

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Waste Discharge Requirements Program

SUMMARY OF STORM RELATED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR FACILITIES ENROLLED IN GENERAL PERMIT R3-2020-0020, GENERAL PERMIT WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, AND INDIVIDUAL PERMITS

This is a summary of storm related requirements for owners and/or operators of wastewater treatment facilities enrolled in:

- **General Permit R3-2020-0020** (General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Domestic Wastewater Systems with Flow Greater Than 100,000 Gallons Per Day¹);
- **General Permit 2014-0153-DWQ** (General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems with Flow Less Than 100,000 Gallons Per Day²); or have a
- **Individual waste discharge requirements permit** for discharges of domestic wastewater.

Requirements for Sewage Spills and Containment Failures

State Law requires that an unauthorized discharge of sewage [as defined in 23 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 2250 (b)] into or onto waters of the State must be **reported to Cal OES immediately**, regardless of the volume spilled.

- **Immediately** notify the California [Office of Emergency Services \(Cal OES\)](#) at **(800) 852-7550**. For more information on see the attached fact sheet: [CalOES Reporting Sewage Release Fact Sheet](#).

In addition, if you have a **sewage spill exceeding 1,000 gallons**, you must immediately:

- Contact Central Coast Water Board staff at **(805) 549-3891** or by email at RB3-WDR@Waterboards.ca.gov and WB-ORPP-EMP-Wastewater@waterboards.ca.gov.

¹ Central Coast Water Board Order RB3-2020-0020, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Domestic Wastewater Systems with Flows Greater than 100,000 gallons per day. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2020/r32020_0020.pdf

² State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2020/r32020_0020.pdf

In addition, if you have a **containment failure**, your permit requires you to immediately notify Cal OES.

After the immediate notification, you must also follow up within ten days with a report in writing to the Central Coast Water Board. Please follow the respective instructions below:

Permit Requirements for General Permit 2014-0153-DWQ

Your permit requires you to submit a notification to the Central Coast Water Board if you do not comply, or will be unable to comply, with a limit related to effluent quality, pond freeboard, flow rate, the title 22 engineering report requirements, have bypass or overflow issues, or if you have a containment failure. Notification shall occur as soon as you have knowledge of such noncompliance or potential for noncompliance, and you shall confirm this notification in writing **within ten days**.³ The written notification shall state the date, time, nature, cause of noncompliance, immediate response action, and a schedule for corrective actions.

Permit Requirements for General Permit R3-2020-0020 and Individual Permits

Your permit requires compliance with Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements (Standard Provisions)⁴ which requires you to submit a report to the Central Coast Water Board **within five days** of awareness of **any permit noncompliance that may endanger health or the environment**.

Examples of noncompliance events that may endanger health or the environment include a violation of your discharge prohibitions, upsets, overflows, spills, or bypass resulting from storms, floods, operational failures, etc.⁵

³ General Permit 2014-0153-DWQ requirement, section 3, item A and B.

⁴ The December 5, 2013 Standard Provisions can be found at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/docs/wdr_standard_provisions_2013.pdf

⁵ Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements, Section C, General Reporting Requirements, Item 3

Written Notification for General Permit 2014-0153-DWQ and General Permit R3-2020-0020

Please include the following details, if applicable, in your written notification:

- 1. Description of the noncompliance and its' cause.**
 - a. Specific location upset, overflow, or bypass occurred at the facility.
 - b. Estimated total volume of upset, overflow, or bypass.
 - i. If noncompliance is ongoing, work with Central Coast Water Board staff contact to determine reporting moving forward.
 - c. Photos of upset, overflow, or bypass during and/or after flooding.
 - d. Describe, if any, components of the facility that were not functioning.
 - e. Describe, if any, components of the facility that failed or were not functioning to cause the upset, overflow, or bypass.
 - f. Describe, if any, components (physical and mechanical) of the facility that are still in failure mode or continue to not function.
 - g. Summarize the affected surface waterbody, influent flow rates, available storage capacity, and pond freeboard levels, if applicable, at the time of the noncompliance.
 - h. Note if the facility lost power and if backup generators were used to restore power.
- 2. Period of non-compliance (including date and time) or anticipated duration**
 - a. Include date and time non-compliance occurred. Note if any noncompliance is ongoing, and when you anticipate the facility will return back into a state of compliance.
- 3. Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.**
 - a. Describe the short-term emergency measures that were or will be taking place to ensure the upset, overflow, or bypass does not reoccur, or continue to occur (if ongoing).
 - b. Describe the long-term emergency measures that will be adopted to ensure an upset, overflow, or bypass does not reoccur due to a similar event, failure, or malfunction. If you need additional time to develop more details for the long-term plan, then describe next steps and a schedule for when this will be completed.

Written notifications **must** be signed⁶ by one of the following:

- a. For a private residence: by the property owner of the residence.
- b. For a corporation: by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president.
- c. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively.
- d. For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected or appointed official.

⁶ General Permit Order 2014-0153, Section 3, Item C: General Reporting Requirements and Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements, Section C – General Reporting Requirements, Item 14 and 15

- e. A duly authorized representative of a person described above if all of the following are completed:
 - 1) The authorization is made in writing by a person described above.
 - 2) The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a waste management unit, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.)
 - 3) The [written authorization](#) is submitted to the Regional Water Board.

Any person signing a report makes the following certification, whether it is expressed or implied:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties of submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signed reports should be submitted in PDF format via e-mail to: rb3-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov or uploaded to GeoTracker.

Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan

A reminder that all facilities are also required to have a Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan that describes operation and maintenance activities to prevent accidental releases of wastewater, and to effectively respond to such releases, minimizing the environmental impact⁷. Please contact Central Coast Water Board staff if you have any questions or would like an example report.

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⁷ See 2014-0153 permit, section E, Item 1: Technical Report Preparation Requirements or RB3-2020-0020 permit, section VI, Item 2: Technical Report Requirements