

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 June 2018

WDID: 5A040113001

Doug Danz  
Butte County Environmental Health  
202 Mira Loma Drive  
Oroville, CA 95963

**CERTIFIED MAIL:**  
7017 3040 0001 0264 9457

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA), WATER QUALITY ORDER 2014-0153-DWQ-R5280, BUTTE COUNTY, STIRLING CITY, COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 82, BUTTE COUNTY**

On 10 April 2018, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff inspected the wastewater facilities at Butte County, Stirling City, County Service Area (CSA) No. 82 (hereafter "Discharger") located along Skyway Boulevard, Butte County. Based on the site inspection and case file review 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-R5280 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 applicable to your treatment and disposal methods must be completed in accordance with the appropriate treatment system sections of the *General Order* and the attached *Monitoring and Reporting Program* (MRP). This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached *Technical Memorandum*.

### **REGULATORY BACKGROUND**

Waste Discharge Requirements Order 96-048 (WDRs) were adopted for this facility by the Central Valley Water Board on 23 February 1996. The Monitoring and Reporting Program requires the following:

- Quarterly monitoring of pond freeboard
- Quarterly monitoring of ponds for seepage through dikes
- Quarterly monitoring of ponds for odors or other nuisances
- Quarterly monitoring of ponds for excessive weed growth

### **DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

Butte County CSA No. 82 is located approximately 50-miles northeast of Chico, along Skyway Boulevard, Butte County. The facility is in Sections 28, T24N, R4E, MDB&M in Butte County.

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Facility consists of three 13,230-gallon septic tanks arranged in series and three facultative treatment ponds arranged in parallel. All flow throughout the Facility is by gravity. WDR Order 96-048 indicates an average daily flow of 50,000 gallons per day, however, there is no flow monitoring performed at the Facility. There are approximately 102 connections to the Stirling City sewer system that discharge to the facility.

The underlying soils are classified as aiken clay loam. Surface water discharges to the West Branch of the Feather River, however, all storm water is retained onsite.

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-R5280, with all attachments.

Site Specific Applicable Setback Requirements					
Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream <sup>a</sup>	Ephemeral Stream Drainage <sup>b</sup>	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir <sup>d</sup>
Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System <sup>e</sup>	150 ft. <sup>y</sup> 100 ft. <sup>o</sup> 50 ft. <sup>c</sup>	50 ft. <sup>c</sup>	50 ft.	5 ft. <sup>c,z</sup>	200 ft. <sup>w</sup> 50 ft. <sup>c</sup>
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water) <sup>i</sup>	150 ft. <sup>s</sup>	150 ft.	150 ft.	50 ft.	200 ft.
<p>LAA denotes Land Application Area. Sec denotes secondary.</p> <p><sup>a</sup> A flowing stream shall 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.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> Ephemeral Stream Drainage denotes a surface water drainage feature that flows only after rain or snow-melt and does not have sufficient groundwater seepage (baseflow) to maintain a condition of flowing surface water. The drainage shall 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 streams drainage features. The ephemeral stream shall be a "losing stream" (discharging surface water to groundwater) at the proposed wastewater system site.</p> <p><sup>c</sup> Setback established by California Plumbing Code, Table K-1.</p> <p><sup>d</sup> Lake or reservoir boundary measured from the high-water line.</p> <p><sup>e</sup> Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System addresses equipment located below ground or that impedes leak detection by routine visual inspection.</p> <p><sup>i</sup> Undisinfected secondary recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.900.</p> <p><sup>m</sup> 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 ROWD and NOA.</p> <p><sup>o</sup> California Well Standards, part II, section 8. Site-specific conditions may allow reduced setback or require an increased setback. See discussion in Well Standards.</p> <p><sup>s</sup> Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(d).</p> <p><sup>w</sup> Setback established by the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, section 7.5.5.</p> <p><sup>z</sup> Collection system to property line setback is not applicable.</p>					

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, 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.

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.

Facility Information	
Facility Name	Butte County CSA No. 82
Program	Non-15
Order Number	2014-0153-DWQ-R5280
WDID	5A040113001
Design Flow	0.05 MGD
Threat and Complexity	3C
Monitoring Requirements	Quarterly

Billing Information	
Name	Butte County CSA No. 82
Contact	Tom Blixt
Email	tblixt@buttecounty.net
Address	7 County Center Drive
Phone	530-538-7680

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](mailto:centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov). Documents that are 50MB or larger should be transferred to a disc 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: WDR	WDID: 5A040113001
Facility Name: Butte County CSA No. 82	Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5280

Please note that WDRs Order 96-048 is proposed to be rescinded at the 2/3 August 2018 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 Valerie Rasmussen at (530) 224-6130, Valerie.Rasmussen@waterboards.ca.gov, or the footer address.

