

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Fresno Office
1685 "E" St.
Fresno, CA 93706-2007

Sacramento Office (Main)
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Redding Office
364 Knollcrest Dr. #205
Redding, CA 96002

[Regional Board Website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley) (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>)

[TENTATIVE] WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER
R5-2021-####



ORDER INFORMATION

Order Type(s): Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
Status: TENTATIVE
Program: Non-15 Discharges to Land
Region 5 Office: Fresno
Discharger(s): City of Corcoran
Facility: Corcoran Wastewater Treatment Facility
County: Kings County
CIWQS Place ID: 273108
Prior Order(s): 91-138

CERTIFICATION

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on _____ April 2021.

PATRICK PULUPA,
Executive Officer

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CITY OF CORCORAN

CORCORAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

KINGS COUNTY

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GLOSSARY

Antidegradation Policy	Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California, State Water Board Resolution 68-16
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for Tulare Lake Basin
bgs	Below Ground Surface
BOD_[5]	[Five-Day] Biochemical Oxygen Demand at 20° Celsius
BPTC	Best Practicable Treatment and Control
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.
CEQA Guidelines	California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15000 et seq.
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
COC[s]	Constituent[s] of Concern
DDW	State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FDS	Fixed Dissolved Solids
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
IPP	Industrial Pretreatment Program
LAA	Land Application Area
lbs/ac/yr	Pounds per Acre per Year
µg/L	Micrograms per Liter
µmhos/cm	Micromhos per Centimeter
MG[D]	Million Gallons [per Day]
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter

msl	Mean Sea Level
MRP	Monitoring and Reporting Program
MW	Monitoring Well
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level per Title 22
MDB&M	Mount Diablo Base and Meridian
mJ/cm²	Millijoules per Square Centimeter
ORP	Oxygen Reduction Potential
N	Nitrogen
ND	Non-Detect
NE	Not Established
NM	Not Monitored
Recycled Water Policy	<i>Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water, State Water Board Resolution 2009-0011, as amended per Resolutions 2013-0003 and 2018-0057</i>
R[O]WD	Report of Waste Discharge
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SPRRs	Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
Title 22	California Code of Regulations, Title 22
Title 23	California Code of Regulations, Title 23
Title 27	California Code of Regulations, Title 27
TKN	Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen
Unified Guidance	Statistical Analysis of Groundwater Monitoring Data at RCRA Facilities, Unified Guidance (USEPA, 2009)
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VOC[s]	Volatile Organic Compound[s]
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements
WQO[s]	Water Quality Objective[s]

FINDINGS

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) hereby finds as follows:

Introduction

1. The City of Corcoran (City or Discharger) owns and operates the Corcoran Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF or Facility), which is at the corner of King Avenue and Pueblo Avenue in Corcoran, California. The City's WWTF and a portion of the City-owned Use Area (City Use Area) are in Kings County Section 26, Township 21 S, Range 22 E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M). The evaporation/percolation ponds and the remaining City Use Area are in Section 25, Township 21 S, Range 22 E, MDB&M. The California Department of Corrections (Department of Corrections) owns and operates the Corcoran State Prison (Corcoran Prison) WWTF and 331 acres of Use Area (Prison Use Area) in Section 1, Township 22 S, Range 22 E, MDB&M, regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2016-0027. The Corcoran WWTF, City Use Area, Corcoran Prison WWTF, and Prison Use Area are depicted on the Site Location Map in **Attachment A**.
2. The Corcoran WWTF and City Use Area are comprised of the following Kings County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs), which are all owned by the Discharger: 044-110-006, 044-110-041, 044-110-039, and 044-110-064.
3. As WWTF's owner and operator, the Discharger is responsible for compliance with the WDRs prescribed in this Order.
4. The following materials are attached and incorporated as part of this Order:
 - a. Attachment A—Site Location Map
 - b. Attachment B—Flow Schematic
 - c. Attachment C—Use Area and Evaporation/percolation pond map
 - d. Attachment D— Recycled Water Signage
 - e. Attachment E— Standard Requirements for Monitoring Well Installation Work Plans and Monitoring Well Installation Reports
 - f. Standard Provisions & Reporting Requirements dated 1 March 1991 (SPRRs)
 - g. Information Sheet

5. Also attached is **Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2021-####** (MRP), which requires monitoring and reporting for the discharge regulated under these WDRs. The Discharger shall comply with the MRP and subsequent revisions thereto as ordered by the Executive Officer.

Regulatory History

6. WDRs Order 91-138, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 28 June 1991, currently regulates the Corcoran WWTF. WDRs Order 91-138 authorizes a discharge of 1.45 million gallons per day (mgd) (monthly average flow) of undisinfected secondary wastewater to City Use Area and authorizes an additional 0.30 mgd of wastewater (for a total monthly average flow of 1.75 mgd) to the Prison Use Area.
7. WDRs Order R5-2016-0027, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 21 April 2016, regulates the discharge from the Prison WWTF to the Prison Use Area (331 acres). In 1989, the City entered into an agreement with the Department of Corrections for the disposal of wastewater generated by the City's WWTF to the Prison Use Area. Order R5-2016-0027 includes the Land Application Area Specifications (Water Recycling Specifications) for the City's WWTF discharge to the Prison Use Area.
8. The WDRs for the City's WWTF are being updated to ensure the discharge is consistent with water quality plans and policies. WDRs Order 91-138 will be rescinded and replaced with this Order.

Existing Facility and Discharge

9. The City's WWTF serves the City of Corcoran. The WWTF receives wastewater from residential, and commercial sources. Currently, there are no significant industrial wastes being discharged, and/or proposed for discharge, to the WWTF. Consequently, an Industrial Pretreatment Program will not be required at this time (see Industrial Pretreatment Considerations section below for more discussion).
10. Based on 2019 Census data, the City of Corcoran serves an estimated population of about 21,960 people. The City is a severely disadvantaged community with a median household income of \$40,159, according to the United States Census Bureau.
11. The City's WWTF consists of a headworks, two primary clarifiers, one clay aeration pond (east aeration pond), one anaerobic digester, sludge drying beds,

five evaporation/percolation ponds (1 through 5) and City Use Area. A treatment process flow schematic is in **Attachment B**. The City is not proposing to increase flows or use areas.

12. Information on the evaporation/percolation ponds is provided in Table 1.

Table 1 — Pond Details

Name	Function	Surface Area (acres)	Depth (feet)	Capacity (acre-feet)
1	Evaporation/Percolation	10.71	7.50	75.1
2	Evaporation/Percolation	8.69	8.00	63.4
3	Evaporation/Percolation	8.88	8.00	64.9
4	Evaporation/Percolation	19.88	8.00	150.5
5	Evaporation/Percolation	11.72	9.50	102.1

13. The Discharger's Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs) from January 2018 through October 2020 indicate that the monthly average flow rates range from 0.81 to 1.10 mgd. Current wastewater flows at the WWTF are below the permitted monthly average dry weather flow of 1.75 mgd.

Table 2 — Monthly Average Wastewater Flows (in mgd)

Month	2018	2019	2020
January	1.01	0.94	1.01
February	1.08	0.85	0.98
March	1.06	0.81	1.03
April	1.04	1.00	1.03
May	1.03	1.02	1.02
June	1.00	1.02	1.02
July	0.99	1.02	0.98
August	1.01	1.00	0.99
September	1.04	1.04	1.02
October	1.10	1.05	1.04
November	1.10	1.04	---
December	1.03	1.02	---

14. Annual average effluent concentrations based on the data contained in the Dischargers SMR's from January 2018 through October 2020 are tabulated below. The effluent samples were collected at the east aeration pond.

Table 3 — Annual Average Effluent Concentrations

Constituent/Parameter	2018	2019	2020 (See 1 below)
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (mg/L)	64	61	51
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (mg/L)	46	45	42
Electrical Conductivity (EC) (µmhos/cm)	796	812	830
Calcium (mg/L)	23	22	29
Chloride (mg/L)	83	88	89
Magnesium (mg/L)	1.9	1.8	2.0
Nitrate as N (mg/L)	1.5	23	6.45
Potassium (mg/L)	11	11	10.9
Sodium (mg/L)	106	110	117
Total Phosphorous (mg/L)	10	3.0	4.7
Settleable Solid (mL/L)	0.3	0.2	0.2
Dissolved Arsenic (mg/L)	0.011 (See 2 below)	0.023	0.010

- Annual average concentrations for 2020 do not include data for November and December 2020.
- Average dissolved arsenic concentration for 2018 is based on data from November and December 2018.

15. WDRs Order 91-138 prescribes monthly average BOD and TSS limits of 40 mg/L and 45 mg/L, respectively, which the Facility's discharge has consistently exceeded. For BOD, the discharge exceeded the effluent monthly average BOD limit (40 mg/L) five out of twelve months in 2019 and six out of ten months in 2020. For TSS, the discharge exceeded the effluent monthly average TSS limit (45 mg/L) five out of twelve months in 2019 and five out of ten months in 2020. The months with exceedances are shown in bold in Table 4 below. Provision I.2 of this Order includes a five-year time schedule for the City to comply with the effluent limits specified in this Order for BOD and TSS.

Table 4 — Monthly Average Effluent BOD and TSS

Month	Inf. BOD (mg/L)	Eff. BOD (mg/L)	% Removal	Inf. TSS (mg/L)	Eff. TSS (mg/L)	% Removal
January 2019	220	140	36.4	192	43	77.6
February 2019	190	37	80.5	206	48	76.7
March 2019	150	120	20.0	197	33	83.2
April 2019	180	33	81.7	165	49	70.3
May 2019	230	50	78.3	185	44	76.2
June 2019	240	12	95.0	170	17	90.0

Month	Inf. BOD (mg/L)	Eff. BOD (mg/L)	% Removal	Inf. TSS (mg/L)	Eff. TSS (mg/L)	% Removal
July 2019	180	15	91.7	167	29	82.6
August 2019	170	19	88.8	210	24	88.6
September 2019	210	30	85.7	165	47	71.5
October 2019	150	140	6.7	151	64	57.6
November 2019	170	19	88.8	210	24	88.6
December 2019	170	76	55.3	171	77	55.0
January 2020	280	62	77.9	144	66	54.2
February 2020	150	56	62.7	136	54	60.3
March 2020	200	39	80.5	149	68	54.4
April 2020	220	34	84.5	140	42	70.0
May 2020	160	16	90.0	128	19	85.2
June 2020	230	14	93.9	162	15	90.7
July 2020	140	69	50.7	136	24	82.4
August 2020	170	55	67.6	140	39	72.1
September 2020	180	65	63.9	125	46	63.2
October 2020	270	98	63.7	134	47	64.9

Proposed Facility Improvements

16. The City is proposing to make improvements to the WWTF. The improvements include replacing the sludge/scum pumps, replacing the primary effluent pumps, and converting the existing west pond (currently unused) into a lined aeration pond (60-mil high density polyethylene liner). The proposed improvements to the WWTF will not result in an increase in flows. The purpose of the additional aeration pond is to provide redundancy for when an aeration pond needs to be taken out of service for maintenance or when the aeration pond needs to be dewatered to remove sludge. Provision I.3 of this Order requires the Discharger to submit certification that the improvements to the WWTF have been completed.

Use Areas

17. According to the March 2020 Title 22 Engineering Report, the City Use Area currently consists of a total of crop area of 232.2 acres, as shown below.

Table 5 — Assessor Parcel Numbers

APN(s)	Net Crop Area (Acres)	Sections (Net Acreage)
044-110-041	56.3	5 – 27.5 6 – 28.8
044-110-039	108.3	3 – 40.7 4 – 32.9 7 – 34.7
044-110-064	67.6	1 – 22.0 2 – 31.0 8 – 14.6

18. The City Use Area is divided into eight sections, which are leased to farmers. The City currently has active leases with two farmers. The first lease agreement is for the use of 164 acres of farmland (section 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) and expires 31 March 2021. The second lease agreement is for the use of 67 acres of farmland (sections 1, 2, and 8) and it expired 14 November 2020. A site map showing the City Use Area sections is included in Attachment C.
19. The irrigation pump station at the City’s WWTF draws treated wastewater from evaporation/percolation Pond 5 and is manually controlled by the WWTF operator. When treated wastewater levels in evaporation/percolation Pond 5 are high, wastewater can gravity flow to sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 located west of the irrigation pump station. Through a 12-inch pipeline, the City delivers treated wastewater to the Prison’s WWTF effluent pond (for reuse on the Prison Use Area) or to the City Use Area. The City also has the flexibility to utilize portable pumps to draw treated wastewater from the evaporation/percolation ponds to irrigate the City Use Area when the irrigation pump station is being used to pump treated wastewater to the Prison’s WWTF effluent pond.
20. As described in the March 2020 Title 22 Engineering Report, the City plans to use undisinfected secondary treated wastewater to irrigate fiber, fodder, and seed crops for non-human consumption on the City Use Area. In the past, crops planted at the City Use Area consisted of cotton, corn, wheat, onion seed, and Sudan grass. Treated wastewater and supplemental irrigation water are applied by flood irrigation. Crops planted at the Prison Use Area are fodder and fiber crops (alfalfa, winter wheat, and corn) for non-human consumption.

