

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

364 Knollcrest Drive #205, Redding, CA 96002

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

**RENEWAL OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
(NPDES NO. CA0004391)**

AND

**ADOPTION OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDER
FOR**

**CHESTER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
CHESTER SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT
PLUMAS COUNTY**

The Chester Public Utility District (Discharger) owns and operates the Chester Sewage Treatment Plant (Facility) in the community of Chester, Plumas County. The Facility consists of a bar screen, flow measurement device, six stabilization ponds connected in series, and a chlorine contact basin for disinfection when discharging to surface water. Wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to Lake Almanor, a water of the United States or Discharge Point 002, a series of four constructed wetland ponds on the Discharger's property. The discharge is regulated under an existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge and requested renewal of the existing NPDES permit.

Additionally, adoption of a new cease and desist order (CDO) is being considered. The Discharger has been subject to several CDOs in the past beginning in 1989 and continuing to present. In large part, these CDOs have required the Discharger to reduce excessive inflow and infiltration into their collection system, improve biological treatment, and increase storage capacity of the Facility to comply with the seasonal discharge prohibition to Lake Almanor. Despite ongoing efforts by the Discharger, Facility improvements to date have not yet resulted in consistent permit compliance during periods of discharge to Lake Almanor. Specifically, the Discharger has historically violated permit effluent limits for BOD/TSS percent reduction, total coliform, and occasionally ammonia. The proposed CDO provides interim effluent limits for total ammonia and total coliform and a time schedule for drafting a pollution prevention plan and conducting a preliminary engineering assessment to achieve compliance with these effluent limits. Staff recommends the Central Valley Water Board adopt both the tentative NPDES permit and the tentative CDO to regulate discharge from the Facility.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 22/23 April 2021
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Room
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Chester Public Utility District representatives

Only designated parties will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to introduce exhibits; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. All other persons wishing to testify or provide comments are interested persons and not designated parties. Such interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **5:00 p.m. on 29 March 2021**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is directly affected by the discharge.

Persons wishing to comment on this noticed hearing item shall submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board via email to RB5S NPDES Comments@waterboards.ca.gov no later than **5:00 p.m. on 29 March 2021**. Written evidence or comments submitted after **5:00 p.m. on 29 March 2021** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record absent a ruling by the Board Chair. Any party requesting to submit late materials must demonstrate good cause for the late submission, and the Chair must find that accepting the late submission will not prejudice the Central Valley Water Board or any Designated Party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Central Valley Water Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Board Chair.

Anyone having questions regarding the hearing item should contact Jeremy Pagan at Jeremy.Pagan@waterboards.ca.gov. Interested parties may download the [tentative Orders](#) and related documents from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Avenue, #205, Redding, California 96002 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. **The [final meeting agenda](#) will be available at (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the specific date the Board Meeting will be held for this item, indicate the anticipated order of all agenda items, and may include staff revisions to the proposed order(s).**

The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. [The procedures](#) may be obtained by accessing (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/). Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the [Central Valley Water Board's website](#) at (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml) or by

contacting any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to the Central Valley Water Board Redding Office at (530) 224-4845.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an email to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call (530) 224-4845 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

(for) BRYAN J. SMITH, P.E.
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer
26 February 2021