

**16 FEBRUARY 2024 BOARD MEETING  
CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM: 11**

**SUBJECT:**

**AMERICAN VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT, AMERICAN VALLEY  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, PLUMAS COUNTY**

**BOARD ACTION:**

Consideration of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0078981)

**BACKGROUND:**

The American Valley Community Services District (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the American Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works located at 900 Spanish Creek Road, Quincy, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the communities of Quincy and East Quincy, serving a population of approximately 4,500. The Discharger recently completed upgrades to the Facility including new headworks, a new secondary treatment system, and disinfection facility improvements. The Facility provides treatment for a design average dry weather flow of 1.6 million gallons per day of domestic wastewater. The peak wet weather (max treatment) capacity of the Facility is 4.9 MGD.

When a 20:1 flow ratio (parts receiving water to parts effluent) is available, disinfected secondary treated effluent is discharged via a submerged outfall diffuser in Spanish Creek at Discharge Point 001, a water of the United States, and tributary to the North Fork Feather River. During the dry season (typically 16 May through 31 October), disinfected secondary treated effluent is land applied to neighboring Leonhardt Ranch, a non-dairy cattle pasture. The Facility's Irrigation Pond has a capacity of 5.2 million gallons (MG) and is used to store recycled water before it is discharged to the pasture irrigation site. This Order does not restrict the discharge season, but instead contains a discharge prohibition for discharges to Spanish Creek unless an average daily flow ratio of 20:1 is present (Spanish Creek flow: effluent flow).

On 24 June 2016, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Order R5-2016-0049 prescribing waste discharge requirements for the Facility, and Time Schedule Order R5-2016-0050, which provided additional time for the Discharger to come into compliance with final effluent limitations for copper and lead, and to design and construct upgrades to the Facility. In 2016, it was estimated the necessary improvements would be completed by the end of 2020.

The Discharger completed construction of Facility upgrades during the last permit term. The upgraded Facility was operational as of October 2022.

The proposed NPDES permit renewal does not allow for an increase in the discharge from the current permit. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed NPDES permit includes updated effluent limitations for ammonia nitrogen, copper, and lead. The proposed NPDES permit requires an updated Mixing Zone and Dilution Study to confirm or revise the 2016 Mixing Zone Study findings based on actual discharge conditions and upgrades to the Facility. The proposed NPDES permit also includes additional monitoring requirements for discharge to the irrigation pond to collect data and characterize the water quality entering the pond to ensure protection of groundwater beneficial uses.

## **ISSUES**

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 13 October 2023 with comments due on 13 November 2023. Public comments were received from the Discharger and Joanne Kipps. A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses by Central Valley Water Board staff.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the proposed NPDES Permit.

## **REVIEWS**

Management Review:	ACW, 1/24/24
Legal Review:	BTD, 1/23/24

## **BOARD MEETING LOCATION**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

***AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE***