



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

14 June 2021

Kosha Shah, Branch Chief
California Department of Transportation
Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area
1352 W. Olive Avenue
Fresno, California 93728

CERTIFIED MAIL
7018 3090 0001 1080 6259

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA), STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; TEJON PASS SAFETY ROADSIDE REST AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; KERN COUNTY

On 7 July 2020, the California Department of Transportation (Discharger or Caltrans) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for coverage of the Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility or WWTF) under 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). Caltrans submitted an updated 17 February 2021 RWD that included a completed and signed Form 200 and technical report signed and stamped by Manjunath Akkipeddi, a California registered civil engineer with Caltrans (RCE 78898).

Based on the staff's review of the information provided, the Facility treats and disposes of less than 100,000 gallons of domestic wastewater per day and is eligible for coverage under the General Order. This letter serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to your system and the wastewater discharge described below. The Facility's coverage under the General Order is hereby assigned enrollee number **2014-0153-DWQ-R5353**. The Facility's coverage under General Order 2014-0153-DWQ will become effective after Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 93-051 is rescinded.

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments enclosed within this letter, which describes mandatory discharge and monitoring requirements. Sampling, monitoring and reporting requirements applicable to your

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

1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

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) No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

Caltrans owns and operates the Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area (Rest Area) and the Facility. The Rest Area is located approximately 35 miles south of Bakersfield in Section 35, Township 9 North, Range 19 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian in Kern County. The existing Facility consists of two comfort stations (Northbound Comfort Station and Southbound Comfort Station) on either side of Interstate 5 (I-5). The Rest Area hosts around 11,830 visitors per day.

The Facility consists of three building structures per side with a total of 10 septic tanks, one Primary Treatment Pond, and four infiltration ponds. Both the Northbound and Southbound Comfort Stations are each equipped with four septic tanks, which provide primary treatment for wastewater flow as well as a RV dumping septic tank. Wastewater from the Northbound and Southbound Comfort Stations are combined in a distribution box located on the northbound side of I-5. Wastewater is then distributed, via gravity flow, to a Primary Treatment Pond, which is located on the northbound side of I-5. The Primary Treatment Pond is lined with a 30-millimeter Hypalon liner and has two outlet pipes, which individually gravity flow into Infiltration Pond A or Infiltration Pond B. Infiltration Ponds A and B both have 4-inch sewer pipes, which gravity flow to Infiltration Ponds C or D.

WDRs Order 93-051 includes Finding 2 that indicates that the discharge may be diverted to either two leachfields or four percolation ponds. Finding 3 notes that the leachfields will be abandoned. Mr. Rah-Nohn Spear, Transportation Engineer with Caltrans, provided an 18 March 2021 email confirming that the leachfields and the associated piping (diversion valve, sewer pipes, clean outs) were abandoned and are no longer a part of the WWTF. The Rest Area and Facility are shown in **Attachment A**. A flow schematic for the Facility is shown in **Attachment B**. Both attachments are incorporated by reference and considered part of this Notice of Applicability.

FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

The Discharger shall maintain exclusive control over the discharge and shall comply with the terms and conditions of this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353.

In accordance with section B.1 of the General Order, wastewater discharged to the Primary Treatment Pond shall not exceed a **monthly average discharge of 80,000 gallons per day (gpd)**, the design flow of the treatment and disposal system. The discharge has a flow rate that exceeds 20,000 gpd and a nitrogen effluent evaluation was conducted as described in Attachment 1 of the General Order (see attached staff

memorandum). Based on the available information, the Facility does not require a nitrogen effluent limitation.

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

Table 1: Site Specific Applicable Setback Requirements

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line	Lake or Reservoir
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water)	150 ft.	150 ft	50 ft	200 ft
Septic Tank, Treatment System, or Collection System	150 ft.	50 ft.	5 ft	200 ft

The Discharger shall comply with all applicable sections in the General Order, including:

1. Septic system requirements specified in Section B.2 of the General Order;
2. Pond system requirements specified in Section B.5 of the General Order;
3. Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal requirements specified in Section B.8 of the General Order; and
4. Groundwater and Surface Water Limitation specified in Section C.1 of the General Order.

