

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
6/7 February 2014 Board Meeting

Response to Comments
for the
City of Placerville
Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements
Tentative Order Amending Cease and Desist Order R5-2008-0054-01

The following are Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) staff responses to comments submitted by interested parties regarding the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES Permit), and the tentative Order amending Cease and Desist Order R5-2008-0054-01 for the City of Placerville, Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (Facility), in El Dorado County.

The tentative NPDES Permit and tentative amending Order were issued for a 30-day public comment period on 8 November 2013 and comments were due 12 December 2013.

The Central Valley Water Board received timely comments regarding the tentative NPDES Permit and amending Order by the due date from the City of Placerville (City).

Changes were made to the tentative NPDES Permit based on public comments received. The submitted comments were accepted into the record, and are summarized below, followed by Central Valley Water Board staff responses.

CITY COMMENTS (City)

Attachment A – Definitions. p. A-1.

The City contends that the acronym “RL” is used throughout the tentative permit, however, the tentative permit contains no definition of “RL”. The City requests that “RL” be defined as “Reporting Level” where first presented in the tentative permit and that a definition be provided in Attachment A of the tentative permit.

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs with the City’s request to include the term “Reporting Level” where “RL” is first presented and has amended the proposed NPDES Permit. However, Central Valley Water Board staff does not concur that a definition needs to be included in Attachment A of the proposed NPDES Permit. “Reporting Level” is not defined in the SIP or in federal or state regulations; “Reporting Level” is a term commonly used by analytical laboratories. Staff asserts that the context of Section VII.F of the proposed NPDES Permit and the references to section 2.4 of the SIP are sufficient to explain RL and its usage.

**Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), p. E-4, Table E-2.
Influent Monitoring**

The City states that “Biochemical” is misspelled on page E-4, Table E-2 of the tentative permit.

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has made changes to the proposed NPDES Permit.

**Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), p. E-4, Table E-3.
Effluent Monitoring – Chlorine, Total Residual**

The City contends that Footnote 1 of Table E-3 on page E-4 of the tentative Permit does not apply to effluent monitoring of Total Residual Chlorine.

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has made changes to the proposed NPDES Permit.

**Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), p. E-5, Table E-3.
Effluent Monitoring – Footnote 9**

The City contends that a positive dechlorination residual in the effluent is an appropriate alternative to demonstrate compliance with the chlorine residual effluent limits and requested the following language be added to Footnote 9 of Table E-3:

“As an alternative, continuous monitoring to demonstrate a positive dechlorination agent residual is also an acceptable method of demonstrating compliance with the total chlorine residual effluent limit (in lieu of continuous chlorine residual monitoring).”

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff does not concur that dechlorination residual can replace chlorine residual monitoring. In the event that chlorine is discharged from the facility, chlorine residual monitoring will provide information on the concentration of the chlorine. Without this information, it is not possible to tell whether the discharge was in violation of the permit limitations or the magnitude of any potential violation. This information is necessary to evaluate compliance with the permit and potential impacts to beneficial uses associated with a discharge of chlorine. At such low concentrations of chlorine residual, there are occasional false positive detections. Dechlorination agent monitoring may be used to identify false positive detections of total residual chlorine.

Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), p. E-7, B.8.b. Chronic Toxicity Testing

The City states that there is a typographical error on page E-7, section B.8.b of the tentative permit. The reference should be to section VI.C.2.a.iii.

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has made changes to the proposed NPDES Permit.

Attachment E - Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), p. E-10, Table E-7, Ultraviolet Light Disinfection System Monitoring Requirements

The City contends that the flow at UVS-001 is equivalent to the discharge flow at EFF-001 and requests one of the following options:

- 1) The flow monitoring requirement in Table E-7 be removed; or
- 2) The flow monitoring location be changed from UVS-001 to EFF-001; or
- 3) A footnote be added to UVS-001 in Table E-7 that states, “flow monitoring at EFF-001 may be used to satisfy the UVS-001 flow monitoring requirement”

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs with option 3) with additional language added. Footnote 4 to Table E-7 in the Proposed Permit now states “Flow monitoring at EFF-001 may be used to satisfy the UVS-001 flow monitoring requirement, provided flow was not diverted or added between UVS-001 and EFF-001.”

