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GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ORDER R5-2026-0023

ORDER INFORMATION

General Order:	Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems with Flows Greater Than 0.1 Million Gallons Per Day
Status:	Adopted
Program:	Groundwater Quality Protection Program
Region 5 Offices:	Sacramento (Rancho Cordova), Fresno, and Redding
Counties:	Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba

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 4 June 2026.

Digitally signed by Patrick Pulupa
Date: 2026.06.29 18:05:57 -07'00'

Water Boards

PATRICK PULUPA,
Executive Officer

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ATTACHMENTS

I. FINDINGS

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

A. Background

Purpose

1. This Order establishes waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for domestic wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) designed to treat wastewater flows greater than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) (Large WWTPs) that discharge treated wastewater to land.[1] The Central Valley Water Board currently regulates approximately 200 Large WWTPs. The Information Sheet (Attachment B) includes definitions of relevant terms and further information about Large WWTPs in the Central Valley.

2. The following materials are attached to this Order and incorporated herein:

    - Attachment A – Monitoring and Reporting Program Template
    - Attachment B – Information Sheet
    - Attachment C – Notice of Intent Guidance Document

3. Owners and/or operators of the Large WWTPs and land disposal areas enrolled under this Order are collectively referred to as "**Dischargers**." For each Discharger enrolled under this Order, the Central Valley Water Board will issue a Notice of Applicability (NOA) that identifies the Discharger(s) responsible for ensuring that the enrolled facility is operated and maintained in accordance with the requirements of this Order. Along with the NOA, the Central Valley Water Board will issue a facility-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) based on the template in Attachment A.

[1] "Waste" includes sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation, or of human or animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation, including waste placed within containers of whatever nature prior to, and for purposes of, disposal. (Wat. Code, § 13050, subd. (d).)

Eligibility Requirements

4. To be eligible for coverage under this Order, a Large WWTP (i.e., facility designed to treat a monthly average flow of at least 100,000 gpd or 0.1 million gallons per day [MGD]) must meet the following criteria:

    a. The facility receives and treats domestic wastewater from municipal and private community sources and other sources with similar wastewater characteristics, including but not limited to national and state parks, hospitals, prisons, commercial centers, and airport terminals. Influent wastewater characteristics should conform to those of typical domestic wastewater as outlined in Table 1 contained in the attached Information Sheet.

    b. The facility does not receive influent from industrial sources unless the facility complies with the applicable pretreatment requirements specified in Section II.F Pretreatment Specifications of this Order.

    c. The facility discharges wastewater to land, including but not limited to disposal ponds/fields (e.g., evaporation/percolation ponds, infiltration basins, spray fields), and non-potable reuse (recycled water) activities (e.g., agricultural or landscape irrigation), and has sufficient effluent storage and disposal capacity to accommodate maximum requested discharge flow during a year with a rainfall return frequency of 100 years.

5. Facilities eligible for coverage by this Order provide secondary, advanced secondary, or tertiary treatment of municipal wastewater, as well as disinfection if required for effluent disposal and/or reuse by distributors and users of recycled water. This Order establishes effluent limits that reflect, in part, secondary, advanced secondary, tertiary, and disinfection treatment of municipal wastewater. It also establishes effluent limits for recycled water that implement reclamation criteria promulgated by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water (DDW), in California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22), division 4, chapter 3. Large WWTPs must use an appropriate wastewater treatment level based on the receiving water quality at the wastewater disposal location.

Exclusions and Other General Orders

6. WWTPs with monthly average flows of less than 100,000 gpd do not qualify for coverage under this Order. Such systems may obtain coverage under the separately issued State Water Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems,* the State Water Board's *Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems* (OWTS Policy), or individual WDRs or waivers.

7. This Order does not serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or water quality certification under the federal Water Pollution

Control Act (i.e., Clean Water Act) (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), nor does it authorize any discharge of waste to surface waters, including wetlands. Any discharges of waste to surface waters or that are otherwise subject to these authorities must be authorized under a separate order(s).

8. This Order authorizes the production of non-potable recycled water (Wat. Code, § 13050, subd. (n)) and requires all recycled water to comply with the applicable requirements of California's Uniform Statewide Recycling Criteria (Title 22, div. 4, ch. 3 (§ 60301.050 et seq.)). These criteria are implemented by DDW. The distribution and use of recycled water are separately regulated under State Water Board Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, *Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use* or by individual water recycling requirements orders and/or master recycling permits adopted by the Central Valley Water Board.

9. This Order does not regulate the operation of sanitary sewer systems. Dischargers that meet the criteria for coverage under State Water Board Order WQ-2022-0103-DWQ, *Statewide Waste Discharge General Order for Sanitary Sewer Systems,* are required to enroll under that Order.

B. Statutory Authority and Applicable Regulations

Statutory Authority

1. Pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), this Order contains requirements as to the nature of discharges from Large WWTPs with relation to the conditions existing in the areas and waters to which those discharges are or will be made. In doing so, this Order implements applicable water quality control plans and takes into consideration the beneficial uses of water to be protected, water quality objectives (WQOs) supporting such uses, other waste discharges, prevention of nuisances, and the provisions of Water Code section 13241.

2. Water Code section 13263, subdivision (i), provides that the Central Valley Water Board may prescribe general WDRs for a category of discharges that meet the following criteria:

   a. The discharges are produced by the same or similar operations.

   b. The discharges involve the same or similar types of waste.

   c. The discharges require the same or similar treatment standards.

   d. The discharges are more appropriately regulated under general discharge requirements than individual waste discharge requirements.

   As described in the Findings of this Order, including the Information Sheet, discharges of waste to land from Large WWTPs have common characteristics, are produced by the same or similar operations, involve similar wastewater constituents, constituent concentrations, flow ranges, and disposal techniques,

and require the same or similar treatment standards. Therefore, these types of discharges can be appropriately regulated under this Order.

3. Pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (g), the discharge of waste into waters of the state is a privilege, not a right. This Order does not create a vested right to discharge waste for any party.

4. Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, Dischargers may be required to furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports as a condition of this Order. Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(1) states, in part:

> [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.*

5. Water Code section 13268 states:

(a)(1) Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of section 13267, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of section 13399.2, or falsifying any information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b). (b)(1) Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with article 2.5 (commencing with section 13323) of chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs.

6. Technical and monitoring reports required by this Order, or any NOA or MRP issued pursuant to this Order, are necessary for the Board to evaluate compliance with this Order, the scope of actual or threatened water quality impacts in disposal areas, and, if necessary, the need for additional or modified WDRs to prevent conditions of pollution or nuisance. The evidence supporting the need for the reports is contained in the information provided by the Dischargers subject to this Order and in the files of the Central Valley Water Board. The burden, including costs, of providing the technical reports required by this Order bears a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports and is consistent with the best interest of the state in maintaining water quality.

7. Water Code section 13260, subdivision (a), requires that any person or entity discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste within any region, other than to a community sewer system, that could affect the quality of the waters of the state to file a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) in order to obtain regulatory authorization for the discharge. Pursuant to section 13260, this Order requires existing and prospective Dischargers seeking coverage under this Order to submit a complete Notice of Intent (NOI), Form 200, technical reports, and appropriate fee (see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 2200, and Attachment C - Notice of Intent Form) to obtain coverage under this Order and before making any material change in the character, location, or volume of any existing, authorized discharge. Large WWTPs seeking WDRs coverage where individual WDRs are more appropriate must submit a ROWD requesting individual WDRs.

Basin Plans

8. This Order implements the Central Valley Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Sacramento and San Joaquin Basin Plan) and Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Tulare Lake Basin Plan) (collectively, Basin Plans[2]). The Basin Plans designate beneficial uses for surface and ground waters in their respective basins, WQOs to preserve those beneficial uses, and implementation plans and policies for achieving the WQOs, and incorporate by reference applicable plans and policies adopted by the State Water Board.

9. Consistent with Water Code section 13241, the Central Valley Water Board, in establishing the requirements contained herein, considered factors including, but not limited to, past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of water; environmental characteristics of the hydrographic units under consideration, including the quality of water available thereto; water quality conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all factors which affect water quality in the area; economic considerations; the need for developing housing within the region(s); the need to develop and use recycled water; the need to support the human right to water; the need to implement adaptive management strategies to address evolving long-term trends in meteorological conditions, and the need to support disadvantaged communities' access to wastewater treatment and disposal.

10. The Sacramento and San Joaquin Basin Plan provides that, unless otherwise designated by the Central Valley Water Board, all groundwater in the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins is designated for, at a minimum, municipal and domestic supply (MUN), agricultural supply (AGR), industrial service supply (IND), and industrial process supply (PRO). The Tulare Lake Basin Plan designates all groundwater covered therein for MUN unless

[2] Copies of the Basin Plans and Basin Plan amendments are available. (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/)

specifically exempted by the Central Valley Water Board. In addition, unless otherwise designated by the Central Valley Water Board, all groundwaters in the region are considered suitable or potentially suitable, at a minimum, for AGR, IND, PRO, REC-1, and Wildlife Habitat (WILD). Groundwater in the Tulare Lakebed, as described and shown in Figure 2-3 of the Tulare Lake Basin Plan, is not suitable for MUN or AGR uses and has been de-designated for these uses as detailed in the Tulare Lake Basin Plan.

11. The Basin Plans establish WQOs to ensure reasonable protection of the beneficial uses of surface and ground waters and prevent nuisance. WQOs are numeric or narrative limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics. WQOs apply to all waters for which beneficial uses have been designated and define the least stringent standards that the Central Valley Water Board will apply to discharges of waste to protect beneficial uses. The WQOs implemented by this Order are consistent with the Basin Plans' respective WQOs and Policies for Application of WQOs. WQOs that apply to groundwater include but are not limited to: (1) numeric objectives for bacteria and (2) narrative objectives for chemical constituents, taste and odor, and toxicity. Dischargers are not required to improve water quality beyond naturally occurring background conditions.

    a. 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 2.2 MPN/100 mL over any seven-day period.

    b. 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 requires that such water, at a minimum, meets the primary and secondary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) specified in Title 22 sections 64431, 64444, and 64449. For Secondary MCLs identified in Title 22, Tables 64449-A and 64449-B, appropriate long-term averaging periods shall be used to evaluate ambient groundwater quality and annual averages of samples results will be used to determine compliance with WDRs implementing WQOs based on these Secondary MCLs.

        Additionally, for ground waters designated MUN, concentrations of chemical constituents shall not exceed the Secondary MCLs specified in Table 64449-A or the "Upper" level specified in Table 64449-B unless otherwise authorized by the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with the provisions of section 64449 et seq. In cases where the natural background concentration of a particular constituent exceeds these MCLs, the Board may not authorize discharges of waste that would cause groundwater to exceed that natural background concentration, except in accordance with the State Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board, Res. 68-16.)

c. The narrative WQO for taste and odor provides that ground waters shall not contain taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

d. 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.

12. To the extent necessary, narrative WQOs are quantified on a site-specific basis as numeric limits for constituents with the potential to adversely impact designated uses. In determining a site-specific numeric limit, the Central Valley Water Board considers relevant published criteria.

13. Section 4.1.11.5 (Discharges to Land) of the Tulare Lake Basin Plan establishes mandatory treatment requirements for, in part, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) for WWTP discharges to land within the Tulare Lake basin. This Order implements those treatment requirements for all enrolled WWTPs within the Tulare Lake Basin.

14. This Order establishes effluent limitations based on U.S. EPA secondary treatment standards, the Basin Plans, and Title 22 (if applicable).

Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS)

15. On 31 May 2018, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Resolution R5-2018-0034, approving Basin Plan amendments incorporating the CV-SALTS Salt and Nitrate Control Programs. The Basin Plan amendments became effective on 17 January 2020 but were subsequently revised by the Central Valley Water Board in 2020 through the adoption of Resolution R5-2020-0057, effective 10 November 2021.

16. The overarching goals and priorities of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are to (1) ensure safe drinking water supply; (2) reduce salt and nitrate loading so that ongoing discharges neither threaten to degrade high quality waters absent findings by the Central Valley Water Board, nor cause or contribute to exceedances of WQOs; and (3) implement long-term managed restoration of impaired water bodies.

17. To ensure compliance with the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs, this Order incorporates the Basin Plans' Conditional Prohibitions for these Programs.

    a. For the Salt Control Program (SCP), Dischargers that received a Notice to Comply are prohibited from discharging salts in concentrations that exceed the salinity numeric values in the Phase 1 Conservative Permitting Approach (700 µmhos/cm as a monthly average or 900 µmhos/cm as an annual average) unless they have elected and are actively implementing the Alternative Salinity Permitting Approach Phase 1 requirements of the SCP.

b. For the Nitrate Control Program (NCP), Dischargers subject to the Nitrate Control Program (NCP) are prohibited from discharging nitrate to groundwater unless they comply with the NCP requirements. A Discharger is subject to the NCP under any of the following circumstances:

   i. Notice to Comply – The Discharger received a Notice to Comply under the NCP.

   ii. New or Expanded Discharge in a Groundwater Basin/Sub-basin (regardless of priority) – After the effective date of the NCP (January 17, 2020), the Discharger either initiates a new discharge or makes a material change to its operation that increases the level of nitrate discharged to groundwater.

Salt Control Program

18. The SCP provides a framework for controlling and permitting salt discharges to surface water and groundwater in the Central Valley region. The SCP will be implemented in three ten-to-fifteen-year phases, with findings from each phase informing the next, enabling adaptive management of salt discharges in the Central Valley region. The first phase (Phase 1) is underway.

19. During Phase 1, dischargers of salt are required to select one of two permitting pathways: the Conservative Permitting Approach or the Alternative Permitting Approach. Under the Conservative Permitting Approach, Dischargers must meet conservative salt-loading limits and limit or prevent surface water and groundwater degradation, and limit the use of assimilative capacity and/or compliance time schedules. Under the Alternative Permitting Approach, Dischargers must maintain current efforts to control salinity in their discharges and fully participate in the regionwide Prioritization and Optimization (P&O) Study. Dischargers that meet either of these requirements will be deemed in compliance with the salinity discharge requirements of this Order. The majority of WWTPs regulated by the Central Valley Water Board have elected to participate in the regionwide P&O Study.

20. Under the SCP, Dischargers may change their elected compliance pathway by submitting a written request to the Central Valley Water Board. This request must include documentation, showing how the Discharger will comply with the requirements applicable to the elected compliance pathway and the basis for the change. If the Discharger requests to change from the Alternative to the Conservative Permitting Approach, the Discharger must demonstrate to the Board that it has complied with all provisions associated with the Alternative Compliance Permitting Approach, including financial support to the P&O study, up through the time of permit revision to incorporate requirements for the Conservative Permitting Approach. If the Discharger requests to change from the Conservative Permitting Approach to the Alternative Approach, the Discharger shall meet the financial commitment requirements of the P&O Study.

21. As the SCP progresses, the Central Valley Water Board may modify enrolled Dischargers' NOAs to incorporate requirements or other changes necessary to implement the SCP Alternative Approach. Any new or different requirements prescribed in Dischargers' NOAs for this purpose shall be considered to be valid requirements of this Order, and, to the extent that any new or different requirement conflicts with the provision of this Order, the new or different requirement prescribed in the NOA shall prevail.

Nitrate Control Program

22. Dischargers subject to the NCP are required to select one of two permitting approaches: the Individual Approach (Path A) or the Management Zone Approach (Path B). Path A requires Dischargers to evaluate the impacts of their nitrate discharges on shallow groundwater underlying the area of discharge (Shallow Zone). Based on that evaluation, facility discharges will be identified as falling into one of five categories of nitrate discharges (see Attachment B – Information Sheet, Table N-3). Dischargers whose permitted discharges cause or may cause nitrate in the Shallow Zone to exceed 75 percent of the WQO for nitrate (i.e., Category 4 and 5 Dischargers) may be required to develop and implement long-term Alternative Compliance Projects (ACPs) with identified milestones for addressing nitrate-related drinking water issues (see CV-SALTS Basin Plan Amendment, Table N-5.A and Table N-5.B for detailed compliance schedule). Alternatively, under Path B, permitted dischargers of nitrate may elect to comply with the NCP by participating in basin- or sub-basin-specific Management Zones. Path B Dischargers must collaborate with other dischargers within their respective Management Zones to ensure provision of safe drinking water to adversely affected residents within their areas and to develop and execute Management Zone Implementation Plans for managing and reducing nitrate loading to groundwater.

23. The Central Valley Water Board has identified and categorized Groundwater Basins/Sub-basins (Priority 1, Priority 2, and Non-Prioritized Basins) and established timelines for phased implementation of the NCP in these prioritized areas. As of the date of the adoption of this Order, Priority 1 Management Zones (identified in the Information Sheet) have Management Zone Implementation Plans (MZIPs) that are either accepted or approved by the Central Valley Water Board. Priority 2 Management Zones (identified in Table N-1 in Appendix A of the Information Sheet) have approved Early Action Plans and are developing MZIPs. Groundwater basins that are not currently prioritized may be designated as high priority on a case-by-case basis when the Central Valley Water Board determines it necessary. In such cases, existing dischargers to those basins will receive Notices to Comply, including a time schedule for implementation of NCP requirements.