Provision E.1 of the General Order requires dischargers enrolled under the General Order to prepare and implement the following reports within **90 days** of the issuance of the NOA (**by 13 September 2021**):

- Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Provision E.1.a).
- Sampling and Analysis Plan (Provision E.1.b).
- Sludge Management Plan (Provision E.1.c).

A copy of the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan, the Sampling and Analysis Plan, and Sludge Management Plan shall be maintained at the treatment facility and shall be presented to the Regional Water Board staff upon request. The Sludge Management Plan shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board **within 90 days** of issuance of the NOA.

As stated in Section E.2.w., in the event any change in control or ownership of the Facility or wastewater disposal areas, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this General Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer.

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353 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.

On 31 May 2018, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new strategies for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (**CV-SALTS**) initiative. These Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020. A Notice to Comply for the Salt Control Program was issued to Caltrans for the Facility (CV-SALTS ID: 2206) on 5 January 2021. As required by the Notice to Comply, you must submit a Notice of Intent by **15 July 2021** informing the Central Valley Water Board of your choice between Option 1 (Conservative Option for Salt Permitting) or Option 2 (Alternative Option for Salt Permitting). Further details of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are discussed in the enclosed memorandum. As these programs are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this NOA to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met. For more information regarding the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs, you are encouraged to go to the [CV-SALTS Website](https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info) (<https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info>).

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. 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,
Place ID: 236772,
Facility Name: Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area,
Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353

All documents, including responses to inspections and written notifications, submitted to comply with this General Order shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the Compliance and Enforcement Unit, attention to Russell Walls. Mr. Walls can be reached at (559) 488-4392 or Russell.Walls@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of the General Order, and notification for termination of coverage under the Small Domestic General Order, shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the WDR Permitting Unit, attention Jeffrey Pyle. Mr. Pyle can be reached at (559) 445-5145 or by email at Jeffrey.Pyle@waterboards.ca.gov.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Resources Control Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Resources Control Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. [Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions](#) may be found on the internet (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of the General Order has been sent only to the Discharger. Others are advised that the [General Order](#) is available on the State Water Board's website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo_2014_0153_dwq.pdf).

WDRs Order 93-051 is proposed to be rescinded at the 12/13 August 2021 Board Meeting of the Central Valley Water Board. Upon rescission of your individual WDRs, coverage for your Facility under the General Order shall be applicable under this NOA. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeffrey Pyle by phone at (559) 445-5145, or by email at Jeffrey.Pyle@waterboards.ca.gov.

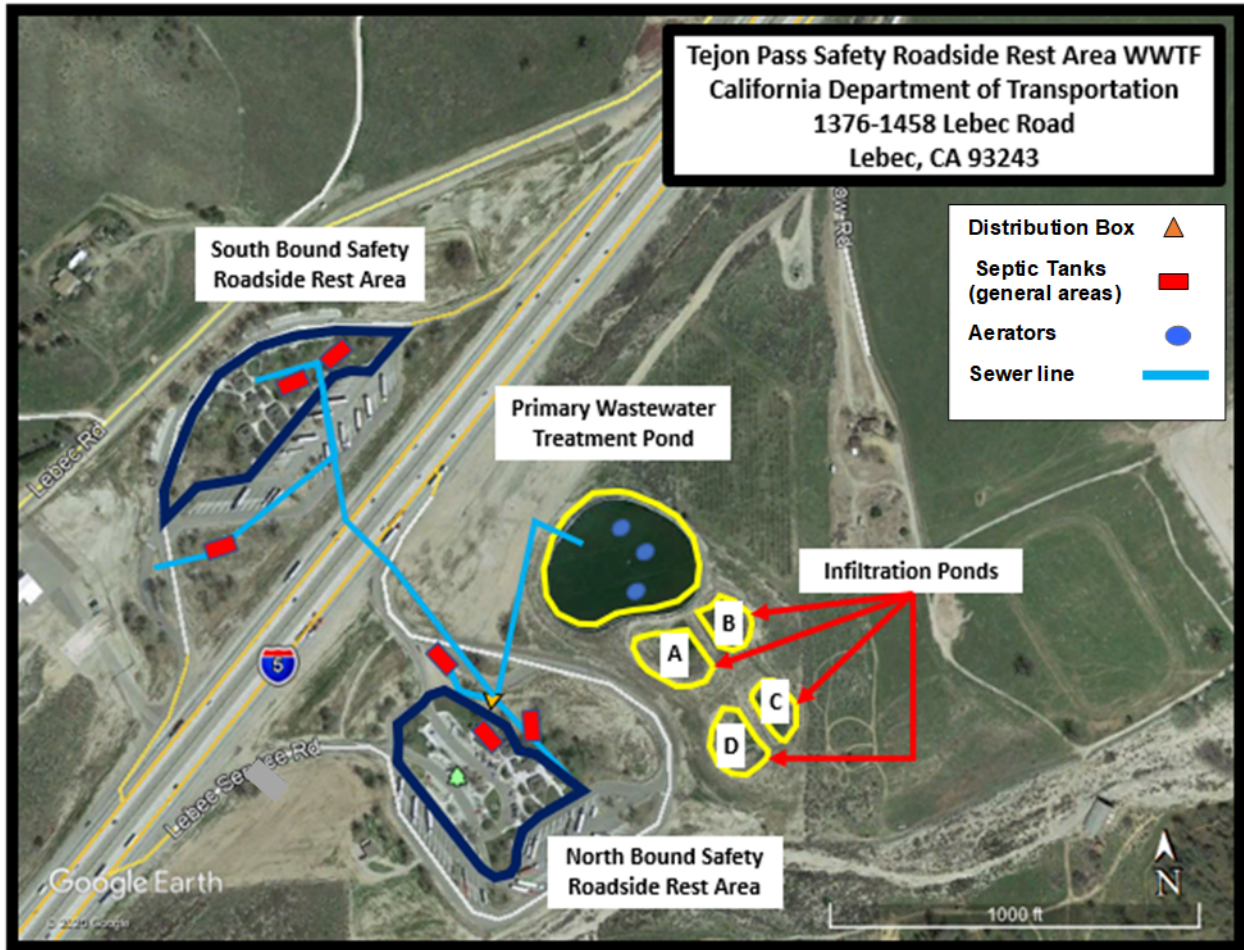
Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

(see next page for list of Attachment, Enclosures, and cc's)

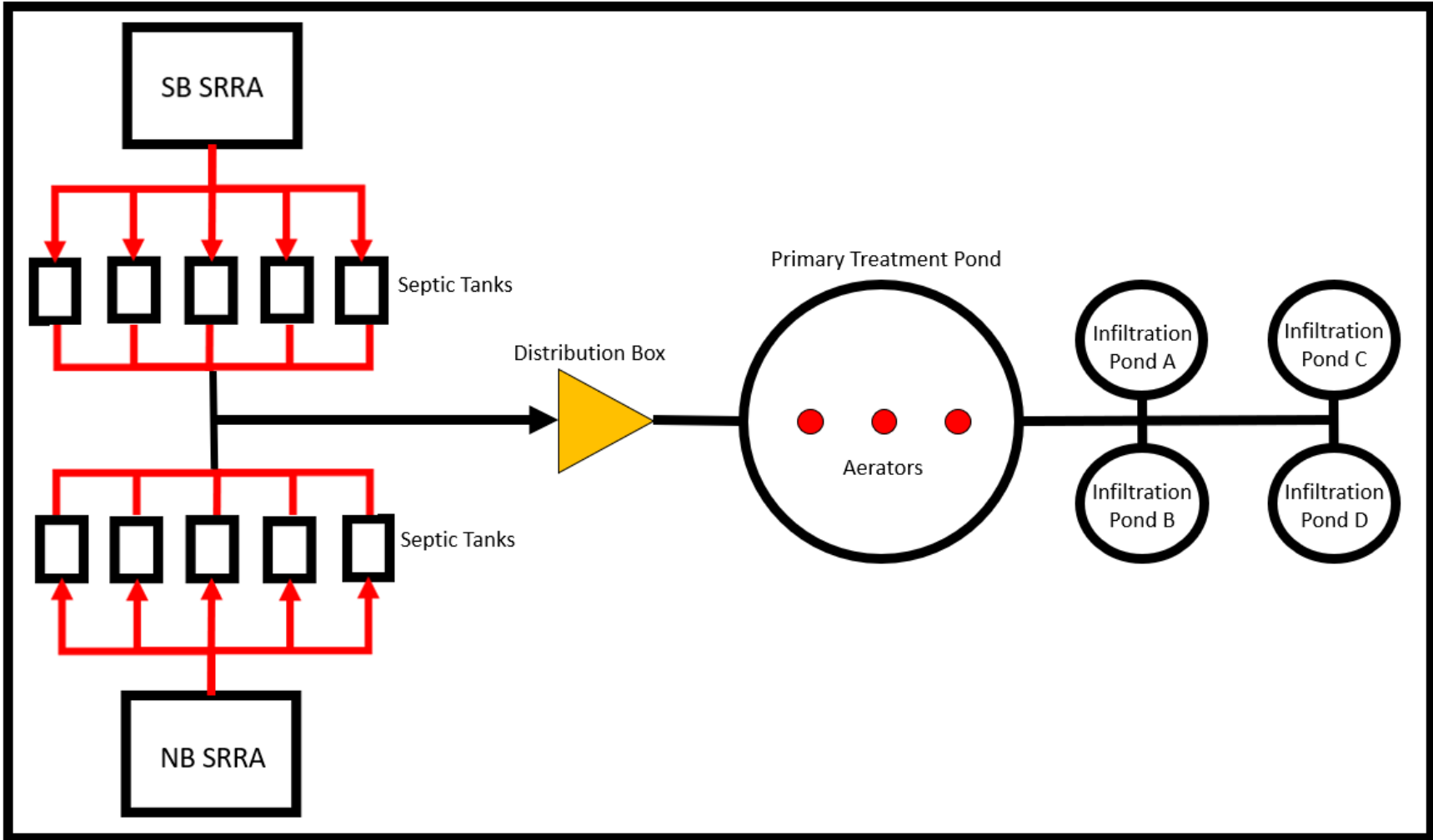
- Attachments:
- Attachment A – Site Map
 - Attachment B – Flow Schematic

- Enclosures:
- Monitoring and Reporting Program 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353
 - 14 June 2021 Review Memorandum of Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area WWTF
 - State Water Resources Control Board WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (Discharger Only)

- ccs:
- David Lancaster, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC (via email)
 - Laurel Warddrip, Senior Scientist, State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ (via email)
 - Russell Walls, Senior Engineer, Central Valley Water Board, Fresno (via email)
 - Kosha Shah, Associate Sanitary Engineer, California Department of Transportation (via email)
 - Kern County Environmental Health Department (via email)



ATTACHMENT A – SITE MAP
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353



**ATTACHMENT B – FLOW SCHEMATIC
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY 2014-0153-DWQ-R5333**

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353
FOR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TEJON PASS SAFETY ROADSIDE REST AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT
FACILITY
KERN 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 to the California Department of Transportation (Discharger). 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, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) or Executive Officer.

Section 13267 of the California Water Code 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.”