Attachment E - Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), p. E-11, Table E-8, Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

The City requests that a row be added to Table E-8 for a sampling frequency of 3/Week with an SMR Due Date of “Submit with Monthly SMR”. The City contends that in Table E-8 of the tentative permit, for the Continuous, 1/Day, 1/Week, 2/Week, and 5/Week sampling frequency, submittal of the SMR “45 days after the end of the monitoring period” will result in multiple submittals by the Discharger every 1, 2, and 5 days. Therefore, the City requests that for the Continuous, 1/Day, 1/Week, 2/Week, and 5/Week sampling frequency, the SMR due date for each be changed to “Submit with Monthly SMR”. In addition, the City requested that they be allowed 45 days after the end of the monitoring period to submit their SMRs.

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff agrees to add a row for a sampling frequency of 3/Week. As requested by the City, Table E-8 was modified to include the SMR Due Date for the Continuous, 1/Day, 1/Week, 2/Week, and 5/Week sampling frequency -as “Submit with Monthly SMR”. Also, due to the requirements of

the electronic reporting program, California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS), the 45-day submittal due date has been changed to 30-days.

Attachment F – Fact Sheet

The City states that there are several typographical errors in the Fact Sheet of the tentative permit.

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has made changes to the proposed NPDES Permit.

Attachment G – Summary of Reasonable Potential

The City states that there are several typographical errors in Attachment G of the tentative permit.

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has made changes to the proposed NPDES Permit.

Draft Cease and Desist Order Amendment, p. 2, item 8

The City states that the second sentence of item 8 on page 2 of the tentative Cease and Desist Order Amendment should be modified to read as follows:

“This Order also amends CDO R5-2008-0054-01 to remove reference to pollutants (copper, total coliform organisms, nitrate plus nitrite, and turbidity) for which the Discharger has demonstrated compliance and/or there is no longer reasonable potential.”

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff concurs and has made changes to the proposed Order Amending Cease and Desist Order R5-2008-0054-01.

STAFF CHANGES

Comments were received regarding this issue on another NPDES permit the Central Valley Water Board will consider for adoption. There are concerns with Provision VI.C.5.c., Collection System, that states: the City’s “collection system is part of the system that is subject to this order,” and as such, the City “must operate and maintain its collection system ...and mitigate any discharge from the collection system in violation of this Order.” Commenters have provided that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) already regulates sanitary sewer systems greater than one mile in length that collect and convey untreated or partially treated water to treatment

facilities under the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ (State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ). State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ requires enrollees, which includes municipalities that operate sanitary sewer systems, to develop sewer system management plans and other measures to prevent sanitary sewer overflows. Thus the Central Valley Water Board does not need to regulate collection systems further in the City's NPDES permit.

Staff concur that the provision establishes requirements for collection systems that are already regulated under State Water Board Order 2006-0003-DWQ. Changes are shown in underline/strikethrough format below:

Section VI.C.5.c

- a. **Collection System.** ~~The Discharger's collection system is part of the system that is subject to this Order. As such, the Discharger must properly operate and maintain its collection system (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(e)). The Discharger must report any non-compliance (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(6) and (7)) and mitigate any discharge from the collection system in violation of this Order (40 C.F.R. § 122.41(d)). See the Order at Standard Provision VI.A.2.c and Attachment D, subsections I.D, V.E, V.H, and I.C.~~ On 2 May 2006, the State Water Board adopted State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, Statewide General WDRs for Sanitary Sewer Systems. The Discharger shall be subject to the requirements of Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ and any future revisions thereto. Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ requires that all public agencies that currently own or operate sanitary sewer systems apply for coverage under the general WDRs. The Discharger has applied for and has been approved for coverage under Order 2006-0003-DWQ for operation of its wastewater collection system.

Attachment F, Section VI.B.5.a.

Furthermore, the General Order contains requirements for operation and maintenance of collection systems and for reporting and mitigating sanitary sewer overflows. ~~Inasmuch that the Discharger's collection system is part of the system that is subject to this Order, certain standard provisions are applicable as specified in Provisions, section VI.C.5. For instance, the 24-hour reporting requirements in this Order are not included in the General Order. The Discharger must comply with both the General Order and this Order. The Discharger and public agencies that are discharging wastewater into the facility were required to obtain enrollment for regulation under the General Order by December 1, 2006.~~ The Discharger is enrolled under State Water Board General ~~No.~~ Order 2006-003-DWQ.