24. New dischargers or existing dischargers proposing to increase the level of nitrate discharged to any designated groundwater basin/sub-basin (regardless of

priority)[3] must include the initial assessment information at the time of submittal of the ROWD. If a Management Zone does not exist at the time of application, the Central Valley Water Board may use its discretion to issue a time schedule to the discharger to comply with the Nitrate Control Program through a later-formed Management Zone. Dischargers of nitrate located in areas that are not part of a designated basin/sub-basin are not subject to the NCP unless they receive a Notice to Comply.

25. Dischargers electing a different permitting pathway under the NCP must notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing. The Central Valley Water Board will consider approval of the requested change on a case-by-case basis.

26. **Exceptions from Implementation of the WQO for Nitrate (Nitrate Exceptions).** As described in the Basin Plans' Exceptions Policy, nitrate exceptions are intended to facilitate long-term attainment of WQOs or to provide the time needed to revise an inappropriate WQO or beneficial use designation. Dischargers granted a nitrate exception will be deemed to be in compliance with effluent and/or groundwater limitations that implement the WQO for nitrate. Nitrate exceptions shall generally not exceed a term of ten years; however, the Central Valley Water Board may adopt exceptions up to 35 years if the applicant(s) can demonstrate that it is necessary to further the management goals of the NCP. Any permitted Discharger, or a recognized third party acting on behalf of multiple Dischargers, may apply to the Central Valley Water Board for an exception from implementation of WQOs for nitrate for their wastewater discharges. For Dischargers participating in a Management Zone, the Management Zone Implementation Plan may substitute for an exception application if it meets the criteria described in the Exceptions Policy. The Central Valley Water Board may rescind exceptions when the applicant(s) does not comply with the terms and conditions of their exception. The issuance, modification, or rescission of any exception must be approved by the Central Valley Water Board after public notice and hearing.

27. As the NCP progresses, the Central Valley Water Board may modify enrolled dischargers' NOAs to incorporate nitrate exceptions and requirements related to those exceptions and, as applicable, participation in respective Management Zones. Any new or different requirements prescribed in dischargers' NOAs for this purpose shall be considered to be valid requirements of this Order, and, to the extent that any new or different requirement conflicts with the provision of this Order, the new or different requirement prescribed in the NOA shall prevail. Any NOA modified for the purpose of granting, modifying, or terminating a nitrate

[3] Figure N-1 of Resolution R5-2020-0057 (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2020-0057_res.pdf).

exception will be subject to the notice and comment requirements of Water Code section 13167.5 prior to consideration by the Board.

Antidegradation Policy

28. State Water Board Resolution 68-16, *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California* (Antidegradation Policy), which is incorporated as part of the Basin Plan, requires existing “high quality waters” be maintained until it has been demonstrated to the State that any change will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of California; will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated future beneficial uses of such water; and will not result in water quality less than as prescribed in applicable policies. Resolution 68-16 further requires that any discharge to existing high-quality waters be required to meet WDRs that will result in the best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) of the discharge necessary to ensure that pollution and/or nuisance will not occur and that the highest quality consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained.

29. The Antidegradation Policy applies when the Central Valley Water Board authorizes an activity that will result in discharges of waste to high-quality waters that will degrade the quality of those waters. "High-quality waters" are those waters where water quality is more than sufficient to support beneficial uses designated in the Basin Plans. Whether a water is a high-quality water is established on a constituent-by-constituent basis, which means that an aquifer can be considered a high-quality water with respect to one constituent, but not for others (State Water Board Order No. WQ 91-10). If the activity will not result in the degradation of high-quality waters, the Antidegradation Policy does not apply, and the Discharger need only demonstrate that it will use "best efforts" to control the discharge of waste.

30. For the purposes of this Order, typical constituents in the effluent from a Large WWTP with the potential to degrade groundwater include salts (e.g., electrical conductivity [EC], total dissolved solids [TDS], chloride, and sodium), nutrients (e.g., nitrate), pathogens, disinfection by-products (e.g., total trihalomethanes), and organic compounds. Organic compounds can contribute to reducing conditions in groundwater, which may mobilize naturally occurring elements such as iron, arsenic, and manganese.

31. This Order allows discharge to numerous groundwater sources, each with its own chemical characteristics. Due to the geographic scale, available data, and variability of the basins covered, it is not feasible for this Order to specify which areas constitute high-quality waters for each constituent or where such waters are located. For the purposes of this analysis, this Order presumes groundwater is of high quality. This Order authorizes limited degradation to high−quality waters, provided it is consistent with the terms of the applicable Basin Plan, other applicable State Water Board and Central Valley Water Board policies, the Antidegradation Policy, and as described in these findings. To the extent that a

receiving water is not considered high-quality, this Order requires the Discharger to implement best efforts to ensure the facility's discharge does not cause further degradation to the receiving water.

32. This Order finds that the suite of treatment and control practices and infrastructure employed by the WWTPs regulated by this order to achieve compliance with this order are considered BPTC as that term is defined by the Antidegradation Policy. These treatment and control practices and infrastructure that limit groundwater degradation for specified constituents of concern from the WWTPs regulated by this Order include, but are not limited to:

    a. Compliance with the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs;

    b. Monitoring of and reporting on constituent concentrations in effluent;

    c. Land disposal limits for BOD to prevent or minimize creation of anaerobic conditions and mobilization of metals;

    d. Employment of either primary, secondary, and/or tertiary treatment technologies to reduce concentrations of solids, nutrients, and BOD in the effluent;

    e. Employment of disinfection treatment where needed to remove/reduce the pathogen concentrations in the effluent;

    f. The requirement to line all new or expanded ponds and sludge management units, and assess threat to water quality associated with existing ponds and sludge management units;

    g. Collection and appropriate treatment of domestic wastewater in compliance with the effluent limits in this Order.

33. Limited degradation of groundwater by some waste constituents associated with Large WWTP discharges, after effective source control, treatment, and control measures are implemented as required by this Order, is consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State. The technology, energy, water recycling, and waste management advantages of a municipal utility service far exceed any benefits derived from numerous dispersed, individual wastewater treatment systems, and the impacts on water quality will be substantially less. This Order also requires the submittal of an antidegradation assessment requiring Dischargers to determine whether the discharge has caused or has the potential to cause groundwater degradation, to identify the constituents involved, the degree of degradation, and any exceedances of water quality objectives. Accordingly, to the extent that any degradation occurs as a result of the Facility's continued operation, such degradation is consistent with the maximum interest of the people of the State of California.

34. Based on the foregoing, the adoption of this Order is consistent with the Antidegradation Policy.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

35. Adoption of this Order is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, because the Order involves negligible or no expansion of existing Large WWTPs and their respective waste discharges. Any party seeking coverage under this Order for a new or expanded discharge of waste must demonstrate compliance with CEQA before such new or expanded discharge can be authorized under this Order.

Exemption from Title 27 Requirements

36. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 27 (Title 27), section 20090, subdivisions (a), (b), and (i), the treatment, storage, and disposal of waste authorized by this Order are exempt from the requirements of the Title 27 section 20005, et seq. This Order implements the applicable preconditions described in section 20090.

Other Regulatory Considerations

37. This Order does not preempt or supersede the authority of local governmental agencies to prohibit, restrict, or control discharges of waste subject to their jurisdiction. It is the responsibility of the Discharger(s) to obtain any required local, state, or federal governmental agency permits or authorizations necessary for compliance with this Order.

Industrial Pretreatment Considerations

38. 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 WWTP'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 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.

39. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23 (Title 23), section 2233, subdivision (a), this Order requires Large WWTPs treating or designed to treat an average monthly flow of five million gpd or more to have and enforce adequate pretreatment programs. The Board may also impose this requirement upon Large WWTPs treating or designed to treat an average monthly flow of less than 5 MGD, as necessary and appropriate to address site- or facility-specific issues. These issues include, but are not limited to, the possibility of system upset from industrial sources, and effluent and groundwater violations related to the presence of constituents that are not typically present in domestic wastewater. Any such requirement will be specified in the Discharger's NOA. Pretreatment programs developed pursuant to this Order shall incorporate requirements equivalent to 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 403, *General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution*, as applicable.

Biosolids

40. Dischargers subject to this Order may generate biosolids as part of their wastewater treatment and disposal operations. Application of biosolids to land in designated on-site areas that receive facility wastewater and discharges of biosolids for disposal or reuse off-site are not authorized by this Order. Biosolids must be disposed of at an appropriately authorized disposal facility or reused in accordance with applicable federal and state requirements and standards. Dischargers who wish to reuse biosolids as a soil amendment on- or off-site must obtain authorization to do so under State Water Board Order 2004-0012-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* (Biosolids General Order) (or any successor order thereto) or an individual WDRs order.

41. The U.S. EPA has promulgated regulations governing reuse of biosolids in 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 503, *Standards for the Use or Disposal of* Sewage *Sludge*, 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. Dischargers that reuse biosolids should confer with the U.S. EPA to ascertain whether separate and/or additional compliance, reporting, and permitting requirements are applicable to their biosolids-related operations.

Recycled Water Considerations

42. This Order encourages the production and use of recycled water, as described in the State Water Board's *Water Quality Control Policy for Recycled Water* (Recycled Water Policy). The Recycled Water Policy encourages the use of

recycled water in lieu of potable water and includes the stated goals of increasing recycled water use statewide and maximizing recycled water use in areas where groundwater supplies are in a state of overdraft, to the extent that downstream water rights, instream flow requirements, and public trust resources are protected. The Central Valley Water Board's Basin Plans incorporate the Recycled Water Policy.

43. The Recycled Water Policy requires municipal WWTP owners and recycled water producers to report annually, monthly volumes of influent, wastewater produced, and effluent, including treatment level and discharge type.

44. Title 22 section 60323 requires recyclers of treated municipal wastewater to submit an engineering report detailing the use of recycled water, contingency plans, and safeguards to DDW for approval.

45. On 23 April 2009, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Resolution R5-2009-0028, In Support of Regionalization, Reclamation, Recycling and Conservation for Wastewater Treatment Plants, which encourages water recycling, water conservation, and the regionalization of wastewater treatment facilities. Specifically, Resolution R5-2009-0028 requires Dischargers to document:

    a. Efforts to promote new or expanded wastewater recycling opportunities and programs;

    b. Water conservation measures; and

    c. Regional wastewater management opportunities and solutions (e.g., regionalization).

    In accordance with Resolution R5-2009-0028, new or expanding Large WWTPs within or near the boundaries of a centralized wastewater district or regional service area must demonstrate a good faith effort to connect to the centralized system by conducting the appropriate analysis to determine if consolidation is feasible, considering technical, environmental, and economic factors.

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

46. Individual MRPs will be issued along with the NOA pursuant to Water Code section 13267. The MRP Template attached to this Order provides a framework for site-specific MRPs. The site-specific MRPs will be tailored to each WWTP's treatment and disposal system and site-specific conditions consistent with the attached MRP Template. Attachment A – Monitoring and Reporting Program Template contains a list of potential technical reports that dischargers may be required to submit in accordance with their site-specific MRP.

47. The Central Valley Water Board is transitioning to using the GeoTracker database for the submittal of self-monitoring reports. Dischargers enrolled under this Order are required to submit self-monitoring reports utilizing GeoTracker.

GeoTracker is the State Water Board's internet-accessible database system used by the State Water Board, regional boards, and local agencies to track and archive compliance data from authorized or unauthorized discharges of waste to land, or unauthorized releases of hazardous substances from underground storage tanks. This system consists of a relational database, online compliance reporting features, a geographical information system (GIS) interface, and other features that are utilized by the State Water Board, regional boards, local agencies, regulated industry, and the public to input, manage, or access compliance and regulatory tracking data.

Setback Requirements

48. This Order requires dischargers to maintain setbacks separating wastewater treatment areas, land disposal areas where spray or drip methods are used, and wastewater impoundment areas from nearby domestic wells, surface waters, and property lines. The setbacks required by this Order are based on the Title 22 Water Recycling Criteria, the California Well Standards, the California Plumbing Code, and setbacks commonly imposed by other regulatory agencies. The required setbacks are designed to reduce potential impacts to human health and safety and the environment as a result of wastewater discharges. Setbacks provide attenuation of such impacts through physical, chemical, and biological processes.

C. Application for Coverage

1. Dischargers seeking regulatory coverage under this Order must file with the Central Valley Water Board a ROWD, in the form of a Notice of Intent (NOI) and an attached technical report. The Application Process is further described in Attachment C, which also provides guidance on what information should be included in the ROWD.

2. Upon review of the application, Central Valley Water Board staff will determine if coverage under this Order is appropriate. The Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer will issue a NOA when coverage under this Order has been authorized. The NOA will contain the necessary site-specific monitoring and reporting requirements.

3. Although a Discharger may be eligible for coverage under this Order, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer may determine that alternative permitting mechanisms (e.g., a waiver of WDRs, individual WDRs, or different general WDRs) would better regulate the discharge.

4. NOIs shall propose which effluent limitations, setback distances, and site-specific requirements are appropriate based on location and treatment technology(s). Dischargers' NOAs will establish the appropriate effluent limitations, setback distances, and site-specific requirements.

D. Closure of Facilities

1. Residual waste, sludge, solids, and biosolids that accumulate over time in WWTPs covered by this Order can present ongoing threats to water quality. The level of threat depends on various factors, including the facility's underlying hydrogeology, the quality of the wastewater being treated, the types of treatment processes used, the operational and maintenance history of the facility, and the duration of its operation.

2. To mitigate the potential legacy threat to groundwater quality from residual waste, sludge, solids, and biosolids in the event of a complete or partial closure of a facility governed by this Order, dischargers are required to submit a Facility Closure Workplan as described in Order Section IV.C.

E. Procedural Matters

Public Outreach, Potential Environmental Justice, Tribal Impact, and Racial Equity Considerations, and the Human Right to Water

1. Water Code section 13149.2, subdivision (c), provides that regional water boards, when issuing regional waste discharge requirements, shall make concise, programmatic findings on potential environmental justice, tribal impact, and racial equity considerations related to the issuance. To inform these findings, the Central Valley Water Board considered pertinent, available information and engaged in outreach to potentially impacted communities throughout the region pursuant to Water Code section 189.7. This outreach included the Board's notice and comment procedures preceding the adoption of this Order. Additionally, the Central Valley Water Board sent a 17 September 2025 letter to potentially impacted disadvantaged and tribal communities for planned program actions, including preparation of this Order, to solicit consultation and solicited comments and consultation regarding a preliminary draft of this Order on 4 February 2026.

   Pursuant to Water Code section 13149.2 the Central Valley Water Board reviewed readily available information and information raised to the Board by interested persons concerning anticipated water quality impacts in disadvantaged or tribal communities resulting from the adoption of these WDRs. The Board also considered environmental justice concerns within the Board's authority and raised by interested persons with regard to those impacts. The Central Valley Water Board anticipates that the issuance of these WDRs will result in water quality impacts within the scope of the Board's authority. Specifically, these WDRs authorize the discharge of wastewater with salinity concentrations that may cause limited degradation or exceedances of applicable WQOs in the near term. The BPTC measures required by this Order, as described above, are intended to minimize and, in the longer term, mitigate the impacts of the covered Large WWTPs' discharges on nearby disadvantaged communities across the Central Valley Region. Although this Order may result in limited increases to salinity concentrations in groundwater in the near-term, the SCP is intended to

achieve long-term balance and restoration, where possible, of salt-impacted groundwater basins across the region.

2. Human Right to Water. 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 compliance with WDRs that implement the MCLs for drinking water (excluding salinity and nitrate), which are designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use. For salinity and nitrate, this Order requires compliance with the SCP and NCP, respectively. Although the Exceptions Policy allows participants in these Programs to obtain limited-term exceptions from WQOs for salinity and/or nitrate, these Programs are consistent with the Human Right to Water Policy because their overarching management goals and priorities include short-term provision of safe drinking water to impacted users and long-term restoration of impacted groundwater basins and sub-basins where reasonable, feasible, and practicable.

3. Interested agencies, tribes, and persons were notified of the Central Valley Water Board's intent to prescribe the WDRs in this Order and were provided an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations and/or be heard at a public meeting before the Central Valley Water Board. (Wat. Code, § 13167.5.)

4. At a public meeting held on June 4, 2026, the Central Valley Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263, 13267, and 13523, that all Dischargers enrolled under this Order, as well as any agents, successors, and assigns of such Dischargers, shall comply with the following:

II. REQUIREMENTS

A. Prohibitions

The following actions are prohibited except as authorized by a separate WDRs order or waiver of WDRs adopted by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board:

1. Discharge of waste to surface waters or surface water drainage courses.

2. Bypass (see definition in Attachment B), overflow, or discharge of untreated or partially treated waste, except as authorized by the Specifications for Ponds section of this Order regarding emergency bypass.

3. Treatment, storage, or disposal of waste in a manner that causes or contributes to, or threatens to cause or contribute to, a condition of pollution, contamination, and/or nuisance (see Wat. Code, § 13050).

4. Discharge of waste to land not owned, operated, or controlled by the Discharger,[4] except where the specific manner and location of such use is described in a Title 22 Engineering Report approved by DDW.