Section 13268 of the California Water Code 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 and 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 Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Safety Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility or WWTF) that is subject to the Notice of Applicability (NOA) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353, enrolling the Facility under 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). The reports required in this MRP 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 Central Valley 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 Resources Control Board, Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) 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.

If monitoring consistently shows no significant variation in magnitude of a constituent concentration or parameter after at least 12 months of monitoring, the Discharger may request this MRP be revised to reduce monitoring frequency. The proposal must include adequate technical justification for reduction in monitoring frequency.

SEPTIC TANK MONITORING

All septic tanks (i.e., primary, secondary, and surge) 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.

Table 1: Septic Tank Monitoring

<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	Not Applicable	Annually

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 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

Pond Influent Monitoring

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

Table 2: Influent Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow Rate	gpd	Meter (see 1 below)	Continuous	Quarterly
EC	µmhos/cm	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly

1. Flow rate may be metered or estimated based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method. Flow rates may be measured as influent or effluent flow. The method of measurement shall be reported in the monitoring report.

Pond Effluent Monitoring

Effluent samples shall be taken from the outlet of Primary Treatment Pond, prior to discharge to the Infiltration Ponds. At a minimum, effluent monitoring shall consist of the following:

Table 3: Effluent Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
pH	s.u.	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
EC	µmhos/cm	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
BOD ₅	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly

Wastewater Pond Monitoring

All wastewater treatment and disposal ponds (lined and unlined) shall be monitored as specified below:

Table 4: Wastewater Pond Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
DO (see 1 below)	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Quarterly
Freeboard	0.1 feet	Measurement	Weekly	Quarterly
Odors	--	Observation	Weekly	Quarterly
Berm Condition	--	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Liner Condition (see 2 below)	--	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly

- DO shall be measured between 8:00 am and 10:00 am and shall be taken opposite the pond inlet at a depth of approximately one foot. Should the DO be below 1.0 mg/L during a weekly sampling event, the Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to correct the problem and commence daily DO monitoring in the affected ponds until the problem has been resolved.
- The Discharger shall observe the condition of the lined pond and check the liner for evidence of rips, tears, and/or leaks on a monthly basis. In addition, the Discharger shall conduct integrity testing of the pond liners once every five years beginning in 2021 and include the results of the integrity testing in the Annual report. Integrity testing shall include an electrical leak survey of the liner or other method that has been approved by the Executive Officer.

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 names 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 discernable. 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.

All regulatory documents, 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: centralvalleyfresno@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 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. 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,

Place ID: 236772

Facility Name: Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area WWTF,

Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5353

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 the minimum, the quarterly reports shall include:

1. Results of all required monitoring.
2. A comparison of monitoring data to the requirements (including the flow limitation), 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 system, including discussion of the capacity issues nuisances' 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.
6. The results of monthly pond liner observations and quinquennial integrity testing of the pond liner.

C. State Water Board Volumetric Annual Reporting

Per [State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Control Policy](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/), amended in December 2018, dischargers of treated wastewater and recycled water are required to report annually monthly volumes of influent, wastewater produced, and effluent, including treatment level and discharge type. The Discharger shall submit an annual report to the State Water Board by **April 30 of each calendar year** furnished with the information detailed below. The Discharger must submit this annual report containing monthly data in electronic format via the State Water Board's [Internet GeoTracker system](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>). Required data shall be submitted to the GeoTracker database under a site-specific global identification number. Any data will be made publicly accessible as machine readable datasets. The Discharger must report all applicable items listed below:

1. **Influent.** Monthly volume of wastewater collected and treated by the wastewater treatment plant.
2. **Production.** Monthly volume of wastewater treated, specifying level of treatment.
3. **Discharge.** Monthly volume of treated wastewater discharged to land, where beneficial use is not taking place, including evaporation or percolation ponds,

overland flow, or spray irrigation disposal, excluding pasture of fields with harvested grounds.

