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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

19 August 2013

Russ Holcomb, General Manager  
Malaga County Water District  
3580 South Frank Street  
Fresno, CA 93725

### **DISPOSAL CAPACITY ISSUES, MALAGA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, MALAGA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (NPDES NO. CA0084239), FRESNO COUNTY**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff is in the process of renewing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2008-0033 (NPDES Permit No. CA0084239). Information provided by the Malaga County Water District (District) regarding disposal capacity issues, as required by subtask 3.a. in Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2008-0032, indicates there are still outstanding disposal capacity issues for which staff requires more information to continue with the permit renewal.

On 28 July 2008, Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, on behalf of the District, submitted the *Treatment and Disposal Capacity Study* (Study) to fulfill the requirements of subtask 3.a. Central Valley Water Board staff provided a review of the Study by letter and memorandum dated 24 September 2009 and 19 August 2009, respectively. Our records indicate that the District did not submit a revised study addressing Central Valley Water Board staff's concerns, as requested in the review letter. However, on 29 April 2011, the District submitted *Short Term Improvements Implementation Report* (Report), which summarized short-term improvements completed as part of the Study. The Report included a list of improvements made to treatment components that had been out of service for many years. The Report also included a list of items the District completed to address disposal capacity issues. These include maintenance of three disposal ponds to increase percolation rates, adoption of a moratorium on new or expanding sewer connections until disposal capacity is expanded, and initiation of discussions with City of Fresno regarding consolidation of sewer treatment and disposal. The District also indicated that it contacted property owners and companies to determine if they were willing to sell their property or accept treated effluent for recycling/reclamation, but none were willing to do so.

The 28 July 2008 report indicated that Fresno Irrigation District requested the District to eliminate its discharge to Central Canal, which puts the District at increased risk of reaching and exceeding pond disposal capacity. Assuming the discharge to the Canal will no longer be available, the information provided by the District indicates that the Facility does not have enough disposal capacity to handle current influent flows.

By **3 October 2013**, provide the following information, which is necessary to allow Central Valley Water Board staff to determine appropriate requirements for inclusion in the NPDES permit renewal:

1. Address whether the discharge to Central Canal will cease, as requested by Fresno Irrigation District. If it will, provide a time schedule for eliminating discharge to the Canal.
2. An estimate of the disposal capacity of the on-site ponds after pond maintenance was performed in 2008 and thereafter. Additionally, include a list of which ponds were maintained.
3. Revised influent flow projections based on influent flow data collected after the District began metering grit return flows and after the moratorium was adopted. If the District has established new or expanded sewer connections since the moratorium was adopted, it shall include the flows from those connections in its revised flow projections.
4. Status of land acquisition for additional disposal ponds, including a list of action items completed and dates they were completed.
5. Status of alternative disposal measures the District has looked into, including a list of action items completed and dates they were completed.

To the extent the above information was required by the CDO, the due date in this letter does not extend or supersede due dates in the CDO and is for administrative tracking purposes only. This letter does not relieve the District from submitting information requested in previous letters or required by the CDO that has not been submitted.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Aide Ortiz at (559) 445-6083 or at [aortiz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:aortiz@waterboards.ca.gov).



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