21. This Order includes water recycling requirements for the application of treated wastewater generated from the City's WWTF to the City Use Area. WDRs Order R5-2016-0027 includes water recycling requirements for the application of comingled wastewater generated from the Prison's WWTF and the City's WWTF to the Prison Use Area.

Sludge Management and Disposal

22. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has promulgated biosolids reuse regulations in Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 40, part 503, Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge (Part 503), which establishes management criteria for protection of ground and surface waters, sets limits and application rates for heavy metals, and establishes stabilization and disinfection criteria. The Central Valley Water Board is not the implementing Agency for Part 503 regulations. The Discharger may have separate and/or additional compliance, reporting, and permitting responsibilities to the US EPA.
23. On 7 May 2002, the Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) granting the City coverage under Water Quality Order No. 2000-10-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Biosolids to Land for Use as a Soil Amendment in Agricultural, Silvicultural, Horticultural, and Land Reclamation Activities* (2000 Biosolids General Order) for land application of biosolids. The NOA permitted the land application of biosolids to 40 acres of City-owned land northeast of the City's WWTF evaporation/percolation ponds. The City was issued enrollee number 2000-10-DWQ-R5F009. On 18 January 2019, the City submitted a Notice of Termination requesting to discontinue coverage under the 2000 Biosolids General Order. Enrollment under the 2000 Biosolids General Order was terminated on 11 March 2019.
24. In 2006, the City installed a drinking water treatment plant for the removal of arsenic in source water. Historical practices at the drinking water treatment plant included discharging the filter backwash sludge into the City's sanitary sewer. This practice appeared to have contributed to the biosolids containing elevated concentrations of arsenic that exceeded the arsenic ceiling limit of 75 mg/kg prescribed in 40 CFR Part 503.13(a)(1). On 14 May 2009, the Central Valley Water Board issued the City a Notice of Violation for discharging biosolids containing elevated arsenic concentrations to land in violation of 40 CFR Part 503 and WDRs Order 91-138. In 2010 the City installed a filter press to dewater the filter backwash sludge generated from the drinking water treatment plant. Current practices at the drinking water treatment plant include

discharging filter press water into the City’s sanitary sewer. Based on filter press water quality from November 2017 through January 2018, filter press water exceeded the primary MCL for arsenic two out of thirteen as shown in bold below.

Table 6 – Filter Press Water Quality

Date Sampled	Arsenic (mg/L)
11/6/2017	0.0057
11/13/2017	0.0059
11/20/2017	0.0064
11/27/2017	0.0044
12/4/2017	0.0039
12/11/2017	0.0027
12/18/2017	<0.002
12/27/2017	0.0046
1/2/2018	0.0025
1/8/2018	0.013
1/16/2018	0.013
1/22/2018	0.0039
1/29/2018	0.0039

25. The City has not reportedly land applied biosolids generated from the City’s WWTF since 2008 due to exceedance of ceiling limits prescribed in 40 CFR Part 503.13(a)(1).

26. On 18 December 2018, the City submitted a Sludge Management Plan describing future potential biosolids handling and disposal practices at the WWTF. The December 2018 Sludge Management Plan proposes the following possible methods for disposing biosolids produced at the WWTF: (1) applying biosolids to land that satisfy either the pollutant concentration limits (Table 3) or cumulative pollutant loading rates (Table 2) of 40 CFR Part 503.13 or (2) hauling biosolids off site to a permitted landfill if the ceiling concentration limits (Table 1) of 40 CFR Part 503.13 are exceeded. This WDRs Order requires the City to apply and receive coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order 2004-12-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Biosolids to Land for Use as a Soil Amendment in Agricultural, Silvicultural, Horticultural, and Land Reclamation Activities*, prior to applying biosolids to land.

27. On 21 March 2019, the City removed a total of 1,128 tons of biosolids (biosolids produced from 2012 through 2018) off site to Waste Management in Kettleman City. Biosolids metal concentrations are summarized below and compared to 40 CFR, Part 503.13 (Ceiling Concentration Limits) and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66261.24 (Total Threshold Limit Concentrations [TTLC]). The biosolids metal concentrations for each year were below the Ceiling Concentrations Limits with the exception of the 2015 arsenic result. The biosolids metal concentrations for each year were below the TTLC limits.

Table 7 – Biosolids Metal Concentrations (in mg/kg)

Constituent	2013	2014	2015	2017	Ceiling Concentrations Limits (40 CFR 503.13)	TTLC Wet-Weight (Title 22, 66261.2)
Arsenic	31	55	110	43	75	500
Cadmium	<1.3	<1.3	1.9	<1.3	85	100
Copper	140	130	300	150	4,300	2,500
Lead	32	37	46	35	840	1,000
Mercury	2.9	1.2	2.2	2.3	57	20
Molybdenum	25	23	61	47	75	3,500
Nickel	21	19	23	18	420	2,000
Selenium	2.9	4.1	8.9	4.2	100	100
Zinc	540	530	1,300	750	7,500	5,000

Industrial Pretreatment Considerations

28. Certain industrial wastes, when discharged to wastewater treatment facilities without adequate controls, may cause one or more of the following problems:
- a. **Interference or Upset.** Discharges of high volumes or concentrations of certain waste constituents can inhibit or interfere with proper operations, thereby impairing the WWTF’s ability to treat wastewater—and potentially preventing compliance with WDRs.
 - b. **Sludge Management.** Industrial wastes, particularly metals and other toxic constituents, can limit available sludge management alternatives, thereby increasing the cost of sludge management and disposal. Contaminated biosolids may also be unsuitable as a soil amendment.
 - c. **Pass-Through.** Some industrial wastes may not receive adequate treatment and pass through the treatment system in concentrations that

can could unreasonably degrade groundwater quality and/or prevent recycling of domestic wastewater.

- d. **Other Hazards.** Additionally, the discharge of explosive, reactive, or corrosive wastes can cause damage to the wastewater collection system or the treatment works, as well as threaten the safety of workers and/or the general public.

Water Recycling Considerations

29. Undisinfected domestic wastewater contains human pathogens that are typically measured using total or fecal coliform organism as indicator organisms.
30. The State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), which is charged with establishing drinking water quality standards for the protection of public health, has promulgated a criteria for the use of recycled water throughout California, codified as California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22), section 60301 et seq.
31. On 15 May 1989, the City and the Department of Corrections entered into an agreement of indefinite term for the disposal of 335 acre-feet per year (about 0.3 mgd on an annual average daily flow) of treated wastewater from the City's WWTF to the Prison Use Area. On 1 November 1995, the agreement was amended for an increase in water delivery from the City to the Department of Corrections beyond the 335 acre-feet per year of treated wastewater at the discretion of the Department of Corrections.
32. The City submitted a March 2020 Title 22 Engineering Report to DDW for the irrigation of fiber, fodder, and seed crop for non-human consumption with undisinfected secondary treated wastewater. On 3 June 2020, DDW provided comments to the City on the March 2020 Title 22 Engineering Report, outlining the missing technical information needed to complete the Title 22 Engineering Report. Provision I.4 of this Order requires the City to submit a final copy of the Title 22 Engineering Report prepared in accordance with Title 22, section 60323 and the approval letter from DDW to the Central Valley Water Board.
33. The discharges authorized herein are consistent with the State Water Board's *Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water* (Recycled Water Policy), Resolution 2009-0011, as amended per Resolutions 2013-0003 and 2018-0057; and Central Valley Water Board Resolution R5-2009-0028 (*Resolution in Support of Regionalization, Reclamation, Recycling and Conservation for WWTPs*).

Site-Specific Conditions

Topography, Climate and Land Use

34. The soil below the WWTF and Use Areas are primarily Gambogy loam and Grangeville sandy loam, according to the Web Soil Survey published by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Gambogy loam and Grangeville sandy loam have irrigated land capabilities classifications of 2s and 2w, respectively. Soils with “Class 2” have moderate limitations that restrict the choice of plants or require moderate conservation practices. Soils with subclass “s” have limitations within the root zone, such as shallowness of the root zone, a high content of stones, a low available water capacity, low fertility, and excessive salinity or sodicity. Overcoming these limitations is difficult. Soils with subclass “w” show that water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation. In some soils the wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage.
35. The WWTF and Use Areas are in an arid climate characterized by dry summers and mild winters. The rainy season generally extends from October through April. The average annual precipitation in the area is about 7.04 inches, according to the Western Regional Climate Center. Average annual pan evaporation in the discharge area is about 81 inches, according to data in the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Technical Report NWS 34, Mean Monthly, Seasonal, and Annual Pan Evaporation for the United States*, published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
36. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) [Flood Insurance Rate Map](https://msc.fema.gov/portal) (https://msc.fema.gov/portal), the WWTF and Use Areas in APN’s 044-110-039 and 044-110-064-000 are in Zone X. A small portion of the Use Areas in APN 044-110-041 are in Zone A. Areas in Zone X are outside of the 1 percent annual chance of flood with average depth less than one foot. Areas in Zone A have a 1 percent annual chance of flooding (typically called the 100-year floodplain). No depth or base flood elevations are shown in the FEMA map for this site.
37. Land uses in the vicinity of the WWTF and Use Areas are primarily agricultural and include alfalfa and cotton, according to the DWR land use data published in 2003. The Department of Corrections and California Prison Industries Authority Dairy is immediately adjacent to the City’s evaporation/percolation ponds. J.G Boswell Company has a tomato processing facility west of the City Use Area.

Groundwater and Subsurface Conditions

38. The City obtains its source water from nine groundwater supply wells (Well 1A, 2A, 3A, 4B, 6A, 7A, 8B, 9B, and 10A), of which eight are currently active. The total depth of the wells and screen interval in feet below ground surface (bgs) are tabulated in Table 8. The supply wells are located approximately 2.7 miles from the headworks and about 3.1 miles from the aeration pond.

Table 8 – Source Water Network

Well	Well Depth (feet bgs)	Screen Interval (feet bgs)
1A	510	194-510
2A	510	217-510
3A	477	250-477
4B	505	235-485
6A	1,350	520-1,350
7A	1,350	515-1,350
8B	945	340-490/550-880
9B	945	340-490/550-880
10A	500	266-500

39. Source water quality based on the City’s 2018 and 2019 Consumer Confidence Reports is shown in Table 9 below.

Table 9 – Source Water Quality

Constituent/Parameter	Units	2018	2019
EC	µmhos/cm	437	440
Chloride	mg/L	25.7	26
Fluoride	mg/L	0.43	0.42
Iron	mg/L	0.083	0.143
Nitrate as N	mg/L	4.0	5.1
Sodium	mg/L	70	68
Sulfate	mg/L	31.8	30.7
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	284	290
Manganese	mg/L	0.033	0.055
Arsenic (See 1 below)	mg/L	0.005	0.006

1. After treatment

40. Groundwater below the evaporation/percolation ponds and Use Area is found at about 15 to 47 feet bgs and flows in the northeast direction based on 2012 through 2019 annual groundwater monitoring data. Regional groundwater is contained generally in two aquifers, the Lower Confined Aquifer and the Upper Unconfined Aquifer. The two aquifers are separated by a confining layer (Corcoran Clay or E Clay) found below the WWTF at a depth ranging from 550 to 600 feet bgs according to the *Depth to Top of Corcoran Clay* map published by the Department of Water Resources in 1981.
41. The depth to first encountered groundwater below the City use area ranges from 12 to 47 feet bgs. The depth of first encountered groundwater in the neighboring Prison ranges from 19 to 30 feet bgs. To protect crops grown in the Prison Use Area, the farmland has tile drains to keep shallow groundwater from the root zones of the crops. Tile drains underlie the use area at a depth of seven to nine feet bgs and discharge to the northwest corner of the use area.
42. The WWTF's groundwater monitoring well network currently consists of four wells (MW-1 through MW-4) that were installed in January 1994. The wells have a 4-inch diameter, schedule 40 PVC pipe casing and screen. The screens have a 0.02-in slot size and filter pack of #2 silica sand with a bentonite pellet seal. The total depth of the wells and screen interval are tabulated in Table 10 below.

Table 10 – Groundwater Monitoring Network

Well	Well Depth (feet bgs)	Screen Interval (feet bgs)
MW-1	88	38-87
MW-2	85	35-84
MW-3	85	20-84
MW-4	85	35-84

43. As shown in Attachment A, MW-1 is downgradient of the evaporation/percolation ponds; MW-2 is cross-gradient of the City Use Area; MW-3 is upgradient of the City Use Area and evaporation/percolation ponds but downgradient of the Corcoran Prison WWTF; and MW-4 is located within the City Use Area but downgradient of MW-3.

44. Table 11 summarizes the annual groundwater monitoring data collected from 2010 through 2019 per MRP 91-138. Table 11 also summarizes the arsenic monitoring data collected from October 2018 through October 2020.