5. Discharge of waste classified as hazardous (Title 23, § 2521, subd. (a)) or designated (Wat. Code, § 13173).

6. Discharge of wastes at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Discharger's complete NOI and the resulting NOA issued by the Executive Officer.

7. The production of recycled water in a manner different from that described in the Title 22 Engineering Report that has been conditionally accepted by DDW.

8. Production of recycled water for direct human consumption, indirect human consumption, or processing of food or drink intended for human consumption.

9. Use of equipment used for potable water supply (e.g., tanks, piping, valves) for the conveyance of recycled water or wastewater.

Conditional Discharge Prohibitions

10. During Phase I of the SCP, the Discharger is prohibited from discharging salts at concentrations exceeding the salinity numeric value of 700 µmhos/cm (as a monthly average) unless the Discharger is fully participating in the Phase I requirements of the SCP Alternative Permitting Approach (i.e., full participation in the P&O Study).

11. If subject to the NCP, the Discharger is prohibited from discharging nitrate and other forms of nitrogen speciation (e.g., total inorganic nitrogen and total Kjeldahl nitrogen) unless the Discharger is implementing the requirements of the NCP.

B. Specifications for All Systems

1. The siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of WWTP must comply with the requirements of the NOA, the applicable Basin Plan, and this Order.

[4] The owner(s) of any property(s) used for disposal of waste subject to this Order must be identified as a "Discharger" in the applicable NOA before waste discharges permitted by this Order can commence.

2. Objectionable odors shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the Dischargers' facility at an intensity that creates or threatens to create nuisance conditions.

3. The Discharger shall manage their Facility to prevent breeding of mosquitoes by implementing, at a minimum, the following procedures:

    a. An erosion control program shall be implemented to ensure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the bermed flood area(s) and ponds.

    b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, herbicides, or other suitable measures in ponds and open containment structures.

    c. Vegetation and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface in such a way as to create stagnant water conditions and/or promote the breeding of mosquitoes.

    d. Prevention of standing water 48 hours after the application of wastewater to land disposal areas.

    e. Low-pressure and unpressurized pipelines and ditches accessible to mosquitoes must not be used to store wastewater or recycled water.

    f. The Discharger must coordinate with the local mosquito abatement or vector control district to supplement the measures described above.

4. The Discharger must comply with the setbacks described in Table 3 of the attached Information Sheet unless an approved variance is obtained from the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with the setback variance processes outlined in the attached Information Sheet. Site-specific setbacks will be established in the NOA. Setbacks provided in this Order are the distances of wastewater treatment areas, land disposal by spray or drip methods areas, or wastewater impoundment areas from sensitive receptors, including domestic wells, water courses (perennial or ephemeral), lakes/reservoirs, wetlands, and property lines.

    Some existing WWTP Dischargers may not comply with the setbacks provided herein. Those that do not meet setback requirements at the time they submit a NOI shall nonetheless be considered in compliance with these requirements unless pollution or nuisance conditions result from the reduced setback distances. Any areal expansion of such facilities after submittal of the NOI will require the WWTP to comply with the applicable setbacks in the expanded areas unless an approved variance is obtained from the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer.

    For new or expanded facilities where the Discharger will not comply with the setbacks included in the Order, the Dischargers will need to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed discharge/s, potential mitigations of those

impacts, and whether shorter setback/s are adequately protective of sensitive receptors and receive approval of a variance by the Central Valley Water Board.

5. If tertiary disinfection is required for a disposal area by the NOA, the Discharger shall produce disinfected tertiary treated wastewater that complies with the following specifications:

    a. Wastewater Filtration:

        i. Oxidized wastewater shall be coagulated and passed through natural undisturbed soils or a bed of filter media at a rate that does not exceed 5 gallons per minute per square foot of surface area in mono, dual or mixed media gravity, upflow or pressure filtration systems, or does not exceed 2 gallons per minute per square foot of surface area in traveling bridge automatic backwash filters; so that the turbidity of the filtered wastewater does not exceed any of the following: An average of 2 NTU within a 24-hour period; 5 NTU more than 5 percent of the time within a 24-hour period; and 10 NTU at any time.

        or

        ii. Wastewater shall be passed through a microfiltration, ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, or reverse osmosis membrane so that the turbidity of the filtered wastewater does not exceed any of the following: 0.2 NTU more than 5 percent of the time within a 24-hour period; and 0.5 NTU at any time.

    b. Wastewater Disinfection:

        i. Filtered wastewater shall be disinfected by a chlorine disinfection process that provides a CT (the product of total chlorine residual and modal contact time measured at the same point) value of not less than 450 milligram-minutes per liter at all times with a modal contact time of at least 90 minutes, based on peak design flow;

        or

        ii. Filtered wastewater shall be disinfected by a process that, when combined with the filtration process, has been demonstrated to inactivate and/or remove 99.999 percent of the plaque-forming units of F-specific bacteriophage MS2, or polio virus in the wastewater. A virus that is at least as resistant to disinfection as the polio virus may be used for the purposes of the demonstration.

6. All conveyance, treatment, storage, and disposal units shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.

C. Specifications for Ponds

The following requirements apply to all ponds unless otherwise noted (e.g., treatment ponds, storage ponds, emergency storage/bypass ponds, percolation ponds, etc.).

1. 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.

2. Emergency bypass ponds may be used for the temporary storage of untreated or partially treated domestic wastewater in the following circumstances:

    a. When bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage; (severe property damage means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities that causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources that can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a by-pass; severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production and there were no feasible alternatives to bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities or retention of untreated waste; this condition is not satisfied if adequate backup equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass that would otherwise occur during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance;

    or

    b. When bypass is required for essential maintenance to ensure efficient operation, effluent limitations are not exceeded, and the Discharger notifies the Board in writing at least ten days in advance.

    Storage of untreated or partially treated wastewater in emergency bypass ponds must be done in accordance with the WWTP's Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan, limited to short durations, and minimized to the maximum extent possible. Bypassed untreated and partially treated wastewater must be recovered from the pond to the maximum extent practicable and fully treated by the WWTP once sufficient wastewater treatment capacity has been restored.

3. All new and expanded treatment and storage ponds[5] must be constructed with an engineered liner; lining of new or expanded emergency bypass ponds may be required on a case-by-case basis. The engineered liner shall meet a hydraulic

[5] Percolation ponds, wetland treatment systems, and other ponds where treatment and disposal are completed within the same structure are not subject to the above lining requirements. Lining of emergency bypass pond(s) may be required on a case-by-case basis.

conductivity limit of 1 x 10^{-6} centimeters per second or less using one of the following:

a. A compacted clay liner, with a minimum clay thickness of two feet;

b. A Portland cement concrete liner, designed to minimize cracking and infiltration;

c. A synthetic liner, consisting of 40 thousandths of an inch (mil) synthetic geomembrane or a 60-mil high-density polyethylene liner installed over a prepared base or a secondary clay or concrete liner; or

d. An equivalent engineered alternative.

4. An exemption from the lining requirements in II.C.3 above may be granted by the Central Valley Water Board, on a case-by-case basis, if it can be demonstrated that pond lining is not necessary to prevent degradation of underlying groundwater in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements this Order. The Discharger requesting the exemption must demonstrate that not lining the new or expanding pond(s) is adequate based on site-specific hydrogeologic conditions, wastewater characteristics, and the potential for impacts to groundwater quality and downgradient users (similar evaluation as described in Section VI of Attachment C).

5. Prior to the construction of a new or expanded lined pond per Requirement II.C.3, the Discharger shall submit a **Design Report** prepared by the appropriately licensed professional(s) to the Central Valley Water Board. The Design Report shall include the following:

   a. Design plans and specifications for the construction and lining of the pond(s), including a schedule for construction.

   b. A geotechnical investigation of the area around the proposed ponds, including boring logs, soil assessment, and analysis of depth to first encountered groundwater.

   c. A Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) Plan that discusses how the subgrade and liner will be tested to ensure the liner is properly installed. The CQA Plan should also discuss any leak detection system for the pond(s) integrity testing (e.g., action leakage rate), and the pond's design life

   d. An Operations and Maintenance Plan for the pond(s). The plan must include:

      i. Procedures for monitoring the liner integrity to ensure the pond liner remains in good condition.

      ii. Methods for detecting liner failure and establishing criteria for timely repairs. Where applicable, this should include developing an action leakage level for each pond equipped with a leachate detection system.

6. The Discharger shall maintain at least two feet of freeboard in all ponds to provide adequate storage capacity and prevent overtopping or spills. If freeboard is less than two feet,[6] the Discharger shall immediately implement the contingency plan contained in the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan.[7] Wastewater ponds shall contain permanent markers indicating depth and freeboard. Existing facilities without a permanent marker in each pond, shall have markers installed no later than 12 months after issuance of an NOA. Freeboard shall be measured vertically from the lowest elevation of the pond berm to the pond water surface (i.e., the elevation at which water would overflow from the pond). Large WWTPs with existing individual WDRs that authorize less than two feet of free board for a pond may retain the previously authorized freeboard requirement in the site-specific NOA.