4. **Reuse.** Monthly volume of recycled water distributed.
5. **Reuse Categories.** Annual volume of treated wastewater distributed for beneficial use in compliance with California Code of Regulations, title 22 in each of the use categories listed below:
 - a. Agricultural irrigation: pasture or crop irrigation.
 - b. Landscape irrigation: irrigation of parks, greenbelts, and playgrounds; school yards; athletic fields; cemeteries; residential landscaping, common areas; commercial landscaping; industrial landscaping; and freeway, highway, and street landscaping.
 - c. Golf course irrigation: irrigation of golf courses, including water used to maintain aesthetic impoundments within golf courses.
 - d. Commercial application: commercial facilities, business use (such as laundries and office buildings), car washes, retail nurseries, and appurtenant landscaping that is not separately metered.
 - e. Industrial application: manufacturing facilities, cooling towers, process water, and appurtenant landscaping that is not separately metered.
 - f. Geothermal energy production: augmentation of geothermal fields.
 - g. Other non-potable uses: including but not limited to dust control, flushing sewers, fire protection, fill stations, snow making, and recreational impoundments.
 - h. Groundwater recharge: the planned use of recycled water for replenishment of a groundwater basin or an aquifer that has been designated as a source of water supply for a public water system. Includes surface or subsurface application, except for seawater intrusion barrier use.
 - i. Reservoir water augmentation: the planned placement of recycled water into a raw surface water reservoir used as a source of domestic drinking water supply for a public water system, as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, or into a constructed system conveying water to such a reservoir (Water Code § 13561).
 - j. Raw water augmentation: the planned placement of recycled water into a system of pipelines or aqueducts that deliver raw water to a drinking water treatment plant that provides water to a public water system as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code (Water Code § 13561).

- k. Other potable uses: both indirect and direct potable reuse other than for groundwater recharge, seawater intrusion barrier, reservoir water augmentation, or raw water augmentation.

A letter transmitting the monitoring reports, excluding the State Water Board Annual Volumetric Report, 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 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 the first month following the rescission of WDRs Order 93-051.

Ordered by:

Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:
PATRICK PALUPA, Executive Officer

6/14/2021
(Date)

GLOSSARY

BOD ₅	Five-day biochemical oxygen demand
CaCO ₃	Calcium carbonate
DO	Dissolved oxygen
EC	Electrical conductivity at 25° C
FDS	Fixed dissolved solids
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TKN	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen
TSS	Total suspended solids
Continuous	The specified parameter shall be measured by a meter continuously.
24-hr Composite eight aliquots	Samples shall be a flow-proportioned composite consisting of at least over a 24-hour period.
Daily	Every day except weekends or holidays.
Twice Weekly	Twice per week on non-consecutive days.
Weekly	Once per week.
Twice Monthly	Twice per month during non-consecutive weeks.
Monthly	Once per calendar month.
Quarterly	Once per calendar quarter.
Semiannually	Once every six calendar months (i.e., two times per year) during non-consecutive quarters.
Annually	Once per year.
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
mg/kg	Milligrams per kilogram
mL/L	Milliliters [of solids] per liter
µg/L	Micrograms per liter
µmhos/cm	Micromhos per centimeter
gpd	Gallons per day
mgd	Million gallons per day
MPN/100 mL	Most probable number [of organisms] per 100 milliliters
NA	Denotes not applicable



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Scott J. Hatton
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

FROM: Alexander S. Mushegan
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
RCE 84208

Jeffrey S. Pyle
Engineering Geologist
PG 7375

DATE: 14 June 2021



APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ-2014-0153; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; TEJON PASS SAFETY ROADSIDE REST AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; KERN COUNTY