Table 11 – Annual Average Groundwater Quality

Constituent/ Parameter	MW-1 (Downgradient)	MW-2 (Cross-Gradient)	MW-3 (Upgradient)	MW-4 (Downgradient)	MCLs
Arsenic (mg/L) (Dissolved) (see 1 below)	0.170 (0.024 – 0.300)	0.151 (0.120 – 0.310)	0.050 (0.039 – 0.069)	0.152 (0.100 – 0.190)	0.01 (See 2 below)
Calcium (mg/L)	3.9	45	7.1	10.5	---
Carbonate (mg/L)	57	<3.0	14.3	94	---
Chloride (mg/L)	65	57	29	108	250/500 (See 3 below)
EC (µmhos/cm)	1,035 (440 – 1,700)	1,400 (1,100 – 1,600)	580 (330 – 820)	1,573 (1,200 – 2,200)	900/1,600 (See 3 below)
Fluoride (mg/L)	1.9	0.69	1.24	3.0	2.0 (See 2 below)
Iron (mg/L)	0.32	3.9	0.28	0.15	0.30
Magnesium (mg/L)	0.69	12.29	4.35	2.29	---
Nitrate as N (mg/L)	0.25	0.22	0.41	3.14	10 (see 2 below)
Potassium (mg/L)	<2.0	5.3	<2.0	<2.0	---
Sodium (mg/L)	199	285	114	373	---
Sulfate (mg/L)	41	233	21	124	250/500 (See 3 below)

Constituent/ Parameter	MW-1 (Downgradient)	MW-2 (Cross-Gradient)	MW-3 (Upgradient)	MW-4 (Downgradient)	MCLs
TDS (mg/L)	627 (270 – 1,000)	904 (660 – 1,100)	332 (220 – 470) (See 4 below)	920 (520 – 1,300)	500/1,000 (See 3 below)
Total Phosphorous (mg/L)	2.54	0.94	1.10	2.17	---

1. Average dissolved arsenic concentrations based on monthly data collected from October 2018 through October 2020.
 2. Primary MCL
 3. Secondary MCL range (Recommended/Upper)
 4. Groundwater sample for TDS collected on 19 December 2016 was removed as outlier.
45. Figure 1 in the Information Sheet shows dissolved arsenic trends for MW-1 through MW-4 based on data from October 2018 through October 2020. Monitoring data for MW-1, the most immediate downgradient monitoring well of the City’s evaporation/percolation ponds, shows significant variability for arsenic with an average dissolved arsenic concentration of 0.170 mg/L and a range of 0.024 to 0.300 mg/L. The WWTF’s cross-gradient monitoring well MW-2, has an average dissolved arsenic concentration of 0.151 mg/L (range 0.120 to 0.310 mg/L), with no noticeable trend. Upgradient well MW-3 shows relative stable dissolved arsenic concentrations over the span of three years with a range of 0.039 to 0.069 mg/L. Dissolved arsenic concentrations in downgradient well MW-4 range from 0.100 to 0.190 mg/L and appear to have been declining since March 2019.
46. Historical groundwater data obtained from the [Water Resources of the United States—National Water Information System \(NWIS\) Mapper](https://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/index.htm) (<https://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/index.htm>) of four nearby wells (B1: 22S22E22R001M; B2: 22S22E9N001M; B3: 22S22E14D001M; and C1: 21S22E27A003M) are shown in Table 12 below. The total depth of the wells are as follows: 19.70 ft (B1); 22.80 ft (B2); 20.55 ft (B3); and 21.20 ft (C1).

Table 12 – Groundwater Quality from Nearby Wells

Constituent/Parameter	B1 (6/19/1989)	B2 (6/28/1989)	B3 (6/9/1989)	C1 (6/9/1989)	MCLs
EC (µmhos/cm)	3,680	2,670	1,500	1,340	900/1,600 (see 1 below)
NO ₃ as N (mg/L)	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	7.45	10
Hardness as CaCO ₃ (mg/L)	617	547	163	79.5	---
Calcium (mg/L)	140	140	44	16	---
Sodium (mg/L)	580	420	290	280	---
Chloride (mg/L)	610	120	99	69	250/500 (see 1 below)
Arsenic (mg/L)	0.090	0.009	0.021	0.016	0.01 (see 2 below)
Iron (mg/L)	0.110	0.020	0.007	0.011	0.3 (see 3 below)
Manganese (mg/L)	2.900	1.300	0.540	0.073	0.05 (see 3 below)

1. Secondary MCL range (Recommended/Upper)
 2. Primary MCL
 3. Secondary MCL
47. As shown in bold in Table 12, historical groundwater data indicates regional groundwater has elevated concentration of EC, arsenic and manganese, exceeding their respective MCLs as far back as 1989. The WWTF and Use Areas are immediately outside of the de-designated area for the municipal and domestic supply (MUN) and agricultural supply (AGR) beneficial uses.
48. Available groundwater data does not definitively show that the WWTF's effluent contributes to downgradient arsenic concentrations. Available monitoring data shows regional groundwater quality is poor for arsenic, exceeding the arsenic Primary MCL since at least 1989. Furthermore, available data does not clearly show that the filter press water from the Drinking Water Treatment Plan is a major contributor to arsenic in the wastewater. Provision I.5 of this Order requires the Discharger to complete an Arsenic Evaluation and Minimization Plan. Provision I.6 of this Order requires the Discharger to evaluate its groundwater monitoring well network and determine if it adequately captures background groundwater quality conditions.
49. The Facility's monitoring well network is also sampled for total coliform organisms on an annual basis. Table 13 summarizes the number of total coliform

detections between 2010 and 2019 in the monitoring wells. As shown in Table 13, total coliform organisms are not consistently detected in the wells, indicating the discharge has not impacted underlying groundwater with regards to bacteria.

Table 13 – Annual Average Groundwater Quality

Well	Number of Samples	Total Coliform Organisms (Present)
MW-1 (Downgradient)	11	2
MW-2 (Cross-Gradient)	11	2
MW-3 (Upgradient)	11	1
MW-4 (Downgradient)	11	2

Legal Authorities

50. This Order is adopted pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), which provides in pertinent part as follows:

The regional board, after any necessary hearing, shall prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge, existing discharge, or material change in an existing discharge..., with relation to the conditions existing in the disposal area or receiving waters upon, or into which, the discharge is made or proposed. The requirements shall implement any relevant water quality control plans that have been adopted, and shall take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water quality objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance, and the provisions of Section 13241.

51. Compliance with section 13263, subdivision (a), including implementation of applicable water quality control plans, is discussed in the findings below.
52. The ability to discharge waste is a privilege, not a right, and adoption of this Order shall not be construed as creating a vested right to continue discharging waste. (Wat. Code, § 13263, subd. (g).)
53. This Order and its MRP are also adopted pursuant to Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(1), which provides as follows:

[T]he 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 ... 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.

54. The reports required under this Order, as well as under the separately-issued MRP, are necessary to verify and ensure compliance with WDRs. The burden associated with such reports is reasonable relative to the need for their submission.

Basin Plan Implementation

55. Pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), WDRs must “implement any relevant water quality control plans..., and shall take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water quality objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance, and the provisions of Section 13241.”

Beneficial Uses of Water

56. This Order implements the Central Valley Water Board’s Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plan), which designates beneficial uses for surface water and groundwater and establishes water quality objectives (WQOs) necessary to preserve such beneficial uses. (See Wat. Code, § 13241 et seq.)
57. Local drainage is to Valley Floor Waters. The beneficial uses of Valley Floor Waters within the subject hydrologic area (Lake Sump Hydrologic Area No. 558.30) including the following: agricultural supply (AGR); industrial service supply (IND); industrial process supply (PRO); water contact recreation (REC-1); non-water contact recreation (REC-2); warm freshwater habitat (WARM); wildlife habitat (WILD); rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE); and ground water recharge (GWR).
58. Per the Basin Plan, beneficial uses of underlying groundwater at the Facility are: municipal and domestic supply (MUN); agricultural supply (AGR); industrial service supply (IND); industrial process supply (PRO); water contact recreation (REC-1); and wildlife habitat (WILD).

Water Quality Objectives

59. The numeric WQO for bacteria is expressed as the most probable number (MPN) of coliform organisms per 100 mL of water. For MUN-designated groundwater, the objective is an MPN of 2.2 organisms per 100 mL over any seven-day period.
60. The narrative WQO for chemical constituents in groundwater generally provides that groundwater shall not contain constituents in concentrations adversely affecting beneficial uses. For MUN-designated waters, the Basin Plan further provides that water, at a minimum, meet the primary and secondary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22).¹ (See Title 22, §§ 64431, 64444, 64449.)
61. The narrative WQO for toxicity provides that groundwater shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations producing detrimental physiological responses in human, animal, plant or aquatic life associated with designated beneficial uses.
62. To the extent necessary, narrative WQOs are quantified, on a site-specific basis, as numeric limits for constituents with potential to adversely impacted designated uses. In determining a site-specific numeric limit, the Central Valley Water Board considers relevant published criteria.
63. In determining a numeric limit for salinity protective of agricultural supply (AGR), the Central Valley Water Board is relying on general salt tolerance guidelines, which indicate that although yield reductions in nearly all crops are not evident when irrigation water has an electrical conductivity (EC) of less than 700 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$, there is an eight- to ten-fold range in salt tolerance for agricultural crops. (See, e.g., Ayers & Westcot, *Water Quality for Agriculture* (1985), § 2.3.) For this reason, appropriate salinity values are considered on a case-by-case basis. It is possible to achieve full yield potential with groundwater EC up to 3,000 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$, if the proper leaching fraction is provided to maintain soil salinity within the tolerance of the crop.

¹ Central Valley Water Board may apply limits more stringent than MCLs to ensure that waters do not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses.

Basin Plan Limitations for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities

64. Section 4.1.11.5 of the Basin Plan specifies the level of treatment required for domestic wastewater facilities with land disposal. The Basin Plan states that for wastewater discharges precluded from public access, with design flows in excess of 1 million gallons per day (e.g., Corcoran WWTF), the wastewater facility must provide removal of 80% or reduction to 40 mg/L (whichever is more stringent) for both BOD and suspended solids. The effluent limitations included in this Order are based on these Basin Plan limitations.

Salt and Nitrate Control Programs

65. As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments (Resolution R5-2018-0034) incorporating new Salt and Nitrate Control Programs to address ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. On 16 October 2019, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2019-0057 conditionally approving the Basin Plan amendments. The Office of Administrative Law approved the Basin Plan amendments on 15 January 2020 (OAL Matter No. 2019-1203-03), which became effective on 17 January 2020.
66. For the Salt Control Program, the Discharger was issued a Notice to Comply (CV-SALTS ID 2658) with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program on 5 January 2021. Upon receipt of the Notice to Comply, the Discharger must submit a Notice of Intent by **15 July 2021** informing the Central Valley Water Board of their choice between Option 1 (Conservative Option for Salt Permitting) or Option 2 (Alternative Option for Salt Permitting). Dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements for EC of 700 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ to protect AGR beneficial uses or 900 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ to protect MUN beneficial uses will need to meet performance-based requirements and participate in a basin-wide planning effort to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley (i.e., participate in the Priority and Optimization Study per Option 2).
67. Based on available data, 2020 average effluent EC at the WWTF is approximately 830 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$. This Order:
- a. Requires the Discharger to continue to control salinity in the discharge.
 - b. Sets a performance-based EC limit on the effluent of source water EC plus 500 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$.

- c. Requires the Discharger to participate in the basin-wide planning effort to develop long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley (i.e., Priority and Optimization Plan) unless the Discharger chooses and qualifies for the Conservative Approach (Path A).
68. The Nitrate Control Program was developed to address widespread nitrate pollution in the Central Valley. Upon receipt of a Notice to Comply, dischargers that are unable to comply with the stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take on alternative compliance approaches that involve providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. Dischargers may comply with the Nitrate Control Program either individually (Pathway A) or collectively as part of a Management Zone Group (Pathway B).
 69. For the Nitrate Control Program, the Central Valley Water Board identified areas, referred to as Priority 1 and Priority 2 basins, where nitrates in groundwater are more prevalent and therefore pose a higher risk to persons who rely on groundwater as a source of drinking water. Priority 1 and Priority 2 basins have timelines under which permittees are required to implement the Nitrate Control Program requirements. The WWTF falls within Groundwater Sub-Basin 5-22.12 (San Joaquin Valley - Tulare Lake), a Priority 2 Basin. Notices to comply for Priority 2 Basins will be issued within two to four years after the effective date of the Nitrate Control Program (17 January 2020).
 70. As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of these WDRs. As such this Order may be amended or modified to incorporate any newly applicable requirements to ensure that the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met.

