

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

17 July 2026

Stockton East Water District
Attn: Darrel Evensen
6767 East Main Street
Stockton, CA 95215

CERTIFIED MAIL
9589 0710 5270 3719 9058 09

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

**WATER QUALITY ORDER 2012-0010-DWQ
AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVER PROJECTS THAT INJECT
DRINKING WATER INTO GROUNDWATER
FOR
STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
DR. JOE WAIDHOFER DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PLANT
AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) dated February 2026 for the Stockton East Water District (SEWD or Discharger) to obtain coverage under the *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Projects That Inject Drinking Water into Groundwater* (Water Quality Order WQ 2012-0010-DWQ, General Order). The NOI included the required technical documentation, including the well registration with the US Environmental Protection Agency Underground Injection Control Program.

Based on the information provided in the NOI, the ASR Program meets the required conditions for coverage under the General Order. This NOA serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to the ASR Program as described herein. The discharge is assigned **WQ 2012-0010-DWQ-RB5S-0008**. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge. A copy of the General Order WQ 2012-0010-DWQ is enclosed and also available on the [State Water Boards Adopted Orders webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2012/wqo2012_0010_with%20signed%20mrp.pdf).

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2012/wqo2012_0010_with%20signed%20mrp.pdf)

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments enclosed with this letter. The ASR Program must be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order and with the information submitted in the NOI.

DESCRIPTION

The 400-acre Dr. Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is located in the northeastern quadrant of the intersection of East Main Street and the Stockton Diverting Canal within the central area of San Joaquin County (Attachment A). SEWD is a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) within the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin (5-22.01) on the northeastern side of the San Joaquin Valley.

The WTP produces drinking water for urban users from the Calaveras River and Stanislaus River, with contributions from six raw water production wells (74-01, 74-02, Bozzano North, Bozzano South, Extraction Well #1 [EW-1], and EW-2) (see Attachment A). The treated drinking water is conveyed to three wholesale customers within the city of Stockton and vicinity via three transmission pipelines along the western property boundary. Recharge operations have already been implemented in the uppermost groundwater system via four recharge ponds and three raw water reservoirs.

Existing Well 74-01 was selected for ASR operations after evaluating the subsurface conditions of four other production wells located within the WTP. The well is situated between two existing pipelines: a 42-inch-diameter potable water transmission pipeline serving the California Water Service area, and a 16-inch-diameter pipeline that conveys raw groundwater from Well 74-01 to the South Raw Water Reservoir. The transmission pipeline will provide potable recharge water for ASR operations. The raw water pipeline can be used during initial well operations, including production pumping, backflush pumping during ASR recharge, and ASR recovery pumping, while SEWD completes the transition to direct potable use of ASR water in coordination with the California Division of Drinking Water.

Well 74-01 was constructed in 1969 to a depth of 535 feet below ground surface (bgs), with 295 feet of louvered screen between 210 to 515 feet bgs. The well was rehabilitated in January and February 2025 using a variety of methods, including brushing, mechanical surging, explosive shock from detonation cord, surge pumping, and over-pumping. Results of pumping tests conducted to determine the hydraulic characteristics at Well 74-01 are presented in the February 2026 NOI.

Well 74-01 is located nearly 2,000 feet from the closest production well (74-02), and the estimated 400- to 600-foot-diameter “bubble” of recharge water is not expected to be substantially affected by operations at Well 74-02.

The depth to groundwater in the vicinity of Well 74-01 is approximately 50 feet below grade, and recharge operations will cause a rise in water levels within the deeper,

semi-confined aquifer system. The estimated water level rise is 8 to 12 feet at a radial distance of 2,000 feet, which is manageable, and less than 5 feet at distances between 6,700 and 21,000 feet from the well, depending on the storage coefficient. Four observation wells are located near Well 74-01 (see Attachment A), and these wells will be used for groundwater monitoring during ASR operations. Construction details are provided in the February 2026 NOI.