7. Pond systems shall be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated to ensure adequate capacity at all times to accommodate wastewater, design seasonal precipitation, ancillary inflow and infiltration, and wind-driven waves. Design seasonal precipitation must be based on the following precipitation criteria:

    a. The 100-year return annual total precipitation value distributed monthly in accordance with average (mean) precipitation values. The calculations must demonstrate adequate capacity to maintain two feet of freeboard in the pond(s).

8. The dissolved oxygen content in the upper one foot of any wastewater treatment or storage pond shall not be less than 1.0 mg/L for three consecutive sampling events. If the dissolved oxygen in the pond(s) is below 1.0 mg/L for any single sampling event, the Discharger shall take two samples over the next seven days (unless specified otherwise in the WWTP's site-specific MRP). If either sample is greater than 1.0 m/L, then the Discharger may resume the dissolved oxygen monitoring frequency specified in the site-specific MRP. If both samples are below 1.0 mg/L, the Discharger shall implement daily dissolved oxygen monitoring of that pond until the minimum dissolved oxygen concentration is achieved for at least three consecutive days. If the dissolved oxygen in the pond is below 1.0 mg/L for three consecutive samples, the Discharger shall report the findings to the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with provisions of this Order (Provisions IV.B.4 & 5). The written notification shall include a specific plan or actions taken to resolve the low DO results within 30 days of the third sampling event below 1.0 mg/L.

[6] Reference – Tchobanoglous, George (1979) "Wastewater Engineering: Treatment, Disposal, Reuse," Metcalf & Eddy, Inc.
[7] See Notice of Intent, Appendix B, Section II.C

9. Burrowing animals active in areas that may compromise the integrity of pond containment must be promptly controlled, and repairs to the containment must be completed as soon as possible.

10. Prior to any removal, drying, treatment, or disposal of sludge for pond maintenance, the Discharger must develop and implement a Sludge Management Plan (SMP).

11. Constructed ponds must be graded to prevent the accumulation of stormwater runoff into the pond.

12. A minimum five-foot separation between the base of any pond[8] and seasonal high groundwater shall be maintained at all times. Dischargers with wastewater ponds constructed prior to the adoption date of this Order with less than the five-foot minimum separation from groundwater must cease discharges to these ponds or modify the ponds to achieve the minimum five-foot separation no later than ten years from the date of enrollment in this Order. Dischargers that cannot immediately comply with this requirement must include justification and a plan and schedule for compliance in their NOI. Ponds that receive high-quality treated wastewater (i.e., disinfected secondary and disinfected tertiary wastewater) or are adequately lined (i.e., with a hydraulic conductivity of less than 1 x 10^{-6} cm/s and constructed to eliminate issues related to groundwater hydrostatic pressure) are exempt from this requirement.

D. Specifications for Land Disposal

The following specifications apply to land disposal of treated domestic wastewater not subject to Title 22 requirements (i.e., wastewater not used for reclamation), including but not limited to spray and drip fields and disposal via flooding (e.g., spreading basins, rapid infiltration beds, etc.). Land application of recycled domestic wastewater (i.e., reclamation) is not regulated by this Order and is subject to regulation under separate WDRs or Water Reclamation Requirements (e.g., State Water Board Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW).

General Land Disposal Specifications

1. Stormwater runoff from authorized land disposal areas that have received treated wastewater is prohibited, unless all applied wastewater meets disinfection requirements at a level equivalent to at least disinfected secondary-23 recycled water (Title 22, § 60301.225). Land disposal of wastewater that has been treated to a higher level is acceptable.

[8] The lowest physical point within a pond that is not impermeable (i.e., a hydraulic conductivity of less than 1 x 10^{-6} cm/s.

Alternatively, the Central Valley Water Board may approve alternative disposal of stormwater runoff from land disposal areas receiving undisinfected treated wastewater after the Discharger submits a Land Disposal Area Pathogen Control Report describing how the land disposal area will be operated to prevent pathogens from migrating off the land disposal area with stormwater.

BOD Loading Limitations

2. Application of wastewater to disposal areas shall not exceed the BOD loading rate limitations specified in Table 1. For existing Large WWTPs with individual WDRs adopted after 1 January 2008, that specify a less stringent BOD loading rate, those loading rate limit(s) may be applied instead in the NOA. The BOD loading limitations below do not apply to the reclamation of wastewater.

Table 1: BOD Loading Rate Limitations

Constituent	Units	Cycle-Average	Daily Maximum
BOD, 5-Day	Pounds/acre/day	100 (See 1 Below)	300

1. More information regarding the calculation of the cycle-average is included in Attachment B – Information Sheet

Specifications for Spray and Drip Disposal Methods

The following requirements apply to areas where land disposal occurs by spray and drip methods:

3. Wastewater must not be applied to a land disposal area within 24 hours of forecasted measurable precipitation with a greater than 50 percent probability[9] of occurring, during precipitation events, or when the land disposal area surface soil is saturated.

4. Spray irrigation with treated wastewater shall be managed to prevent sprayed wastewater from drifting outside of the boundaries of the land disposal area/ WWTP boundaries. Spray application of treated wastewater is prohibited when wind speed (including gusts) exceeds 30 miles per hour. Wind speed may be measured with an on-site weather station or at a nearby weather station operated by a governmental organization.

5. Land disposal of treated wastewater must be managed to prevent ponding, runoff, and erosion.

[9] Based on forecasted weather available from the National Weather Service

Specifications for Controlled Flood Disposal Methods

The following requirements apply to areas where land disposal occurs by controlled flood methods:

6. Two feet of freeboard must always be maintained in controlled flood areas to provide adequate storage capacity and prevent wastewater spills. Freeboard shall be measured as the vertical distance from the water surface to the lowest elevation along the berm crest, including any location where the berm is intersected by an overflow channel or similar conveyance feature. The lowest elevation shall be defined as the minimum crest elevation anywhere along the berm.

7. If wastewater spills occur (e.g., breaches in berms, flows spilling over the berms, etc.) at existing controlled flood areas, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer may require upgrades consistent with the size specification defined in section II.D.8. below.

8. Controlled flood areas must have the capacity to accommodate wastewater, design seasonal precipitation, ancillary inflow and infiltration, and wind-driven waves. For new or expanded controlled flood areas, seasonal precipitation used in the sizing water balance calculations must be based on the following:

    a. The 100-year return annual total precipitation value distributed monthly in accordance with average (mean) precipitation values. The calculations must demonstrate adequate capacity to maintain two feet of freeboard in the bermed flood area(s).

    b. The Central Valley Water Board may allow a lower standard for the return annual total precipitation value if adequate technical justification is provided describing how operation of the system will not result in wastewater spills. If the Discharger seeks relief from the 100-year return annual total precipitation value, the Discharger must include in their spill prevention and emergency response plan the above technical justification and certification from an appropriately licensed professional that the plan is adequate to prevent spills and respond to forecast conditions using the 100-year return annual total precipitation value distributed monthly in accordance with average (mean) precipitation values. The calculations must demonstrate adequate capacity to maintain two feet of freeboard in the bermed flood area(s).

9. Burrowing animals active in areas that may compromise the integrity of controlled flood area containment must be promptly controlled, and repairs to the containment must be completed as soon as possible.

10. Constructed flood disposal areas must be graded to prevent the accumulation of stormwater runoff into the disposal area.

E. Specifications for Sludge, Solids, and Biosolids Management

Sludge in this document means the solid, semisolid, and liquid residues removed during primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes. Solid waste refers to grit and screening material generated during preliminary treatment. Residual sludge means sludge that will not be subject to further treatment at the wastewater treatment plant. Biosolids refer to sludge that has been treated and tested and shown to be capable of being beneficially and legally used pursuant to federal and state regulations as a soil amendment for agricultural, silvicultural, horticultural, and land reclamation activities as specified under 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 503.

1. Dischargers shall comply with the SMP prepared pursuant to the Attachment C – N of Intent Form.

2. Sludge and solid waste must be removed from screens, sumps, tanks, and ponds as needed to ensure optimal plant operation and minimize degradation of pond seepage quality and its potential to release waste constituents in a mass or concentration that violates or threatens to violate the Groundwater Limitations of this Order.

3. Prior to any removal, drying, treatment, or disposal of sludge/solids/biosolids from the WWTP, the Discharger must implement and comply with the SMP.