Antidegradation Policy

71. The *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California*, State Water Board Resolution 68-16 (Policy), which is incorporated as part of the Basin Plan, prohibits the Central Valley Water Board from authorizing degradation of “high quality waters” unless it is shown that such degradation: (1) will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of California; (2) will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, or otherwise result in water quality less than as prescribed in applicable policies; and (3) is minimized through the discharger’s best practicable treatment or control (BPTC).
72. Groundwater quality monitoring data at the Facility dates to 1994. Given the unavailability of pre-1968 water quality information, compliance with the

Antidegradation Policy will be determined based on existing background water quality (Antidegradation Baseline).

73. Constituents of concern (COCs) for the WWTF's discharge that have the potential to degrade groundwater include nutrients (i.e., nitrogen), salts, arsenic, and total coliform as discussed below and in Table 14.

Table 14 – Treated Effluent and Groundwater Data Comparison

Constituent	Units	Effluent (2018 – 2020)	Regional Groundwater (1989)	Monitoring Well Network (2010 – 2019)
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	1.5 – 23.0	<0.10 – 7.45	0.22 – 3.41
EC	µmhos/cm	796 – 830	1,340 – 3,680	580 – 1,573
Arsenic	mg/L	0.010 – 0.023	0.009 – 0.090	0.050 – 0.170

- a. **Nitrate.** Groundwater data from shallow groundwater monitoring wells indicate groundwater is of good quality with respect to nitrate. Based on the limited available nitrate data for the effluent and groundwater, it does not appear the discharge has significantly impacted underlying groundwater for nitrate (comparing upgradient well MW-3 nitrate as nitrogen concentrations as shown in Table 11 [0.05 mg/L average] to downgradient well MW-1 nitrate as nitrogen concentrations [0.170 mg/L average]). However, groundwater data for the other nitrogen constituents (e.g., TKN, ammonia, and nitrate) is limited. Therefore, to fully characterize the WWTF discharge's impact on underlying groundwater, the MRP will include a more robust monitoring schedule for nitrogen species.

In addition to the increased groundwater monitoring, this Order requires the Discharger to conduct a Groundwater Monitoring Well Evaluation to evaluate the adequacy of the WWTF's existing network. To protect the MUN-designated beneficial use, this Order includes a groundwater limitation for nitrate (as N) of 10 mg/L or in excess of natural background quality. Lastly, this Order requires the Discharger to comply with the new Nitrate Control Program.

- b. **Salinity (EC and TDS).** For salinity, based on available data the discharge has an annual average effluent EC of 796 µmhos/cm (2018),

812 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ (2019), and 830 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ (2020), below the recommended secondary MCL of 900 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$.

Regional groundwater data shows groundwater EC in the area is above the upper secondary MCL of 1,600 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ with EC ranging from 1,340 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ to 3,680 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ as far back as 1989. Site specific groundwater data (Table 14) indicates the discharge has impacted groundwater with respect to salinity.

For MW-1 (downgradient well), EC ranges from 400 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ to 1,700 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ and TDS ranges from 270 mg/L to 1,000 mg/L. Groundwater EC and TDS in MW-1 have steadily increasing since 2010 eventually exceeding the upper secondary MCL of 1,600 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ for EC and 1,000 mg/L for TDS. For MW-2 (cross-gradient), EC ranges from 1,100 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ to 1,600 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ and TDS ranges from 660 mg/L to 1,100 mg/L. Groundwater EC and TDS in MW-2 fluctuate between the recommended secondary MCL and upper secondary MCL of 900 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ and 1,600 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ for EC, respectively and 500 mg/L and 1,000 mg/L for TDS, respectively. MW-3 as an upgradient well shows EC ranges from 330 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ to 820 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ and TDS ranges from 220 mg/L to 470 mg/L. Groundwater EC in MW-3 is below the recommended secondary MCL of 900 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$. Groundwater TDS in MW-3 is below the recommended secondary MCL of 500 mg/L. MW-4 as a downgradient well shows EC ranges from 1,200 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ to 2,200 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ and TDS ranges from 520 mg/L to 1,300 mg/L. Groundwater EC in MW-4 has exceeded the recommended secondary MCL of 900 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ for EC since 2010. Groundwater TDS in MW-4 has exceeded the recommended secondary MCL 500 mg/L for TDS since 2010.

To protect groundwater, this Order does not allow an increase in the volume of the discharge and includes a performance-based EC effluent limit of source water EC plus 500 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ (as a 12-month rolling average). In addition, this Order also requires the Discharger to continue its efforts to control and manage salinity in its discharge and comply with the new Salinity Control Program.

- c. **Arsenic.** For arsenic, the annual average effluent dissolved arsenic concentration was 0.011 mg/L (2018), 0.023 mg/L (2019), and 0.010 mg/L (2020), above the primary MCL of 0.010 mg/L for arsenic. Previously, the City discharged sludge from the City's drinking water treatment plant into the City's sanitary sewer. In an effort to reduce arsenic concentrations going to the WWTF, the City installed a filter press to dewater the filter backwash sludge and has ceased discharging the filter backwash sludge

into the City's sanitary system in 2010. Filter press water is the only discharge into the City's sanitary system from the drinking water treatment plant.

Regional groundwater data from 1989 shows groundwater arsenic in the area was above the primary MCL of 0.01 mg/L with arsenic concentrations ranging from 0.009 mg/L to 0.090 mg/L. Findings 44 through 48 also indicate that first encountered groundwater has concentrations of dissolved arsenic above the applicable MCL for arsenic of 0.01 mg/L.

This Order requires the Discharger to submit an Arsenic Evaluation and Minimization Plan that specifically evaluates sources of arsenic in the wastewater. This Order also requires the Discharger to evaluate its groundwater monitoring well network.

- d. **Total Coliform Organisms.** Based on available monitoring data, detections for coliform organisms do not appear to have impacted groundwater as discussed in Finding 49 and Table 13. This Order requires continued groundwater monitoring for total coliform organisms.
74. Generally, limited degradation of groundwater by some of the typical waste constituents of concern (e.g., EC and nitrate) released with the discharge from a municipal wastewater utility after effective source control, and treatment is consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state. The technology, energy, water recycling, and waste management advantages of municipal utility service far exceed any benefits derived from a community otherwise reliant on numerous concentrated individual wastewater systems, and the impacts on water quality will be substantially less. The degradation will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial uses of groundwater, or result in water quality less than water quality objectives.
 75. The Discharger implements, or will implement, as required by this Order the following BPTC measures, which will minimize the extent of water quality degradation resulting from the Facility's continued operation:
 - a. Secondary treatment of wastewater;
 - b. Recycling of wastewater for crop irrigation;
 - c. Discharge limits for flow, BOD₅, and TSS;
 - d. A performance-based EC limit of 500 µmhos/cm plus source water;

- e. Preparation and implementation of an Arsenic Evaluation and Minimization Plan;
 - f. Preparation and implementation of a Groundwater Monitoring Well Network Evaluation that evaluates the existing groundwater monitoring well network;
 - g. Compliance with the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs;
 - h. Certified operators to ensure proper operation and maintenance;
 - i. Prohibit discharge of backwash sludge generated from the City's drinking water treatment plant into the City's sanitary system; and
 - j. Expanded influent, effluent, and groundwater monitoring.
76. Based on the foregoing, the adoption of this Order is consistent with the State Water Board's Antidegradation Policy.

California Environmental Quality Act

77. The issuance of this Order, which prescribes requirements and monitoring of waste discharges at an existing facility, with negligible or no expansion of its existing use, is exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (CEQA Guidelines). The discharges authorized under this Order are substantially within parameters established under prior WDRs, particularly with respect to character and volume of discharges.
78. To the extent that the construction of any new basins, ponds and/or surface impoundments are authorized under this Order, such features involve minor alterations to land, which are exempt from CEQA procedural requirements pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304 (CEQA Guidelines).

Other Regulatory Considerations

Human Right to Water

79. Pursuant to Water Code section 106.3, subdivision (a), it is "the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary

purposes.” Although this Order is not subject to Water Code section 106.3, as it does not revise, adopt or establish a policy, regulation or grant criterion, (see § 106.3, subd. (b)), it nevertheless promotes the policy by requiring discharges to meet maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water, which are designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use.

Threat-Complexity Rating

80. For the purposes of California Code of Regulations, title 23 (Title 23), section 2200, the Facility has a threat-complexity rating of **2-B**.
- a. Threat Category “2” reflects waste discharges that can impair receiving water beneficial uses, cause short-term water quality objective violations, cause secondary drinking water standard violations, and cause nuisances.
 - b. Complexity Category “B” reflects any discharger not included in Category A, with either (1) physical, chemical or biological treatment systems (except for septic systems with subsurface disposal), or (2) any Class II or Class III WMUs.

Title 27 Exemption

81. This Order, which prescribes WDRs for discharges of domestic sewage or treated effluent from a municipal treatment plant, is exempt from the prescriptive requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 27 (Title 27), section 20005 et seq. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 20090, subd. (a) - (b).)

Stormwater

82. This Order does not cover stormwater and other discharges that are subject to the Clean Water Act’s National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Because all storm water at the WWTF is collected and disposed of onsite, the Discharger is not required to obtain coverage under the *Statewide General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities*, State Water Board Order 2014-0057 DWQ, NPDES General Permit CAS000001 (Industrial General Permit) at this time.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

83. Sanitary Sewer Overflows² (SSO), which typically consist of a mixture of domestic and commercial wastewater, often contain pathogenic organisms, toxic pollutants, nutrients, oxygen demanding organic compounds, oil and grease, suspended solids and other pollutants. When an SSO results in a discharge to surface water, it can cause temporary exceedances of water quality objectives, pose a threat to public health, adversely affect aquatic life, and impair recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of surface waters in the area. The most common causes are grease blockages, root blockages, debris blockages, sewer line flood damage, manhole structure failures, vandalism, pump station mechanical failures, power outages, storm or groundwater inflow/infiltration, lack of capacity, and/or contractor-caused blockages.
84. On 2 May 2006, the State Water Board adopted *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems*, State Water Board Order 2006-0003-DWQ (SSO General Order), which requires that all public agencies owning or operating sanitary sewer systems with total system lengths in excess of one mile enroll under the SSO General Order. The City's collection system exceeds one mile in length and the City is enrolled under the General Order.

Groundwater Wells

85. Existing DWR standards for the construction and destruction of groundwater wells, as well as any more stringent standards that are subsequently adopted, shall apply to all monitoring wells used to monitor impacts of wastewater storage or disposal governed by this Order. (see *Cal. Well Stds. Bulletin 74-90* [DWR, June 1991]; *Water Wells Stds. Bulletin 74-81* [DWR, Dec. 2918].)
86. Statistical data analysis methods outlined in the US EPA's *Statistical Analysis of Groundwater Monitoring Data at RCRA Facilities, Unified Guidance* (Unified Guidance) are appropriate for determining compliance with the Groundwater

² For the purposes of this Order, a “**Sanitary Sewer Overflow**” is a discharge to ground or surface water from the sanitary sewer system at any point upstream of the treatment facility. Temporary storage and conveyance facilities (e.g., wet wells, regulated impoundments, tanks, highlines, etc.) may be part of a sanitary sewer system and discharges to these facilities are not considered SSOs, provided that the waste is fully contained within these temporary storage/conveyance facilities.

Limitations of this Order. Depending on the circumstances, other methods may also be appropriate.

Scope of Order

87. This Order is strictly limited in scope to those waste discharges, activities and processes described and expressly authorized herein.
88. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), the Discharger is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes (i.e., other than those described herein), or making material changes to the character, volume and timing of waste discharges authorized herein, without filing a new Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) per Water Code section 13260.
89. Failure to file a new ROWD before initiating material changes to the character, volume or timing of discharges authorized herein, shall constitute an independent violation of these WDRs.
90. This Order is also strictly limited in applicability to those individuals and/or entities specifically designated herein as “Discharger,” subject only to the discretion to designate or substitute new parties in accordance with this Order.

Procedural Matters

91. All of the above information, as well as the information contained in the attached Information Sheet (incorporated herein), was considered by the Central Valley Water Board in prescribing the WDRs set forth below.
92. The Discharger, interested agencies and other interested persons were notified of the Central Valley Water Board’s intent to prescribe the WDRs in this Order, and provided an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations at a public hearing. (See Wat. Code, § 13167.5.)
93. At a public meeting, the Central Valley Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharges regulated under this Order.
94. The Central Valley Water Board will review and revise the WDRs in this Order as necessary.

REQUIREMENTS

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267: that 91-138 is rescinded (except for enforcement purposes); and that the Discharger and their agents, employees and successors shall comply with the following.

A. Standard Provisions

1. Except as expressly provided herein, the Discharger shall comply with the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements dated 1 March 1991 (SPRRs), which are incorporated herein.