On 7 July 2020, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) from the California Department of Transportation (Discharger or Caltrans) for the Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) in Kern County. The July 2020 RWD was not stamped by a licensed professional. On 17 February 2021, Caltrans submitted a copy of the RWD that was signed and stamped by a California registered civil engineer, Manjunath Akkipeddi (RCE 78898), and a completed and signed Form 200. The Facility has domestic wastewater flows less than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd). Therefore, this memorandum provides a summary of the applicability of the Facility to be covered under State Water Resources Control Board's Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Caltrans owns and operates the Facility. The Facility receives wastewater from the Tejon Pass Safety Roadside Rest Area (Rest Area), which has comfort stations on both the north and southbound sides of Highway I-5, about 35 miles south of Bakersfield (34.8273°, -118.8714°) in Kern County. The Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 93-051, which authorizes a monthly average discharge of up to 80,000 gallons per day from the two comfort stations to 10 septic tanks followed by a primary treatment pond and four infiltration ponds. According to the RWD, using the Facility's water usage data from 2016 through 2018 the average flows combined from both comfort stations were estimated at about 21,800 gpd with a peak flow of 42,900 gpd.

DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE

The Rest Area consists of two comfort stations (Northbound Comfort Station and Southbound Comfort Station). Each comfort station is equipped with 21 toilets (1.6 gallons per flush [GPF]), 15 lavatories, and six urinals (0.5 GPF). Each comfort station discharges wastewater into four 9,000-gallon onsite concrete septic tanks. An additional RV sanitary station is available at each comfort station. Sewage from the Southbound Comfort Station gravity flows to a distribution box located on northbound side where it's commingled with wastewater from the Northbound Comfort Station. The combined effluent gravity flows to the facultative wastewater treatment pond (Primary Treatment Pond), which is Hypalon lined (30-millimeter) and has three evenly spaced aerators. Wastewater from the Primary Treatment Pond is discharged to four infiltration ponds (Infiltration Ponds) all constructed in 1981 when the rest area was initially opened. All treatment ponds were constructed with native material with two feet of freeboard. Table 1 below shows the pond specifications.

Table 1: Facultative Pond System Specifications

Pond	Depth (feet)	Side Slope	Area (square feet)
Primary Treatment Pond	5	3:1	115,546
Infiltration Pond A	5	3:1	28,469
Infiltration Pond B	5	3:1	21,127
Infiltration Pond C	5	3:1	24,261
Infiltration Pond D	5	3:1	15,519

The RWD estimated the influent quality to be approximately 450 mg/L for BOD and 1,200 mg/L for TSS. The concentration levels were calculated based on the average flow. The RWD states that the Primary Treatment Pond produces effluent with BOD levels lower than 90 mg/L. According to the RWD, the necessary retention time in the Primary Treatment Pond to treat wastewater to less than 90 mg/L is 69 days and that the pond's size allows retention times "much longer than the required 69 days."

WDRs Order 93-051 requires monitoring reports be submitted monthly to the Central Valley Water Board by the 29th day of the following month, but an electronic file review found that influent and effluent monitoring results for the Facility have not been submitted since 2014. A Notice of Violation was issued on 23 February 2021 requiring Caltrans to provide any missing data and a letter describing how Caltrans will ensure future compliance with the current/future waste discharge requirements for the Facility by 26 March 2021. Caltrans contacted Central Valley Water Board staff on 22 March 2021 requesting a deadline extension. A one-month extension was granted, and the requested letter dated 24 April 2021 was submitted to the Central Valley Water Board. The 24 April 2021 letter explains Caltrans does not have any reports to be submitted for previous years, but Caltrans will utilize a sub-contractor to provide monitoring and reporting services to bring the facility into compliance with the Facility's WDRs.

The Facility's monthly average discharge is under 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) and is therefore eligible for coverage under the General Order. The current discharge is approximately 21,800 gpd.

POTENTIAL THREAT TO WATER QUALITY

The Rest Area is located within the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Area with the wastewater treatment outside any floodplain area. Based on information gathered from the [California Department Groundwater Information Center Interactive Map Application](https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/) (https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/) using Spring 2018 data, groundwater underlying the disposal ponds is approximately 690 feet below ground surface.