The quality of groundwater in Well 74-01 is acceptable for ASR operations. Low levels of disinfection-by-products (DBPs), which include four trihalomethane (THMs) compounds and five haloacetic acids (HAAs), are present in the potable water proposed for recharge and show variable concentrations. The average concentrations were 38 µg/L for THMs and 17 µg/L for total HAAs, which are less than maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) of 80 µg/L and 60 µg/L, respectively. Residual chlorine in the potable water may react during subsurface storage to produce additional DBPs. Therefore, DBP levels will need to be monitored regularly at the new observation wells to ensure groundwater concentrations remain less than MCLs. Because the recharge water is high-quality, potable, and has not shown elevated concentrations of any constituents of concern (COCs) listed in the ASR General Order (Findings 24 through 28), ASR activities are not anticipated to negatively affect groundwater quality or violate any Basin Plan water quality objectives. Water quality data and additional details are included in the February 2026 NOI.

ELIGIBILITY

Based on the information included in the NOI, the proposed ASR program is consistent with the requirements set forth in Attachment C of the General Order and meets the following eligibility criteria:

1. Injected water will be treated and delivered to the injection well in accordance with the requirements of a California Department of Public Health domestic water supply permit.
2. Well 74-01 is enrolled in the U.S. EPA Underground Injection Control Program.
3. Injected water will be of sufficient quality to ensure compliance with the General Order.
4. No adverse water quality impacts are anticipated.
5. The ASR program is not restricted by any local ordinance, prohibition, or other applicable law or regulation. Stockton East Water District filed a Negative Declaration with the San Joaquin County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse on 1 July 2025, and the Negative Declaration was adopted on 7 October 2025.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The Discharger shall comply with the monitoring and reporting program requirements prescribed in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP). The construction of any proposed monitoring well(s) shall meet the local agency well standards. Permits for all new wells and any well abandonment work must be obtained from the local agency environmental health department.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

This NOA authorizes implementation of the proposed ASR Program under Order 2012-0010-DWQ for Well 74-01 cited in the NOI and discussed in this NOA.

The Discharger shall comply with the Prohibitions, Requirements, Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations, and Provisions of the General Order. All ASR functions must be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order and the NOI and supporting documentation.

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the proposed discharge. If the discharge violates the terms or conditions of the General Order, the Central Valley Water Board may take enforcement action, including the assessment of an administrative civil liability as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Resources Control Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing if the discharge regulated by this Order ceases so that coverage under the General Order can be terminated and to avoid unnecessary billing.

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

As part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating the Salt Control Program and Nitrate Control Program at its 31 May 2018 (Resolution R5-2018-0034). The Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020. On 10 December 2020, the Central Valley Water Board adopted revisions to the Basin Plan amendments with Resolution R5-2020-0057. (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf). Those revisions became effective on 10 November 2021.

The Discharger submitted a request for exemption from the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs for the Facility on 17 June 2026. Central Valley Water Board staff also reviewed a technical report detailing the ASR Program. Based on the findings from the exemption request letter and technical report, Central Valley Water Board staff

recommend that the Facility be exempt from the Salt and Nitrate Control Program requirements for the following reasons:

1. The Facility's discharge is treated potable water that originates from the Calaveras and Stanislaus Rivers which have low salinity concentrations and very low or non-detect nitrate concentrations. Through the treatment processes, the facility does not meaningfully add salts and nitrates prior to the discharge.
2. The injection of treated surface water is likely to improve groundwater quality for salinity and nitrate.

Based on the above, the exemption request for the Salt and Nitrate Control Program was approved by the Executive Officer on 2 July 2026. However, if the Central Valley Water Board finds that the ASR Program causes or may cause groundwater degradation for salinity or nitrate, the Facility may be subject to the requirements of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to:

centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name:	Dr. Joe Waidhofer Drinking Water Treatment Plant ASR Program, San Joaquin County
Program:	Non-15 Compliance
Order:	WQ 2012-0010-DWQ-RB5S-0008
CIWQS Place ID:	CW-906636

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

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

Now that this revised Notice of Applicability has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Howard Hold is your point

of contact for questions regarding compliance with the General Order. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Howard will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Howard at (916) 464-4679 or by email at howard.hold@waterboards.ca.gov.

for PATRICK PULUPA
Executive Officer

Attachment: Attachment A – Location Map

Enclosures: WQ 2012-0010-DWQ (Discharger only)

cc: San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department

cc via email: GEI Consultants, Rancho Cordova
Howard Hold, Central Valley Water Board

ATTACHMENT A