*Original signed by Bryan Smith*

(for) Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer

VMR: ch

Attachments: Technical Memorandum  
Monitoring and Reporting Program  
Location Map  
Facility Map  
General Order 2014-0153-DWQ

cc w/o encls: Tim O'Brien, State Water Board, Sacramento  
David Lancaster, SWRCB, Office of Chief Counsel, Sacramento

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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** George Low, P.G.  
Senior Engineering Geologist

**FROM:** Valerie Rasmussen  
Water Resource Control Engineer

**DATE:** 26 June 2018

**SIGNATURE:** *Original signed by George Low  
(for) Valerie Rasmussen*

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF NITRATE AND SETBACK CONDITIONS FOR BUTTE COUNTY, STIRLING CITY, COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 82, BUTTE COUNTY, GENERAL ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ ENROLLMENT**

Staff has reviewed the case file and the 10 April 2018 inspection report for Butte County, Stirling City, County Service Area (CSA) No. 82. The Report assesses the general condition of the wastewater treatment and disposal system.

Butte County CSA No. 82 is located approximately 50-miles northeast of Chico, along Skyway Boulevard, Butte County.

The Facility consists of three 13,230-gallon septic tanks arranged in series and three facultative treatment ponds arranged in parallel. All flow throughout the Facility is by gravity. WDR Order 96-048 indicates an average daily flow of 50,000 gallons per day, however, there is no flow monitoring performed at the Facility. There are approximately 102 connections to the Stirling City sewer system.

**Potential Threats to Water Quality**

Butte County CSA No. 82's wastewater ponds are located approximately one and one-quarter miles west of the West Branch of the Feather River. The approximate depth to groundwater in the area is unknown. GeoTracker GAMA shows two groundwater wells located within approximately one-mile of Stirling City. The first is located approximately one-mile north of the wastewater treatment ponds; drilling records indicate groundwater was first encountered at approximately 165-feet. The second is located approximately 0.83-miles northeast of the treatment ponds; groundwater was first encountered at approximately 150-feet. The underlying soils are classified as aiken clay loam, which has a low hydraulic conductivity.

Additionally, there are no groundwater monitoring wells onsite.

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, the facility is currently permitted for a maximum daily flow of 50,000 gpd; however, flow data compiled by the discharger in 2013 indicates an average flow of approximately 18,300-gallons per day. Therefore, nitrogen removal is not required at this time.

Conclusion: No nitrogen removal is required. In the future, if nitrogen becomes a concern, effluent monitoring for nitrogen may be required. Additional measures may also be required.

### **Monitoring Requirements**

To protect water quality, General Order monitoring requirements will be sufficient. In summary, Staff recommends quarterly reporting of the average daily flow rate; quarterly leach field monitoring, and annual inspections of the septic tank. Quarterly monitoring will be reported by the first day of the second month after the quarter ends (e.g. January-March report is due by May 1st). Annual monitoring will be included with the fourth quarter monitoring.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM 2014-0153-R5280  
FOR

BUTTE COUNTY, STIRLING CITY, COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 82

BUTTE 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.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Regional Water Boards are transitioning to the paperless office system. In some regions, Dischargers will be directed to submit reports (both technical and monitoring reports) to the State Water Board's Electronic Content Management (ECM) database via email in portable document format (pdf). The email address for the ECM submittal is: [centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyredding@waterboards.ca.gov)

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.

### SEPTIC TANK MONITORING

Monitoring of septic tank shall include the following:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Flow Rate	gpd	Metered <sup>a</sup>	Continuous	Annually

gpd denotes gallons per day.

<sup>a</sup>. Flow rate may be metered or estimated based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method.

Septic tanks shall be inspected and/or pumped at least as frequently as described below. Inspections of sludge and scum depth are not required if the tanks are pumped at least annually.

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Measurement Type</u>	<u>Inspection/Reporting Frequency</u>
Sludge depth and scum thickness in each compartment of each tank	Feet	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually
Effluent filter condition (if equipped, clean as needed)	NA	NA	Annually

NA denotes not applicable.

Septic tanks shall be pumped when any one of the following conditions exists:

1. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment.
2. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.
3. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

If a septic tank is pumped during the year, the pumping report shall be submitted with the annual report. All pumping reports shall be submitted with the next regularly scheduled monitoring report. At



a minimum, the record shall include the date, nature of service, service company name, and service company license number.

### 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 <sup>a</sup>	gpd	Meter	Continuous	Quarterly

gpd denotes gallons per day. mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.

<sup>a</sup>. At a minimum, the total flow shall be measured monthly to calculate the average daily flow for the month. If wastewater is stored and applied to land, flow rate measurement may also be needed on the effluent flow.

#### 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.

#### Effluent Monitoring

Effluent samples shall be taken from a location that provides representative samples of the wastewater. At a minimum, effluent monitoring shall consist of the following:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sample Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly

mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>). 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. If requested by staff, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

*Original signed by Bryan Smith (for)*

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PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

26 June 2018

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DATE

**LOCATION MAP**



DRAWING REFERENCE:  
GOOGLE EARTH  
MAP DATA: © 2018 GOOGLE  
NO SCALE

LOCATION MAP  
BUTTE COUNTY CSA NO. 82  
BUTTE COUNTY

**FACILITY MAP**



DRAWING REFERENCE:  
GOOGLE MAPS  
MAP DATA: © 2018 GOOGLE  
NO SCALE

FACILITY MAP  
BUTTE COUNTY CSA NO. 82  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT/DISPOSAL FACILITY  
BUTTE COUNTY