4. Storage of residual sludge/solids/biosolids must be temporary (i.e. for the shortest period practicable) and shall be controlled and contained in a manner that minimizes leachate formation in masses or concentrations that violate or threaten to violate the **Groundwater Limitations** of this Order.

5. To ensure compliance with Specification E.4, all sludge/solids/biosolids impoundments (i.e. lagoons, storage beds, treatment beds, drying beds, etc.) designed or installed as part of a new or expanding system and/or after submittal of the NOI must be constructed with an engineered liner. The engineered liner shall meet a hydraulic conductivity limit of 1×10^{-6} centimeters per second or less using one of the following:

    a. A compacted clay liner, with a minimum clay thickness of two feet;

    b. A Portland cement concrete liner, designed to minimize cracking and infiltration;

    c. A synthetic liner, consisting of a 40 thousandths of an inch (mil) synthetic geomembrane or a 60-mil high-density polyethylene liner installed over a prepared base or a secondary clay or concrete liner; or

    d. An equivalent engineered alternative.

6. Residual sludge and solid waste must be disposed of in a manner approved by the Central Valley Water Board and consistent with Title 27 or other applicable

standards, as appropriate. Removal for further treatment, disposal, or reuse at disposal sites operated in accordance with valid WDRs issued by the State Water Board or Central Valley Water Board will satisfy this specification.

7. Use and disposal of screenings, sludges, biosolids and other solids removed from liquid wastes shall comply with the U.S. EPA Part 503 Biosolids Rule (40 C.F.R. § 503).

8. This Order does not authorize or regulate the use of biosolids for agricultural, horticultural, silvicultural, or reclamation site soil amendments. Dischargers intending to use biosolids for soil amendments are required to enroll under State Water Board *Order No. 2004-0012-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*, or updated order, or separate individual WDRs.

9. Any proposed change in biosolids use or disposal practice from a previously approved practice shall be reported to the Executive Officer and U.S. EPA Regional Administrator at least 90 days in advance of the change.

10. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board within five days of any deviation from or modification to a SMP that the Discharger deems to be part of an emergency action and provide with that notification the rationale(s) for the emergency deviation and/or modification.

F. Pretreatment Specifications

1. These Pretreatment Specifications apply to Large WWTPs treating or designed to treat an average monthly flow of five million gpd (5 MGD) or more. The Central Valley Water Board may determine that some or all of the pretreatment requirements established below are necessary for Large WWTPs that treat or designed to treat less than 5 MGD to prevent the introduction of pollutants/wastes that will interfere with the operation of the treatment works, pass through the treatment system, reduce opportunities to recycle and reuse domestic wastewater and sludge, or expose employees to hazardous chemicals pursuant to Title 23 section 2233, subdivision (a). Any pretreatment requirements that are deemed necessary for Large WWTPs that fall below the 5 MGD threshold will be established in the Discharger's NOA. Additional guidance for developing a pretreatment program compliant with the requirements below is available from the U.S. EPA[10]. Dischargers treating or designed to treat an average monthly flow of five million gpd (5 MGD) or more shall:

[10] U.S. EPA guidance available in the following documents:

a. Develop or update as necessary the appropriate contractual agreements with all governmental agencies within one year of submittal of a pretreatment program. The contractual agreements shall give the Discharger the authority to implement and enforce the pretreatment program within the treatment facility's sewer service area(s). The Discharger shall ensure that any other steps necessary to provide this implementation and enforcement authority (e.g., adoption of ordinances, etc.) are taken by all governmental agencies. If a governmental agency has a pretreatment program for any portion of the treatment facility's service area, the Discharger's pretreatment program shall include provisions to ensure the governmental agency's program is implemented. In the event that any agency discharging to the Discharger's facility fails to effectively implement its individual pretreatment program, the Discharger shall implement and enforce its program within that agency's service area.

b. Perform the pretreatment functions which are equivalent to those described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 403, including, but not limited to:

    i. Enforce the pretreatment requirements equivalent to those described in sections 403.5 and 403.6;

    ii. Implement the necessary legal authorities equivalent to those described in section 403.8;

    iii. Implement the programmatic functions equivalent to those described in section 403.8(f)(2);

    iv. Publish a list of significant non-compliance equivalent to that described by section 403.8(f)(2)(vii);

    v. Provide the requisite funding and personnel to implement the pretreatment program equivalent to that described in section 403.8(f)(3); and

    vi. Implement a monitoring and reporting program that is compliant with requirements equivalent to those described in section 403.12.

c. Implement the necessary legal authorities, programs, and controls equivalent to those described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 403.5(b) to ensure that the following wastes are not introduced to the treatment system:

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1. Control Authority Pretreatment Audit Checklist And Instructions (https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/final_pca_checklist_and_instructions_-feb2010.pdf)
2. Guidance Manual for POTW Pretreatment Program Development (https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-10/documents/owm0003.pdf)
3. Procedures Manual for Reviewing a POTW Pretreatment Program Submission (https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-10/documents/owm0024.pdf)

i. Wastes which create a fire or explosion hazard in the wastewater collection system or treatment works;

ii. Wastes which will cause corrosive structural damage to the treatment works (i.e., a pH no lower than 5);

iii. Solid or viscous wastes in amounts which cause obstruction to flow in sewers, or which cause other interference with proper operation of treatment works;

iv. Any waste, including oxygen-demanding pollutants (BOD, etc.), released in such volume or strength as to cause inhibition or disruption in the treatment works, and subsequent treatment process upset and/or loss of treatment efficiency;

v. Heat in amounts that inhibit or disrupt biological activity in the treatment works (i.e., temperatures in excess of 140° Fahrenheit or 60° Centigrade);

vi. Petroleum oil, nonbiodegradable cutting oil, or products of mineral oil origin in amounts that will cause interference or pass through;

vii. Any trucked or hauled wastewater or septage, except at points predesignated by the Discharger and subject to the above conditions; and

viii. Pollutants that result in the presence of toxic gases, vapors, or fumes within the collection system or treatment works in a quantity that may cause acute worker health and safety problems.

d. Implement the legal authorities, programs, and control necessary to ensure that industrial dischargers do not introduce pollutants into the sewerage system that, either alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources:

i. Flow through the system to the receiving water in quantities or concentrations that cause a violation of this Order, or

ii. Inhibit or disrupt treatment processes or treatment system operations and either cause a violation of this Order or prevent water recycling, biosolids reuse, or sludge disposal.

e. Review the pretreatment program by conducting a pretreatment program audit (PPA) every 5 years and submit a report documenting the results. The PPA shall evaluate industrial user compliance with the Dischargers Pretreatment Program Plan (PPP) (described below), the overall effectiveness of the PPP, adequacy of program local limits, and include suggested changes to the PPP to address any deficiencies identified. The scope of the PPA shall be equivalent to the scope covered by the U.S. EPA Control Authority Pretreatment Compliance Audit Checklist and Instructions. The Discharger shall make any necessary changes to ensure compliance with this Order.

f. Submit a notification that is compliant with the equivalent to the requirements described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 403.18(c)(1) to the Board at least 60 days before implementation of any updates/modifications to the Discharger's pretreatment program that are equivalent to the substantial modifications described in 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 403.18(b).

   The Discharger's pretreatment program and its components, such as city ordinances, local limits, and control mechanisms, among others, are hereby made enforceable conditions of this Order until such time as they are revised.

g. WWTPs with an existing pretreatment program shall submit a Pretreatment Program Plan (PPP) to the Central Valley Water Board for review as a part of the NOI (unless one has already been submitted) and/or within 12 months of any significant changes in the discharge quality/quantity from industrial users to the WWTP influent. Large WWTPs that are required to have a pretreatment program per the NOA, without an existing pretreatment program, shall submit a PPP no later than 12 months after enrollment under the Order.

   The PPP must provide a clear, long-term plan for addressing pretreatment requirements equivalent to those contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 403, as described above. Dischargers may implement their PPPs immediately upon submission, however, the Central Valley Water Board reserves the right to require modifications, as necessary, to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, plans, and other authorities.

   The Guidance Manual for POTW Pretreatment Program Development and Procedures Manual for Reviewing a POTW Pretreatment Program Submission from the U.S. EPA contain guidance describing the minimum requirements of a PPP.

h. Maintain a copy of the PPP at the wastewater treatment facility, and it must be presented to the Central Valley Water Board staff upon request.

i. Implement and enforce its Pretreatment Program Plan.

G. Title 22 Recycled Water Specifications

1. Large WWTPs that produce recycled water must comply with the applicable requirements described in Title 22 and the conditions of the DDW accepted Title 22 Engineering Report.