B. Discharge Prohibitions

1. Waste classified as “hazardous” (per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, §66261.1 et seq.), shall not be discharged at the Facility under any circumstance.
2. Waste constituents shall not be discharged or otherwise released from the Facility (including during treatment and storage activities) in a manner that results in:
 - a. Violations of the Groundwater Limitations of this Order; or
 - b. Conditions of “nuisance” or “pollution,” as defined per Water Code section 13050.
3. Except as otherwise expressly authorized in this Order, sewage and other waste shall not be discharged to offsite surface waters or surface water drainage courses (including irrigation ditches outside of Discharger's control).
4. Except as provided in Section E.2 of the SPRRs, incorporated herein, untreated wastes and partially treated wastes shall not bypass the treatment system (including treatment ponds).
5. Waste shall not be discharged from the Facility in a manner other than as described in this Order.
6. Discharge of treated effluent to any site other than the treatment and/or storage ponds or recycled use areas (or LAAs) as described in this Order is prohibited.
7. Toxic substances shall not be discharged into the wastewater treatment system such that biological treatment mechanisms are substantially disrupted.

8. Sludge generated from the City's drinking water treatment plant shall not be discharged in the wastewater treatment system.

C. Flow Limitation

1. Influent flows to the Facility, monitored at Monitoring Location INF-001 (as defined in the MRP), shall not exceed a monthly average dry weather flow of 1.75 mgd.

D. Effluent Limitations

1. Effluent discharged to the LAAs, monitored at EFF-001 (as defined in the MRP), shall not exceed the limits specified in Table 15 below in accordance with the compliance schedule specified in Provision I.2.

Table 15 — Effluent Limits

Constituent	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average
BOD ₅	40 mg/L	80 mg/L
TSS	40 mg/L	80 mg/L

2. The arithmetic mean of BOD and TSS in effluent samples (EFF-001) collected over a monthly period shall not exceed 20 percent of the arithmetic mean of the values for influent samples (INF-001) collected at approximately the same times during the same period (i.e., minimum of 80 percent removal) in accordance with the compliance schedule specified in Provision I.2.
3. The 12-month rolling average EC of the discharge shall not exceed the 12-month flow-weighted average EC of the source water plus 500 μ mhos/cm. Compliance with this effluent limitation shall be determined monthly at EFF-001 (as defined in the MRP).

E. Discharge Specifications

1. No waste constituent shall be released, discharged, or placed where it will cause a violation of the Groundwater Limitations of this Order.
2. The Discharger shall operate all systems and equipment to optimize the quality of the discharge.
3. Wastewater contained in any unlined pond shall not have a pH less than 6.0 or greater than 10.0.

4. The discharge shall remain within the permitted wastewater pond, conveyance structures, and the use areas at all times.
5. All conveyance, treatment, storage, and disposal systems shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.
6. Public contact with wastewater at the WWTF shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, or acceptable alternatives.
7. Objectionable odors shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the WWTF property or the use areas at an intensity that creates or threatens to create nuisance conditions.
8. As a means of ensuring compliance with Discharge Specification E.7, the dissolved oxygen (DO) content in the upper one foot of any wastewater storage pond (Evaporation/Percolation Ponds 1 through 5) shall not be less than 1.0 mg/L for three consecutive sampling events. Notwithstanding the DO monitoring frequency specified in the monitoring and reporting program, if the DO in any storage pond is below 1.0 mg/L for any single sampling event, the Discharger shall implement daily DO monitoring (excluding weekends and holidays) of that pond until the minimum DO concentration is achieved for at least three consecutive days. If the DO in any storage pond is below 1.0 mg/L for three sampling events, the Discharger shall report the findings to the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with **Section B.1** of the SPRRs. The written notification shall include a specific plan to resolve the low DO results within 30 days of the first date of violation.
9. The Discharger shall design, construct, operate, and maintain all ponds sufficiently to protect the integrity of containment dams and berms and prevent overtopping and/or structural failure. The operating freeboard in any pond shall never be less than two feet (measured vertically from the lowest possible point of overflow). As a means of management and to discern compliance with this requirement, the Discharger shall install and maintain in each pond a permanent staff gauge or other suitable measurement device with calibration marks that clearly show the water level at design capacity and enable determination of available operational freeboard.
10. Wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal ponds or structures shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate allowable wastewater flow, design seasonal precipitation, and ancillary inflow and infiltration during the winter while ensuring continuous compliance with all requirements of this Order. Design seasonal precipitation shall be based on total annual

precipitation using a return period of 100 years, distributed monthly in accordance with historical rainfall patterns.

11. On or about 1 October of each year, available capacity shall at least equal the volume necessary to comply with Discharge Specifications D.9 and D.10.
12. Newly constructed or rehabilitated berms or levees (excluding internal berms that separate ponds or control the flow of water within a pond) shall be designed and constructed under the supervision of a California Registered Civil Engineer.
13. All ponds and open containment structures shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes or other vectors. Specifically:
 - a. An erosion control program shall be implemented to ensure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface.
 - b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.
 - c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.
 - d. The Discharger shall consult and coordinate with the local Mosquito Abatement District to minimize the potential for mosquito breeding as needed to supplement the above measures.
14. The Discharger shall monitor sludge accumulation in the wastewater treatment and evaporation/percolation ponds at least every five years and shall periodically remove sludge as necessary to maintain adequate storage capacity. Specifically, if the estimated volume of sludge in the reservoir threatens to impact the pond(s) storage/disposal capacity, the Discharger shall complete sludge cleanout within 12 months after the date of the estimate.

F. Groundwater Limitations

Release of waste constituents from any treatment, reclamation or storage component associated with the WWTF shall not cause or contribute to groundwater containing constituent concentrations in excess of the concentrations specified below or in excess of natural background quality, whichever is greater:

1. Nitrate as N of 10 mg/L.
2. Total coliform organism level of 2.2 MPN/100 mL over any seven-day period.
3. Arsenic of 0.10 mg/L.
4. Constituents in concentrations that exceed either the Primary or Secondary MCLs established in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.
5. Contain taste or odor-producing constituents, toxic substances, or any other constituents in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

Compliance with these limitations shall be determined annually as specified in the MRP using approved statistical methods.

G. Water Recycling Specifications

1. For the purpose of this Order, City Use Area(s) means an area with defined boundaries where recycled water is used or discharged that are owned by the City of Corcoran.
2. All recycled water generated by the Facility shall be produced, distributed and used in accordance with the Engineering Report, as referenced in Finding 32, or alternative Engineering Report subsequently approved by DDW. (See Title 22, § 60323.)
3. The quality of recycled water generated by the Facility and applied to the permitted City Use Area shall at least be equivalent to uninfected secondary recycled water, as defined by Title 22, section 60301.900.
4. Recycled water shall be used in compliance with Title 22, section 60304. Specifically, uses of recycled water shall be limited to those set forth in Title 22, section(s) 60304(a), 60304(b), 60304(c), and 60304(d).
5. Tailwater runoff and spray of recycled water shall not be discharged outside of the City Use Area. (See Title 22, § 60310, subd. (e)(1).)
6. Application rates of recycled water to the use area shall be reasonable and shall consider soil, climate, and plant demand. In addition, application of recycled water and use of fertilizers shall be at a rate that takes into

consideration nutrient levels in recycled water and nutrient demand by plants.³ As a means of discerning compliance with this requirement:

- a. Crops or landscape vegetation shall be grown on City Use Areas, and cropping activities shall be sufficient to take up the nitrogen applied, including any fertilizers and manure.
 - b. Hydraulic loading of recycled water and supplemental irrigation water (if any) shall be managed to:
 - i. Provide water only when water is needed and in amounts consistent with that need;
 - ii. Maximize crop nutrient uptake;
 - iii. Maximize breakdown of organic waste constituents in the root zone; and
 - iv. Minimize the percolation of waste constituents below the root zone.
7. Recycled water used for irrigation, or soil that has been irrigated with recycled water, shall not come into contact with the edible portions of food crops that may be eaten raw by humans. (Title 22, § 60304, subd. (e).)
 8. Recycled water use areas shall only be irrigated with recycled water when appropriately trained personnel are on duty.
 9. The Discharger shall conduct periodic inspections of the City Use Area to determine compliance with the requirements of this Order. If an inspection reveals noncompliance or threat of noncompliance with this Order, the Discharger shall temporarily stop recycled water use immediately and implement corrective actions to ensure compliance with this Order.
 10. Grazing of milking animals within the LAAs is prohibited.

³ The Central Valley Water Board recognizes that some leaching of salts is necessary to manage salt in the root zone of crops for production. Such leaching shall be managed to minimize degradation of groundwater, maintain compliance with the groundwater limitations of this Order, and prevent pollution.

11. The irrigation with recycled water shall be managed to minimize erosion within the use areas.
12. The City use Area shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes or other vectors.
13. The City Use Area and recycled water impoundments shall be designed, maintained, and operated to comply with the following setback requirements:

Table 16 — Minimum Setbacks for Irrigation and Impoundments

Setback	Distance (ft.)
Edge of Use Area to Domestic Water Supply Well	150
Edge of Use Area to Manmade or Natural Surface Water Drainage Course	100
Toe of Recycled Water Impoundment Berm to Domestic Water Supply Well	150
Edge of Use Area to Occupied Residence	100
Edge of Use Area Using Spray Irrigation to Public Park, Playground, School Yard, Or Similar Place of Potential Public Exposure	100

14. Spray irrigation with recycled water is prohibited when wind speed (including gusts) exceed 30 mph.
15. Spray, mist, or runoff shall not enter dwellings, designated outdoor eating areas, or food handling facilities. (See Title 22, § 60310, subd. (e)(2).)
16. Public contact with recycled water shall be controlled using fences, signs, and other appropriate means.
17. City Use Areas that are accessible to the public shall be posted with signs that are visible to the public and no less than four inches high by eight inches wide. Signs shall be placed at all areas of public access and around the perimeter of all use areas and at above-ground portions of recycled water conveyances to alert the public of the use of recycled

water. All signs shall display an international symbol similar to that shown in Attachment D, which is attached and forms part of this Order, and shall include the following wording:

**“RECYCLED WATER – DO NOT DRINK”
“AGUA DE DESPERDICIO RECLAMADA – NO TOME”**

18. Alternative language will be considered by the Executive Officer if approved by DDW. (See Title 22, § 60310, subd. (g).)
19. All recycling equipment, pumps, piping, valves, and outlets shall be marked to differentiate them from potable water facilities. Quick couplers, if used, shall be different than those used in potable water systems. (See Title 22, § 60310, subd. (i).)
20. Recycled water controllers, valves, and similar appurtenances shall be equipped with removable handles or locking mechanisms to prevent public access or tampering.
21. No physical connection shall exist between recycled water piping and any potable water supply system (including domestic wells), or between recycled water piping and any irrigation well that does not have an approved air gap or reduced pressure principle device. (See Title 22, §60310, subd. (h).)
22. Horizontal and vertical separation between pipelines transporting recycled water and those transporting potable water shall comply with Title 22, section 64572, except to the extent that DDW has specifically approved a variance.
23. No physical connection shall be made or allowed to exist between any recycled water system and any separate system conveying potable water or auxiliary water source system.
24. A public water supply shall not be used as backup or supplemental source of water for a recycled water system unless the connection between the two systems is protected by an air gap separation which complies with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 7602(a) and 7603(a).
25. All recycled water piping and appurtenances in new installations and appurtenances in retrofit installations shall be colored purple or distinctively wrapped with purple tape in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 116815.

26. Any backflow prevention device installed to protect a public water system shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with Title 17, section 7605.

H. Solids and Sludge/Biosolids Disposal Specifications

1. Sludge⁴ and solid waste⁵ shall be removed from screens, sumps, ponds, and clarifiers as needed to ensure optimal plant operation, prevent nuisance conditions, and maintain adequate storage capacity.
2. Onsite handling and storage of residual sludge,⁶ solid waste, and biosolids⁷ shall be temporary (2 years or less); and controlled and contained in a manner that minimizes leachate formation and precludes infiltration of waste constituents into soils in a mass or concentration that will violate the Groundwater Limitations of this Order.
3. Residual sludge, biosolids, and solid waste shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Executive Officer and consistent with Title 27, division 2. Removal for further treatment, disposal, or reuse at disposal sites (i.e., landfills, WWTFs, composting sites, and soil amendment sites) operated in accordance with valid waste discharge requirements issued by a Regional Water Board will satisfy this specification.
4. Use of biosolids as a soil amendment shall comply with valid waste discharge requirements issued by a regional water board or the State Water Board except in cases where a local (e.g., county) program has been authorized by a regional water board. In most cases, this will mean the General Biosolids Order (State Water Resources Control Board Water

⁴ For the purposes of this section, “**sludge**” means the solid, semisolid, and liquid residues removed during primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes.

⁵ For the purposes of this section, “**solid waste**” includes grit and screenings generated during preliminary treatment at the Facility.

⁶ For the purposes of this section, “**residual sludge**” means sludge that will not be subject to further treatment at the Facility.

⁷ For the purposes of this section, “**biosolids**” refers to sludge that has been treated and tested and shown to be capable of being beneficially used as a soil amendment for agriculture, silviculture, horticulture, and land reclamation activities pursuant to federal and state regulations.