According to Table 5 from the RWD, data from 2016 was provided to identify source water quality at the Rest Area and is presented for review in Table 2.

Table 2: Source Water Quality for Tejon Pass SRRA

Constituent	Units	Concentration	MCL
Sodium	mg/L	74.3	None
Hardness	mg/L	363	None
Arsenic	ug/L	<2	10
Chromium	ug/L	<10	50
Fluoride	mg/L	1.79	2
Nitrate (as NO ₃)	mg/L	22.5	45
Nitrite	ug/L	0.05	1
Chloride	mg/L	31	5000
Iron	ug/L	<50	300
Magnesium	mg/L	36	50
TDS	mg/L	610	1000
Turbidity	NTU	0.2	5

Based on soils data from the Natural Resources Conservation Services Survey (NRCS), soil at the Rest Area was identified as Hawk gravelly sandy loam with 9 to 15 percent slope with soil profiles summarized in Table 3 below. Groundwater was encountered at an approximate depth of 80 feet below ground surface. The site consists of sandy gravel with a percolation rate ranging from 1 to 7.5 inches/hour with an average of 3.7 inches/hour.

Table 3: Soil Profile Tejon Pass SRRA

Soil Profile	Soil Depth (inches)
Gravelly slightly decomposed plant material	0 – 2
Gravelly sandy loam	2 – 7
Very gravelly sandy loam	7 - 17
Very gravelly sandy loam	17 – 39
Very gravelly sandy loam	39 - 60

NITROGEN EVALUATION

As stated above, the Facility has a design flow of 80,000 gpd and currently has an estimated average daily flow of 21,800 gpd. Therefore, the General Order requires a Nitrogen Effluent Limit Evaluation be completed for the Facility as described in Attachment 1 of the General Order. Factors that determine if a nitrogen effluent limit is required are the following: 1) “Does shallow groundwater exist?”, 2) “Are there excessive percolation rates or fractured environment?”, 3) “Does the discharge exceed domestic wastewater strength?”, or 4) “Is Nitrogen Removal Required?”

Based on available data and the considerations in the General Order, a nitrogen effluent limit is not needed at this time. Groundwater at the Facility exists about 80 feet below ground surface (i.e., shallow groundwater is not present). The reported percolation rates for the Facility are not excessive (reported as averaging 3.7 inches per hour or about 16.2 minutes per inch). Limited data is available, but the domestic wastewater strength does not appear to be excessive. The only sources of wastewater are from the two comfort stations at the Rest Area and the associated RV sanitary stations. Lastly, the Facility does not fall within a prioritized basin for the Nitrate Control Program (see below for more discussion).

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring requirements included in the following sections from Attachment C of the General Order are appropriate for this discharge:

- Septic Tank Monitoring
- Pond Monitoring
- Solids Disposal Monitoring

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

As part of the CV-SALTS initiative, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments (Resolution R5-2018-0034) incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. On 16 October 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted Resolution No. 2019-0057 approving the Central Valley Water Board Basin Plan amendments and also directed the Central Valley Water Board to make targeted revisions to the Basin Plan amendments within one year from the approval of the Basin Plan amendments by the Office of Administrative Law. The Office of Administrative Law approved the Basin Plan amendments on 15 January 2020 (OAL Matter No. 2019-1203-03).

Pursuant to the Basin Plan amendments, a Notice to Comply for the Salt Control Program was issued to Caltrans on 5 January 2021 with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program (CV SALTS ID: 2206). Caltrans has until **15 July 2021** to inform the Central Valley Water Board of their choice between Option 1 (Conservative Option for Salt Permitting) or Option 2 (Alternative Option for Salt Permitting). For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility falls outside a prioritized groundwater basin. More information related to the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs can be found at the [CV-SALTS Website](https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info) (<https://www.cvsalinity.org/public-info>).