports, the Discharger shall submit hard copy monitoring reports.

A. Quarterly Monitoring Reports

Quarterly reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board on the **first day of the second month after the quarter ends** (e.g. the January-March Quarterly Report is due by May 1st). The reports shall bear the certification and signature of the Discharger's authorized representative. At a minimum, the quarterly reports shall include:

1. Results of all required monitoring.
2. A comparison of monitoring data to the discharge specifications, applicable effluent limits, disclosure of any violations of the NOA and/or General Order, and an explanation of any violation of those requirements. (Data shall be presented in tabular format.)
3. Copies of laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody form(s).

B. Annual Report

Annual Reports shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board by **March 1st following the monitoring year**. The Annual Report shall include the following:

1. Tabular and graphical summaries of all monitoring data collected during the year.
2. An evaluation of the performance of the wastewater treatment facility, including discussion of capacity issues, nuisance conditions, system problems, and a forecast of the flows anticipated in the next year. A flow rate evaluation as described in the General Order (Provision E.2.c) shall also be submitted.

3. A discussion of compliance and the corrective action taken, as well as any planned or proposed actions needed to bring the discharge into compliance with the NOA and/or General Order.
4. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies/redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.
5. The name and contact information for the wastewater operator responsible for operation, maintenance, and system monitoring.

A letter transmitting the monitoring reports shall accompany each report. The letter shall report violations found during the reporting period, and actions taken or planned to correct the violations and prevent future violations. The transmittal letter shall contain the following penalty of perjury statement and shall be signed by the Discharger or the Discharger's authorized agent:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of the those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."

The Discharger shall implement the above monitoring program as of the date of this MRP.

Ordered by:



PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

6/24/2015

(Date)

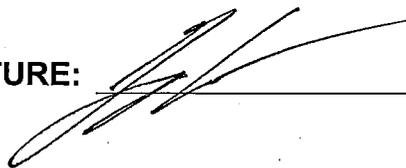
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Byran Smith, PE
Supervising Water Resource
Control Engineer

FROM: George Low, PG
Senior Engineering Geologist

DATE: 24 June 2015

SIGNATURE: 

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF NITRATE AND SETBACK CONDITIONS FOR LASSEN COUNTY
WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1, BIEBER, WDR ORDER 93-071, LASSEN
COUNTY**

I have reviewed the case file and a 28 May 2014 Inspection Report for Lassen County Waterworks District No. 1 (Bieber STP). The Report assesses the general condition of the wastewater evaporation/percolation ponds, and an inspection of all lift stations was also completed during the site visit. The Discharger has kept adequate maintenance documentation and all treatment and collection infrastructure appears in good order. The dissolved oxygen levels are monitored at the first wastewater treatment pond. The flow then proceeds to another evaporation pond and a final percolation pond.

The average daily wastewater flow is less than 40,000 gallons per day. The treatment ponds have a design capacity of 12 acre-feet and the evaporation pond has a capacity of 16 acre-feet, which is above the storage volume required by the existing community.

Potential Threats to Water Quality

The wastewater treatment system is located southeast of the main community of Bieber. The closest distance from the wastewater ponds to the nearest property line is greater than 30 feet. Although this distance is less than the 50 feet recommended by General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, the wastewater berm is in a condition that will protect adjacent properties from impact and the setback limits should be waived as described by Requirements Section B.1, L, (v). of the General Order. The closest potable water well is greater than 500 feet from the wastewater ponds. The closest surface water is greater than 500 feet from the used area of the evaporation pond, but a berm is built and maintained within 30 feet of the Pit River. Depth to groundwater directly under the ponds is unknown, but is estimated to be greater than 7 feet, according to USGS Web Soil Survey (accessed 11/24/2014). The treatment ponds are designed as evaporation disposal with a percolation rate recorded as 35 min/inch, which is well within the range of wastewater treatment ponds. Completion of the Nitrate Checklist in Attachment 1 of Order 2014-0153-DWQ indicates the following flow and rationale:

A1 Exceed 20,000 gpd? Yes.
Wastewater flow generally less than 40,000 gpd.

A2 Shallow Groundwater? No.
No water depth information is directly available; however, USGS Web Soil Survey indicates water depth under the location is greater than 7 feet. The percolation rate and estimated groundwater depth compared to Table 5 is very low and the ponds are primarily designed and used as evaporation ponds.

A3 Excessive Perc Rate/Frac. Env.? No.
The pond area is primarily well drained Bieber-Modoc complex clay loam (USGS Web Soil Survey), and the pond berms and bottoms have an estimated percolation rate of 35 min/inch.

A4 Exceed domestic wastewater strength? No.
Monthly sampling presents no system upset or decreased function. Business in the community includes restaurants and shops. Septage from local residences is allowed to be discharged to the treatment system, and it is not anticipated that there are any contributions of significant contaminants beyond domestic wastewater.

A5 Nitrogen removal may be required? No.
No domestic well is in the vicinity, the percolation rate is very low, and the wastewater is typical of domestic waste suitable for regulation under the General Order 2014-0153-DWQ.

Conclusion: No nitrogen removal is required.

Monitoring Requirements

To protect water quality, a monitoring program similar to the existing Order should be instituted. General pond requirements would be sufficient to monitor physical condition of the system (Freeboard, Odor, Rodent control, etc.). Effluent Limitations described in Table 4 are not applicable because 1) the BOD and TSS limits are only applicable to land application or subsurface disposal, and 2) Nitrate Limits are not required due to environmental and design conditions. I recommend the Bieber wastewater system be monitored for Freeboard, Dissolved Oxygen, and Flow to ensure the limits of the General Order are met.