Quality Order 2004-12-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge of Biosolids to Land for Use as a Soil Amendment in Agricultural, Silvicultural, Horticultural, and Land Reclamation Activities*. For a biosolids use project to be covered by Order 2004-12-DWQ, the Discharger must file a complete Notice of Intent and receive a Notice of Applicability for each project.

5. Use and disposal of biosolids shall comply with the self-implementing federal regulations of 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 503, which are subject to enforcement by the U.S. EPA, not the Central Valley Water Board. If during the life of this Order, the State accepts primacy for implementation of part 503, the Central Valley Water Board may also initiate enforcement where appropriate.
6. Any proposed change in sludge use or disposal practice shall be reported in writing to the Executive Officer at least 90 days in advance of the change.

I. Provisions

1. The reports/submittals required in this section shall be submitted pursuant to Water Code section 13267 and shall be prepared as described in Provision I.9.
2. The Discharger shall complete modifications to the WWTF or implement operational changes to ensure that the WWTF will reliably and consistently comply with the BOD and TSS effluent limits specified in Section D.1 and D.2 of this Order. The Discharger shall comply with the following time schedule:

Table 17 – Compliance Schedule for BOD and TSS

Task	Date
Submit a work plan describing the measures the Discharger has implemented or proposes to implement to ensure the WWTF has adequate treatment capacity to reliably comply with the BOD and TSS limitations specified in Sections D.1. and D.2 of this Order. The work plan must include a timeline proposing milestones for achieving compliance with the BOD and TSS effluent limitations. The proposed final compliance date with the BOD and TSS effluent limitations shall be as short as practicable but not exceed <5 years after adoption of the Order> .	<6 months from adoption of the Order>

Task	Date
Until final compliance with the BOD and TSS effluent limitations is achieved, the Discharger shall provide annual updates on the Discharger's efforts to achieve compliance with these limitations. The annual update shall describe what efforts have been completed to date and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented improvement(s).	Every year by 1 February until compliance is achieved
Full compliance with the BOD and TSS effluent limitations specified in Sections D.1 and D.2.	<5 years from adoption of the Order>

3. Upon completion of the WWTF improvements as described in Finding 16, the Discharger shall submit certification that the improvements have been completed.
4. **By <6 months from adoption of the Order>**, the Discharger shall submit a copy of the final approved Title 22 Engineering Report prepared in accordance with Title 22, section 60323. This Provision shall be considered satisfied upon submittal by the Discharger of an approval letter from the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water determining the report is complete.
5. The Discharger shall comply with the following schedule:

Table 18 – Arsenic Evaluation and Minimization Schedule

Task	Date
Arsenic Evaluation and Minimization Report Submit an Arsenic Evaluation and Minimization Report that evaluates the City's Drinking Water System's Filter Press discharge. This should include arsenic monitoring of the filter press effluent and the WWTF influent, concurrently, to determine if the Drinking Water System is a major contributor of arsenic in the wastewater.	<6 months from adoption of the Order>

Task	Date
<p>Feasibility Assessment Report If it is determined from the Arsenic Evaluation and Minimization Report that the Drinking Water System’s filter press discharge is a major arsenic contributor, a Feasibility Assessment Report must be submitted evaluating the feasibility of segregating the filter press effluent from the WWTF’s influent and finding an alternative location for disposal. In addition to evaluating the City’s filter press effluent discharge, the Feasibility Assessment Report must attempt to identify and address other possible sources of arsenic in the WWTF influent.</p>	<p><1 year from adoption of the Order></p>

6. By **<6 months from adoption of the Order>**, submit a **Groundwater Monitoring Well Network Evaluation and Well Installation Work Plan** that evaluates the existing groundwater monitoring well network, specifically evaluating if a well(s) needs to be added upgradient of the City’s Use Area and evaporation/percolation ponds to ensure the Monitoring Well Network has sufficient upgradient wells to characterize underlying groundwater outside the impact of the Facility’s discharge. The work plan shall be prepared in accordance with, and include the items listed in the first section of Attachment E, *Standard Requirements for Monitoring Well Installation Work Plans and Monitoring Well Installation Reports*. All wells shall comply with appropriate standards as described in *California Well Standard Bulletin 74-90* (June 1991) and *Water Well Standards: State of California Bulletin 74-81* (December 1981), and any more stringent standards adopted by the State or county pursuant to Water Code section 13801, apply to all monitoring wells used to monitor the impacts of wastewater storage or disposal governed by this Order.

7. Within **12 months of receiving Executive Officer approval** of the Work Plan (Provision I.6), the Discharger shall submit a **Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Report** for any new groundwater monitoring wells constructed to comply with Provision I.6. The report shall be prepared in accordance with, and include the items listed in the second section of Attachment E. The report shall describe the installation and development of all new monitoring wells and explain any deviation from the approved work plan.

8. The Discharger shall submit the technical reports and work plans required by this Order for consideration by the Executive Officer, and incorporate comments the Executive Officer may have in a timely manner, as appropriate. Unless expressly stated otherwise in this Order, the

Discharger shall proceed with all work required by the foregoing provisions by the due dates specified.

9. In accordance with California Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, engineering and geologic evaluations and judgments shall be performed by or under the direction of registered professionals competent and proficient in the fields pertinent to the required activities. All technical reports specified herein that contain workplans for investigations and studies, that describe the conduct of investigations and studies, or that contain technical conclusions and recommendations concerning engineering and geology shall be prepared by or under the direction of appropriately qualified professional(s), even if not explicitly stated. Each technical report submitted by the Discharger shall bear the professional's signature and stamp.
10. The Discharger shall comply with **Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R5-2021-####**, which is part of this Order, and any revisions thereto as ordered by the Executive Officer. The submittal dates of Discharger self-monitoring reports shall be no later than the submittal date specified in the MRP.
11. The Discharger shall comply with all conditions of this Order, including timely submittal of technical and monitoring reports. On or before each report due date, the Discharger shall submit the specified document to the Central Valley Water Board or, if appropriate, a written report detailing compliance or noncompliance with the specific schedule date and task. If noncompliance is being reported, then the Discharger shall state the reasons for such noncompliance and provide an estimate of the date when the Discharger will be in compliance. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing when it returns to compliance with the time schedule. Violations may result in enforcement action, including Central Valley Water Board or court orders requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in revision or rescission of this Order.
12. The Discharger shall provide certified operators for the WWTF in accordance with Title 23, division 3, chapter 26.
13. The Discharger shall not allow pollutant-free wastewater to be discharged into the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems in amounts that significantly diminish the system's capability to comply with this Order. Pollutant-free wastewater means rainfall, groundwater, cooling waters, and condensates that are essentially free of pollutants.
14. A discharger whose waste flow has been increasing, or is projected to increase, shall estimate when flows will reach hydraulic and treatment

capacities of its treatment, collection, and disposal facilities. The projections shall be made in January, based on the last three years' average dry weather flows, peak wet weather flows and total annual flows, as appropriate. When any projection shows that capacity of any part of the facilities may be exceeded in four years, the discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board by 31 January.

15. The Discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems that are installed by the Discharger when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order.
16. The Discharger shall use the best practicable cost-effective control technique(s) including proper operation and maintenance, to comply with this Order.
17. The Discharger shall comply with the Basin Plan amendments adopted in Resolution R5-2018-0034 incorporating new programs (Salt and Nitrate Control Program) for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley developed as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative.
18. As described in the SPRRs, the Discharger shall report promptly to the Central Valley Water Board any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.
19. In the event that the Discharger reports toxic chemical release data to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) pursuant to section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (42 U.S.C. section 11023), the Discharger shall also report the same information to the Central Valley Water Board within 15 days of the report to the SERC.
20. The Discharger shall continue to comply with the requirements of the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (General WDRs) for Sanitary Sewer Systems (Water Quality Order 2006-0003), the Revised General WDRs Monitoring and Reporting Program (Water Quality Order 2008-0002-EXEC), and any subsequent revisions thereto. Water Quality Order 2006-0003 and Order 2008-0002-EXEC require the Discharger to notify the Central Valley Water Board and take remedial action upon the

reduction, loss, or failure of the sanitary sewer system resulting in a sanitary sewer overflow.

21. At least 90 days prior to termination or expiration of any lease, contract, or agreement involving disposal or recycling areas or off-site reuse of effluent, used to justify the capacity authorized herein and ensure compliance with this Order, the Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing of the situation and of what measures have been taken or are being taken to ensure full compliance with this Order.
22. In the event of any change in control or ownership of the WWTF, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Valley Water Board.
23. To assume operation as Discharger under this Order, the succeeding owner or operator must apply in writing to the Executive Officer requesting transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, the name and address and telephone number of the persons responsible for contact with the Central Valley Water Board, and a statement. The statement shall comply with the signatory paragraph of Standard Provision B.3 and state that the new owner or operator assumes full responsibility for compliance with this Order. Failure to submit the request shall be considered a discharge without requirements, a violation of the Water Code. If approved by the Executive Officer, the transfer request will be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board for its consideration of transferring the ownership of this Order at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.
24. A copy of this Order including the MRP, Information Sheet, Attachments, and Standard Provisions, shall be kept at the WWTF for reference by operating personnel. Key operating personnel shall be familiar with its contents.

ENFORCEMENT

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to \$10,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to the Water Code, including sections 13268, 13350 and 13385. The Central Valley Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Any person aggrieved by this Central Valley Water Board action may petition the State Water Board for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day after the date of this Order; if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. [Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions](#) are available on the Internet (at the address below) and will be provided upon request.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A—Site Location Map

Attachment B—Flow Schematic

Attachment C—Use Area and Evaporation/percolation pond map Use Area and Evaporation/Percolation Pond Map

Attachment D – Recycled Water Signage

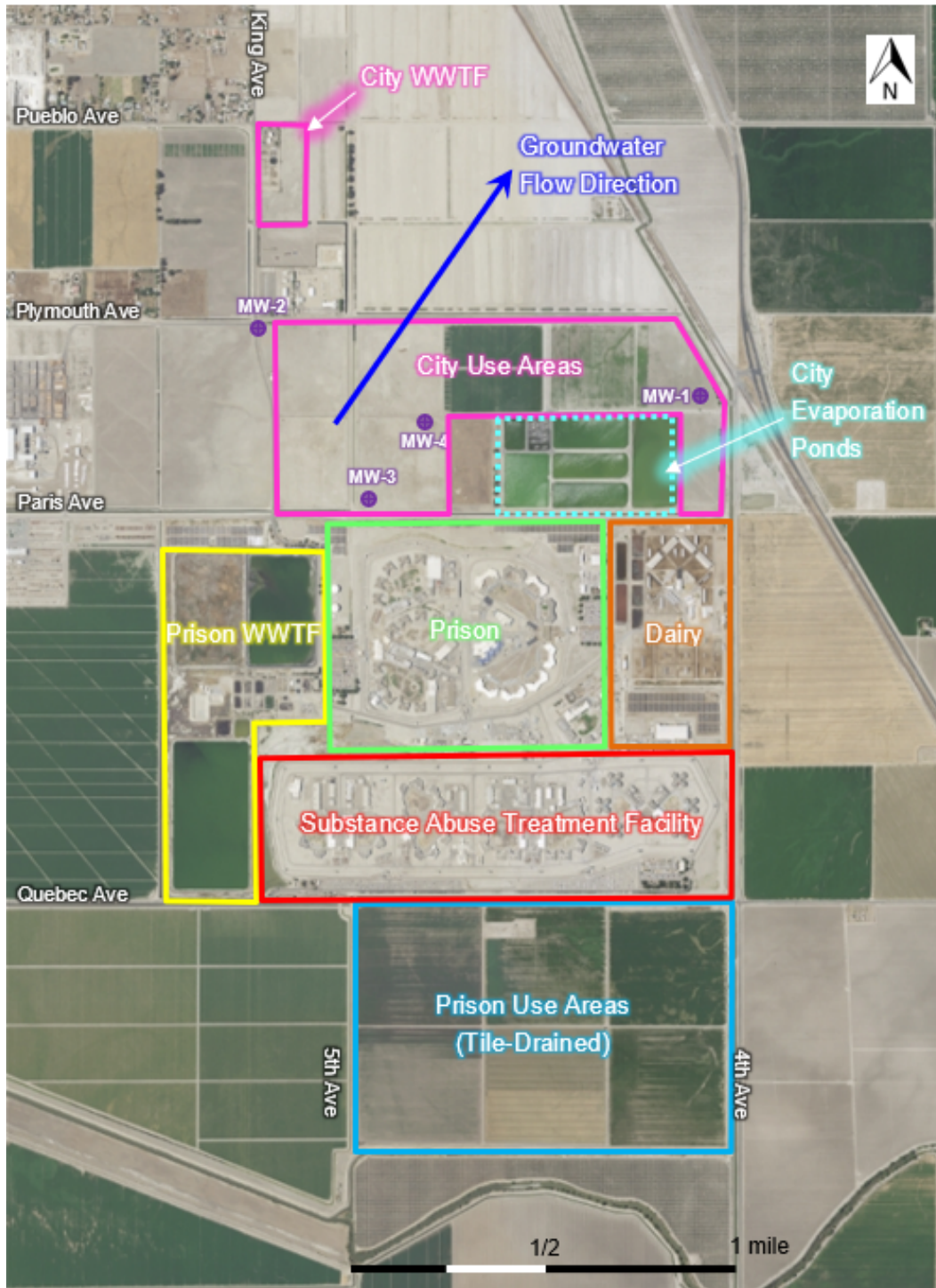
Attachment E – Standard Requirements for Monitoring Well Installation Work Plans and Monitoring Well Installation Reports

Information Sheet

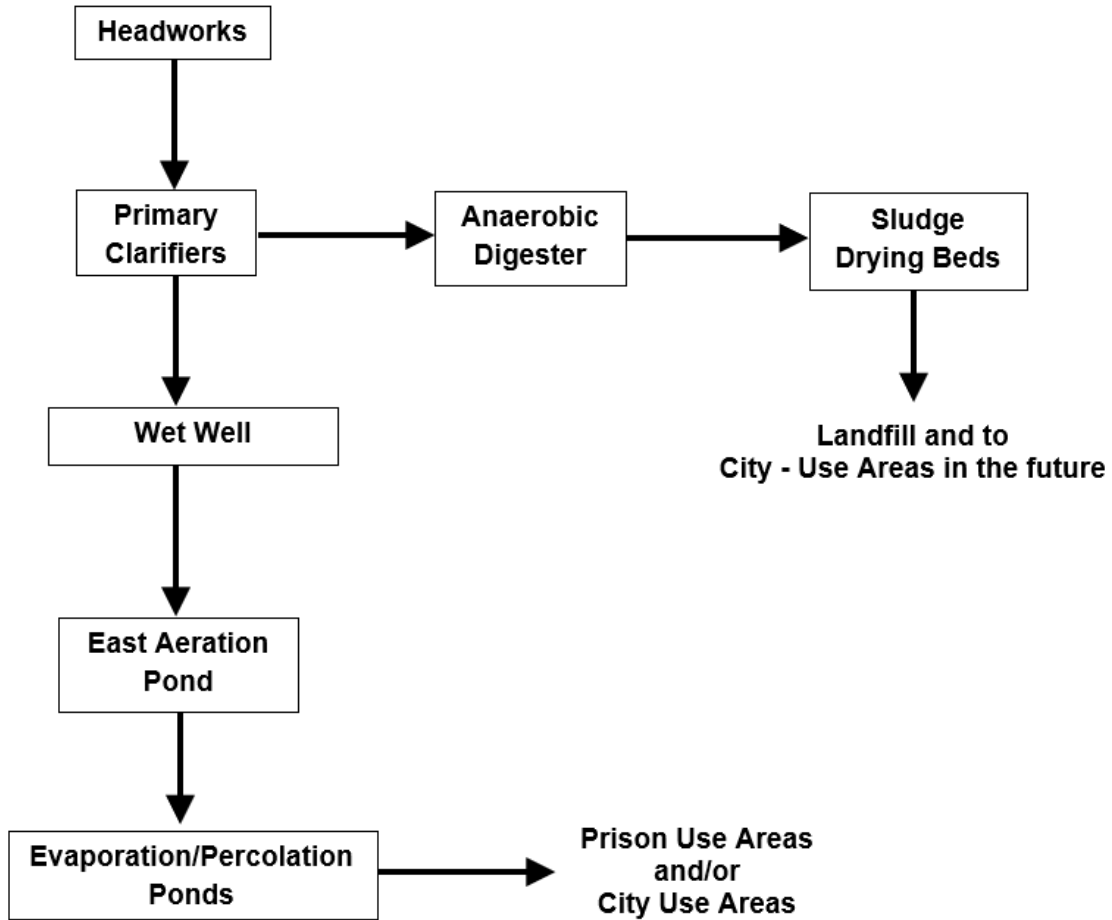
Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements (SPRRs), dated 1 March 1991

Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2021-####

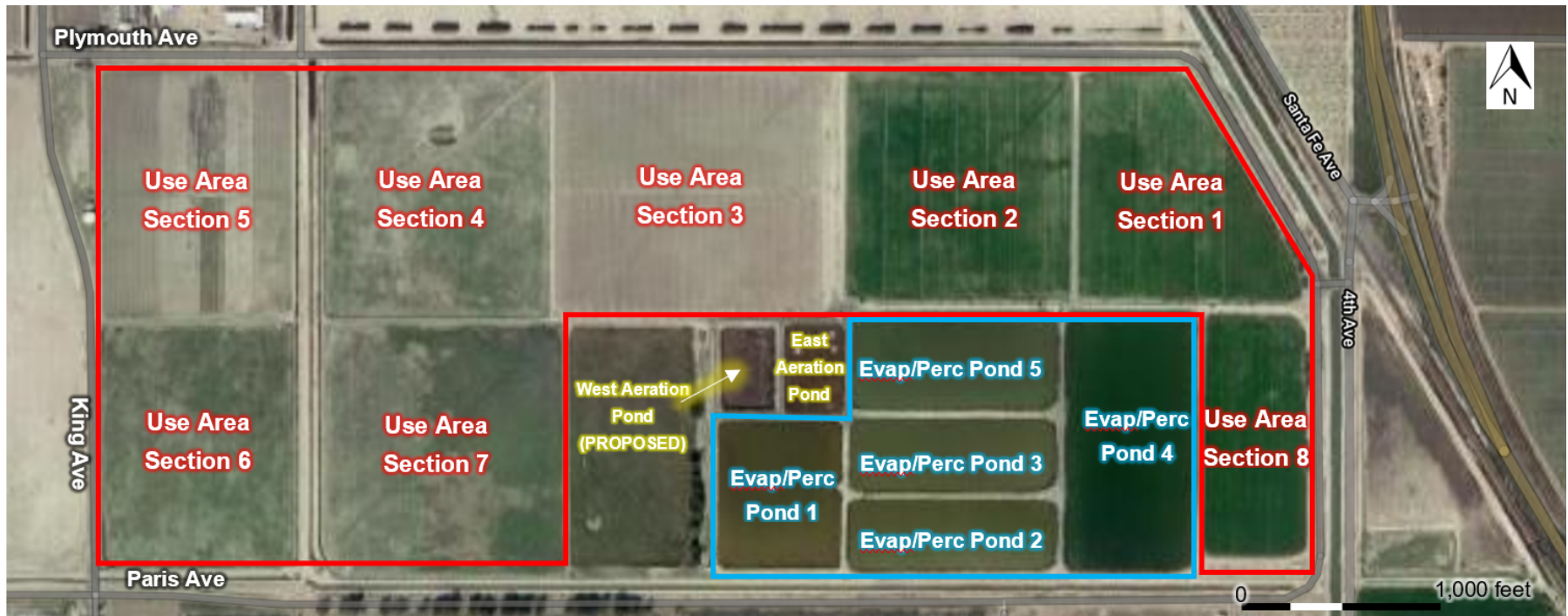
ATTACHMENT A—SITE LOCATION MAP



ATTACHMENT B—FLOW SCHEMATIC



ATTACHMENT C—USE AREA AND EVAPORATION/PERCOLATION POND MAP



ATTACHMENT D—RECYCLED WATER SIGNAGE



ATTACHMENT E—STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING WELL INSTALLATION WORK PLANS AND MONITORING WELL INSTALLATION REPORTS

Prior to installation of groundwater monitoring wells, the Discharger shall submit a work plan containing, at a minimum, the information listed in Section 1, below. Wells may be installed after the Executive Officer approves the work plan. Upon installation, the Discharger shall submit a well installation report that includes the information contained in Section 2, below. All work plans and reports must be prepared under the direction of, and certified by, a California registered geologist or civil engineer.

SECTION 1 – Monitoring Well Installation Work Plan and Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan

The monitoring well installation work plan shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

A. General Information:

1. Purpose of the well installation project.
2. Brief description of local geologic and hydrogeologic conditions.
3. Proposed monitoring well locations and rationale for well locations.
4. Topographic map showing facility location, roads, and surface water bodies.
5. Large-scaled site map showing all existing on-site wells, proposed wells, surface water bodies and drainage courses, buildings, waste handling facilities, utilities, and major physical and man-made features.

B. Drilling Details:

1. On-site supervision of drilling and well installation activities.
2. Description of drilling equipment and techniques.
3. Equipment decontamination procedures.
4. Cutting disposal methods.
5. Soil sampling intervals (if appropriate); logging methods; number and location of soil samples and rationale; and sample collection, preservation, and analytical methods.

C. Monitoring Well Design (in graphic form with rationale provided in narrative form):

1. Borehole diameter.
2. Casing and screen material, diameter, and centralizer spacing (if needed).

3. Type of well caps (bottom cap either screw on or secured with stainless steel screws)
 4. Anticipated depth of well, length of well casing, and length and position of perforated interval.
 5. Thickness, position and composition of surface seal, sanitary seal, and sand pack.
 6. Anticipated screen slot size and filter pack.
- D. Well Development (not to be performed until at least 48 hours after sanitary seal placement):
1. Method of development to be used (i.e., surge, bail, pump, etc.)
 2. Parameters to be monitored using development and record keeping technique.
 3. Method of determining when development is complete.
 4. Disposal of development water.
- E. Well Survey (precision of vertical survey data shall be at least 0.01 foot):
1. Identify the Licensed Land Surveyor or Civil Engineer that will perform the survey.
 2. Datum for survey measurements.
 3. List well features to be surveyed (i.e., top of casing, horizontal and vertical coordinates, etc.)
- F. Schedule for Completion of Work
- G. Appendix: Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)
- The Groundwater SAP, a guidance document that is referred to by individuals responsible for conducting groundwater monitoring and sampling activities, shall contain, at a minimum, a detailed written description of standard operating procedure for:
1. Equipment to be used during sampling.
 2. Equipment decontamination procedures.
 3. Water level measurement procedures.
 4. Well purging (include a discussion of procedures to follow if three casing volumes cannot be purged).

5. Monitoring and record keeping during water level measurement and well purging (including copies of record keeping logs to be used).
6. Purge water disposal.
7. Analytical methods and required reporting limits.
8. Sample containers and preservatives.
9. Sampling:
 - a. General sampling techniques
 - b. Record keeping during sampling (include copies of record keeping logs to be used)
 - c. QA/QC samples
10. Chain of Custody
11. Sample handling and transport

SECTION 2 – Monitoring Well Installation Report

The monitoring well installation report must provide the information listed below. In addition, the report must also clearly identify, describe, and justify any deviations from the approved work plan.

A. General Information:

1. Purpose of the well installation project.
2. Number of monitoring wells installed and identifying labels(s) for each.
3. Brief description of geologic and hydrogeologic conditions encountered during well installation.
4. Topographic map showing facility location, roads, surface water bodies.
5. Large-scale site map showing all previously existing wells, newly installed wells, surface water bodies and drainage courses, buildings, waste handling facilities, utilities, and other major physical and man-made features.

B. Drilling Details (in narrative and/or graphic form):

1. On-site supervision of drilling and well installation activities.
2. Drilling contractor and driller's name.
3. Description of drilling equipment and techniques.
4. Equipment decontamination procedures.
5. Well boring log (provide for each well)
 - a. Well boring number and date drilled.
 - b. Borehole diameter and total depth.
 - c. Total depth of open hole (i.e., total depth drilled if no caving or back-grouting occurs).
 - d. Depth to first encountered groundwater and stabilized groundwater depth.
 - e. Detailed description of soils encountered, using the Unified Soil Classification System.

C. Well Construction Diagram (provide for each well):

1. Monitoring well number and date constructed.
2. Casing and screen material, diameter, and centralizer spacing (if needed).
3. Length of well casing.
4. Length and position of slotted casing and size of perforations.

5. Thickness, position and composition of surface seal, sanitary seal, and sand pack.
6. Type of well caps (bottom cap either screw on or secured with stainless steel screws).

D. Well Development (provide for each well):

1. Date(s) and method of development.
2. How well development completion was determined.
3. Volume of water purged from well and method of development water disposal.

E. Well Survey (provide for each well):

1. Reference elevation at the top rim of the well casing with the cap removed (feet above mean sea level to within 0.01 foot).
2. Ground surface elevation (feet above mean sea level to within 0.01 foot).
3. Horizontal geodetic location, where the point of beginning shall be described by the California State Plane Coordinate System, 1983 datum, or acceptable alternative (provide rationale).
4. Present the well survey report data in a table.

F. Water Sampling:

1. Date(s) of sampling
2. Sample identification
3. How well was purged
4. How many well volume purged
5. Levels of temperature, EC, and pH at stabilization
6. Sample collection, handling, and preservation methods
7. Analytical methods used
8. Laboratory analytical data sheets
9. Water level elevation(s)
10. Groundwater contour map

G. Soil sampling (if applicable):

1. Date(s) of sampling
2. Sample collection, handling, and preservation methods

3. Sample identification
 4. Analytical methods used
 5. Laboratory analytical data sheets
 6. Present soil sampling data in a table
- H. Well Completion Report(s) (as defined in California Water Code section 13751).
Blank forms are available from [California Department of Water Resources' website](https://water.ca.gov/)
(<https://water.ca.gov/>). Submit this section under separate cover.
- I. Appendix – include at a minimum, copies of the following:
1. County -issued well construction permits.
 2. Registered engineer or license surveyor's report and field notes.
 3. Field notes from well development.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

[TENTATIVE] WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2021-####
FOR
CITY OF CORCORAN
CORCORAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
KINGS COUNTY

INFORMATION SHEET

BACKGROUND

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 91-138 authorizes a discharge of 1.45 million gallons per day (mgd) of undisinfected secondary wastewater from the City of Corcoran (City) wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) to evaporation/percolation ponds and City-owned land (City Use Area). The City can discharge an additional 0.30 mgd of wastewater (for a total monthly average flow of 1.75 mgd) to land owned by the California Department of Corrections (Prison Use Area).

WASTEWATER GENERATION AND DISPOSAL

The WWTF consists of a headworks, two primary clarifiers, one aeration pond, an anaerobic digester, sludge drying beds, five evaporation/percolation ponds and Use Areas. The City is not proposing to increase flows or use areas. Current wastewater flows at the WWTF average around 1.01 mgd.

The City is proposing to make improvements to the WWTF. The improvements include replacing the sludge/scum pumps, replacing the primary effluent pumps, and converting the existing west pond (currently unused) into a 60-mil High Density Polyethylene aeration pond. The proposed improvements to the WWTF will not result in an increase in flows.

GROUNDWATER CONSIDERATIONS

Groundwater conditions are discussed in Finding 38 through 49 of the Order.

The Discharger installed a monitoring well network at the WWTF in 1994. This Order includes a Provision requiring the Discharger to evaluate its groundwater monitoring well network.

On 25 September 2018, the Central Valley Water Board issued the City a 13267 letter requiring influent, effluent, and groundwater monitoring for arsenic. The Discharger began monthly groundwater monitoring for arsenic starting in October 2018. Figure 1 shows dissolved arsenic concentrations in groundwater based on data from October 2018 through October 2020 (24 sampling events).

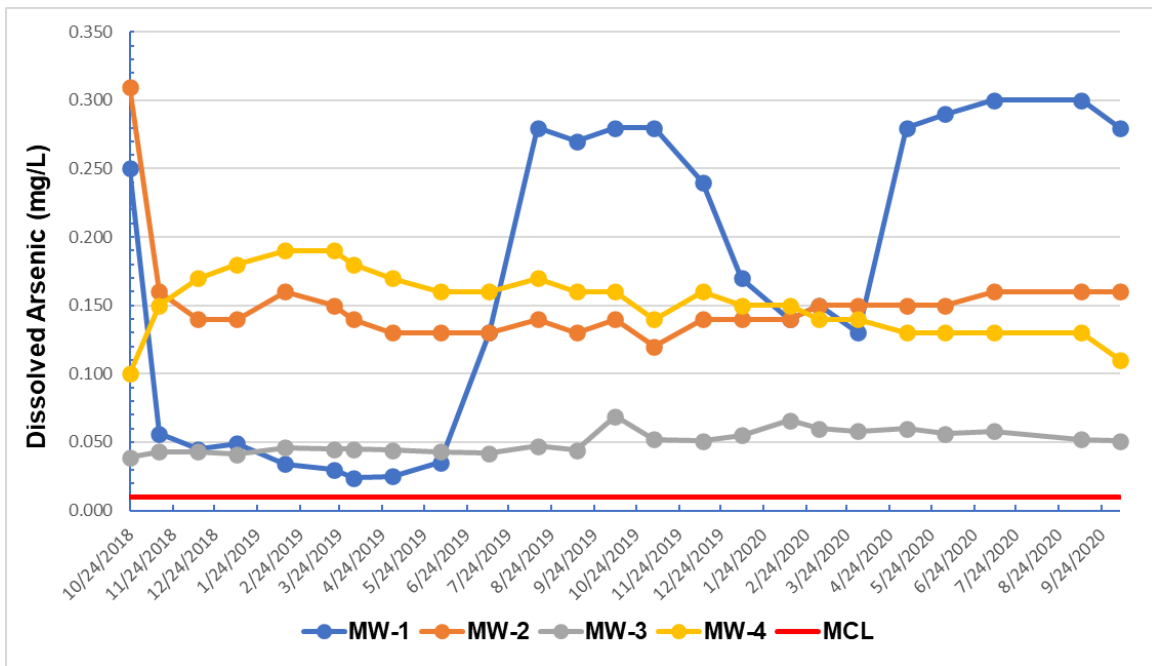


Figure 1. Groundwater Arsenic Concentrations (Dissolved)

Groundwater trends for dissolved arsenic are Figure 1 and discussed in Findings 44 through 48.

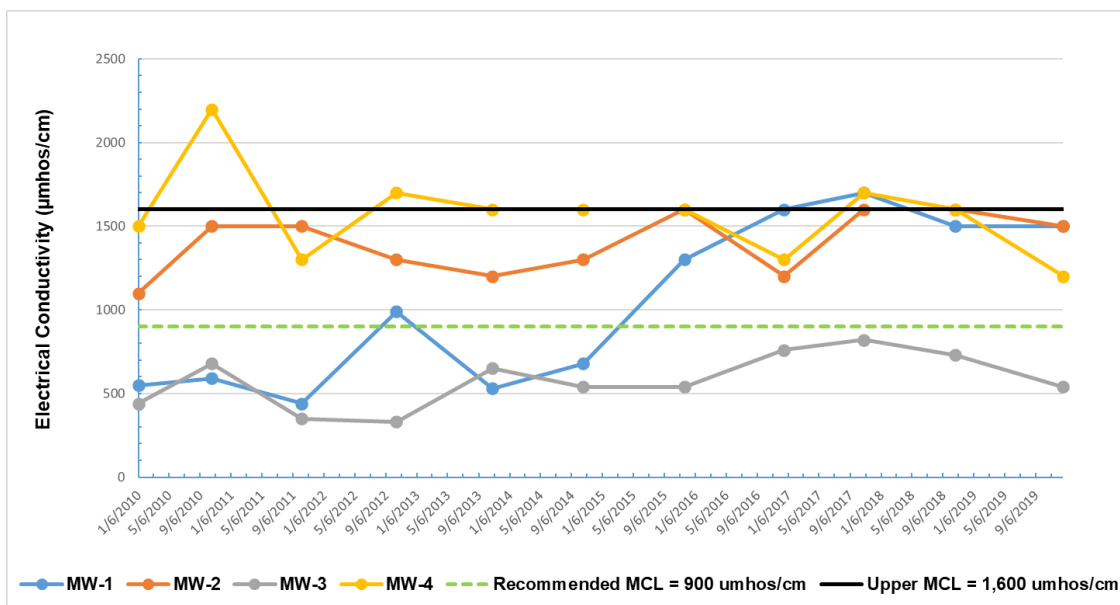


Figure 2. Groundwater Electrical Conductivity

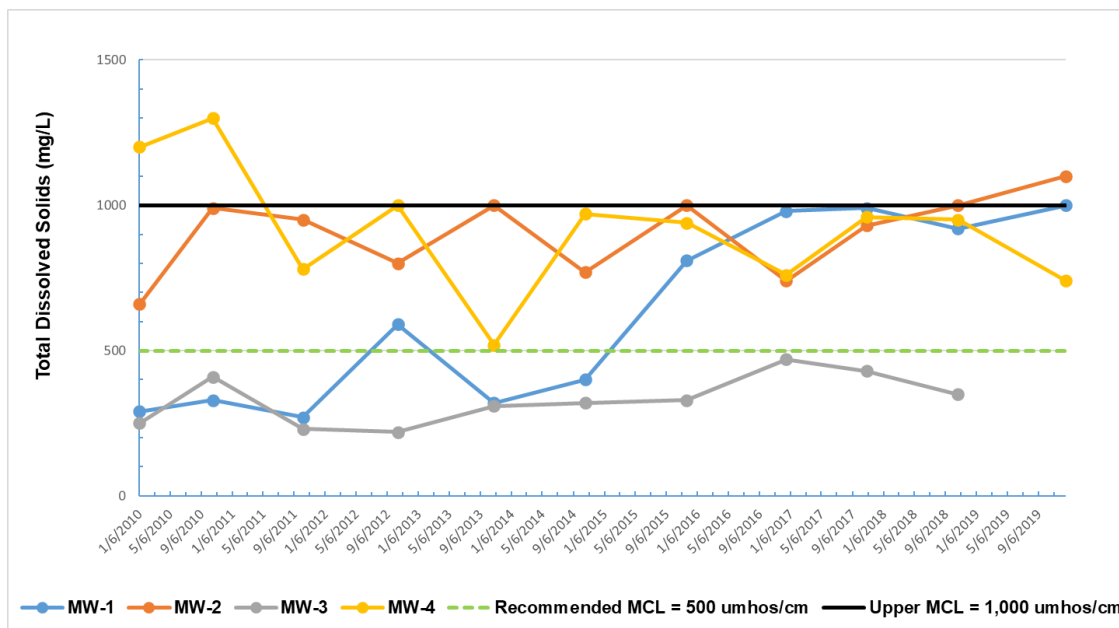


Figure 3. Groundwater Total Dissolved Solids

Groundwater trends for EC and TDS are shown in Figure 2 and 3 and discussed in Finding 73.

ANTIDEGRADATION

State Water Board Resolution 68-16 (Antidegradation Policy), which is incorporated as part of the Basin Plan, prohibits the Central Valley Water Board from authorizing degradation of “high quality waters” unless it is shown that such degradation: (1) will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, or otherwise result in water quality less than as prescribed in applicable policies; (2) will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State; and (3) is minimized through the discharger’s best practicable treatment or control (BPTC).

Antidegradation analysis and conclusions are discussed in Findings 71 through 76 of the Order.

DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS, LIMITATIONS, DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS, AND PROVISIONS

The proposed Order prohibits the discharge of waste to surface waters and to surface water drainage courses, and prohibits the cross connection between potable water and well piping with recycled water piping.

This Order maintains the existing flow limit of 1.75 mgd from WDRs Order 91-138 and sets an effluent limit for 5-day biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids

of 40 mg/L as a monthly average and 80 mg/L as a daily maximum. The Order prescribes a five-year time schedule for the Discharger to meet effluent limits for BOD and TSS. For salinity, this Order sets an effluent performance-based EC limit of 500 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ plus source water. The Order also prescribes groundwater limitations that ensure the discharge does not affect present and anticipated beneficial uses of groundwater.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Section 13267 of the California Water Code authorizes the Central Valley Water Board to require monitoring and technical reports as necessary to investigate the impacts of waste discharges on waters of the State. Water Code Section 13268 authorizes assessment of civil administrative liability where appropriate. The Order includes influent, effluent, pond, source water, groundwater, use area, and sludge/biosolids monitoring requirements. This monitoring is necessary to characterize the discharge and evaluate compliance with the requirements and specifications in the Order.

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (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, the Discharger was issued a Notice to Comply (CV-SALTS ID 2658) with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program on 5 January 2020. The Discharger must submit a Notice of Intent by 15 July 2021 informing the Central Valley Water Board of their choice between Option 1 (Conservative Option for Salt Permitting) or Option 2 (Alternative Option for Salt Permitting). The level of participation required of dischargers whose discharges do not meet stringent salinity requirements will vary based on factors such as the amount of salinity in the discharge, local conditions, and type of discharge.

For the Nitrate Control Program, the WWTF falls within Groundwater Sub-Basin 5-22.12 (San Joaquin Valley - Tulare Lake), a Priority 2 Basin. Notice to Comply for Priority 2 Basins will be issued within two to four years after the effective date of the Nitrate Control Program. The CV-SALTS initiative will result in regulatory changes that will be implemented through conditional prohibitions and modifications to many WDRs regionwide, including the WDRs that regulate discharges from the WWTF. More

[information regarding the CV-SALTS regulatory planning process](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/) can be found at the following link: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/

REOPENER

The conditions of discharge in the Order were developed based on currently available technical information and applicable water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans, and are intended to assure conformance with them. The Order sets limitations based on the information provided thus far. If applicable laws and regulations change, or once new information is obtained that will change the overall discharge and its potential to impact groundwater, it may be appropriate to reopen the Order.

LEGAL EFFECT OF RESCISSION OF PRIOR WDRS OR ORDERS ON EXISTING VIOLATIONS

The Central Valley Water Board's rescission of prior waste discharge requirements and/or monitoring and reporting orders does not extinguish any violations that may have occurred during the time those waste discharge requirements or orders were in effect. The Central Valley Water Board reserves the right to take enforcement action to address violations of prior prohibitions, limitations, specifications, requirements, or provisions of rescinded waste discharge requirements or orders as allowed by law.