H. Salinity Action Level Specifications

1. For Dischargers that have selected the alternative permitting approach for the SCP, the average annual EC, TDS, or fixed dissolved solids (FDS) concentration in effluent at the point of discharge to the land disposal area or pond shall not exceed a Salinity Action Level consisting of 125% of the highest annual average

EC, TDS, or FDS for the last five years prior to issuance of the NOA. If the Facility's discharge exceeds the Salinity Action Level, the Discharger shall submit a **Salinity Action Plan by 1 April of the year following the exceedance of the Salinity Action Level.** The **Salinity Action Plan** shall, at a minimum, include the following:

a. An evaluation of the Facility's salinity effluent levels. This evaluation shall discuss any changes to the source water for the Facility, any increased water conservation efforts (with flow data demonstrating decreased flows), and any other changes to the Facility's collection or treatment system or wastewater influent that could contribute to increases in salinity concentrations.

b. If additional time is needed to investigate the source(s) of the salinity in the Facility's discharge, the Salinity Action Plan shall include a detailed workplan with milestones describing what actions the Discharger will conduct to investigate the source(s) of salinity in the discharge and report the findings to the Central Valley Water Board. The findings from the investigation shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board **no later than October 1st** of the year following the exceedance of the Salinity Action Level.

c. The Salinity Action Plan shall evaluate[11] the potential impact increased salinity concentrations in the discharge could have on underlying groundwater and down-gradient users and identify additional practicable control measures to control and/or reduce the salinity in the discharge. In developing the Salinity Action Plan, the Discharger should coordinate with the Central Valley Salinity Coalition and may utilize information developed by the Coalition, as well as information contained in the Discharger's NOI, to support the evaluation. If additional time is needed for this evaluation, the Salinity Action Plan shall propose a submittal date **no later than October 1st** of the year following exceedance of the Salinity Action Level.

I. Nitrate Control Program Alternative Compliance Projects

1. Dischargers subject to the NCP, who elect to follow the Individual Permitting Approach (Path A) and are unable to meet the requirements of Category 1, 2, or 3 as outlined in Table N-3 (included in Attachment B - Information Sheet), may be required to develop and implement an alternative compliance project that complies with the requirements of the NCP.

[11] The evaluation should include available groundwater quality data and a survey of nearby sensitive receptors that may be impacted by increased salinity.

III. LIMITATIONS

A. Groundwater Limitations

1. The facility's discharges shall not cause or contribute to groundwater containing constituents more than the concentrations specified below or natural background groundwater quality, whichever is greater:

   a. Constituents in concentrations that exceed either the Primary or Secondary MCLs established in Title 22 sections 64431, 64444, 64449, excluding salinity for Dischargers participating in and in compliance with SCP Alternative Permitting Approach requirements, and/or excluding nitrate for Dischargers that have obtained an exception from implementation of the WQO for nitrate via the NCP.

   b. Contain toxic substances, taste or odor-producing constituents, or any other constituents in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses, (e.g., by creating off-tastes and/or odor, producing detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life).

   c. 2.2 MPN/100 mL or more of coliform bacteria organisms over any seven-day period.

B. Effluent Limitations

The following effluent limitations apply at the end of the Large WWTP's treatment system prior to discharge to land for disposal (e.g., percolation ponds, rapid infiltration beds and spreading basins, spray- and drip-irrigated fields) and/or for reuse. Applicable effluent limitations will be specified in the discharger's NOA in accordance with information in the Discharger's NOI regarding WWTP treatment.

1. **Secondary Wastewater Treatment Facilities**: **Table 2** and **Table 3** below specify BOD and TSS effluent limitations for Large WWTPs providing secondary treatment in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basin and the Tulare Lake Basin, respectively. These effluent limitations apply at the end of the Large WWTP's treatment system prior to discharge to land.

2. **Tertiary Wastewater Treatment Facilities**: **Table 4** below specifies BOD and TSS effluent limitations for Large WWTPs providing tertiary treatment. These effluent limitations apply at the end of the Large WWTP's treatment system prior to discharge to land.

3. **Large WWTPs Providing Disinfection (not producing recycled water)**: **Table 5** below specifies effluent limitations for Large WWTPs that provide disinfection but do not produce recycled water. The total coliform limits are determined by the level of treatment provided at the Large WWTP (i.e., secondary or tertiary treatment).

4. **Large WWTPs with Title 22 Reclamation**: Large WWTPs that produce non-potable recycled water subject to Title 22 reclamation requirements must have a Title 22 Engineering Report that has been conditionally accepted by DDW. The Discharger is required to comply with the requirements established in the DDW conditionally accepted Title 22 Engineering Report, the DDW conditional acceptance letter, and the effluent limitations specified in **Table 6.**

5. Applicable effluent limits listed in the tables below will be specified in Dischargers' NOAs.

Table 2: Secondary Treatment Effluent Limitations - Sacramento and San Joaquin Basin

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

Table 3: Secondary Treatment Effluent Limitations – Tulare Lake Basin

Constituent	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Minimum % Removal (Monthly Average)
BOD, 5-Day	40 mg/L	80 mg/L	80
TSS	40 mg/L	80 mg/L	80

Table 4: Tertiary Treatment Effluent Limitations

Constituent	Units	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum
BOD, 5-Day	mg/L	10	20
TSS	mg/L	10	20

Table 5: Disinfected Secondary and Tertiary Treatment Effluent Limitations for Non-recycled Wastewater Disposal to Land

Constituents	Unit	7-Day Median	30-Day Maximum	Single Sample
Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL (See 1 below)	2.2, 23 (See 2 below)	23,240 (See 2 below	23, 240 (See 2 below)

1. MPN denotes most probable number.
2. Effluent limits selected based on NOI

Table 6: Effluent Limitations for Recycled Wastewater Producers - All WWTPs

Constituents	Unit	Regulatory Limitations
Total Coliform	MPN/100 mL	Title 22 (See 1 below)
Turbidity	NTU (See 2 below)	Title 22
Chlorine Residual	mg/L	Title 22
Other constituents or operational requirements identified in a Title 22 Engineering Report	Not Applicable	Title 22

1. As specified in DDW Title 22 conditional acceptance letter. Disinfection methods will vary between WWTPs. Some customization of this table will occur in the NOA based on the Title 22 conditional acceptance letter.
2. NTU denotes Nephelometric Turbidity Units

6. **Large WWTPs with Nitrification/Denitrification**: Large WWTPs that provide full nitrification and denitrification and that can reliably meet performance-based effluent concentrations of less than 10 mg/L total nitrogen shall comply with a total nitrogen effluent limitation of 10 mg/L (as a monthly average), the site-specific NOA will indicate whether this effluent limit applies.

7. **Compliance Schedule Requests**: If a Discharger regulated by this Order is unable to achieve immediate compliance with the effluent limitations specified in Tables 2 through 6 of this Order, the Discharger may request a compliance schedule in their NOA. The compliance schedule will require the Discharger to comply with the effluent limitations specified in their preexisting individual WDRs until compliance with the limitations in this Order is achieved. The Executive Officer may grant a compliance schedule for a **period of up to 24 months** after the date of issuance of the NOA. If a longer compliance schedule is required, the NOA and accompanying compliance schedule must be adopted by the Central Valley Water Board. No compliance schedule shall be longer than reasonably necessary for the Discharger to achieve compliance with the effluent limits of this Order.

   All Dischargers requesting a compliance schedule shall include in their NOI a proposed plan (compliance schedule plan) for achieving compliance with effluent limitations in this Order in the shortest practicable timeframe, including specific plans for modifying operations and facilities to achieve this objective and

timelines for carrying out those plans. The revised operation practices and/or facility upgrades must be designed to ensure compliance with Order limitations and other requirements, improve consistency of effluent quality, improve the performance of current WWTP operations, and provide redundancy, as appropriate, for some existing operations.

At a minimum, the compliance schedule plan must address the following:

a. Characterization of the current facility's discharge (e.g., effluent data for the constituents of concern for the past three years minimum).
b. Provide a detailed description and chronological account of efforts undertaken within the past five years to improve or maintain the facility's treatment systems, including any pretreatment measures implemented to reduce influent waste strength.
c. Justification of the need for additional time to achieve the effluent limitations in the Order.
d. A detailed time schedule of specific actions the Discharger will take to achieve compliance with the effluent limitation(s).
e. A demonstration that the time schedule requested is as short as possible, considering the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect the design, development, and implementation of the measures that are necessary to comply with the effluent limitation(s).
f. If the requested time schedule exceeds one year, the proposed schedule shall include interim requirements and the date(s) for their achievement.

8. Dischargers who elect to participate in the SCP Conservative Permitting Approach (individual permitting option) shall comply with the following effluent limitations for EC:

   a. For Large WWTPs discharging to groundwater with the AGR beneficial use, the Large WWTP shall not exceed an electrical conductivity effluent limit of **700 µmhos/cm** (as a monthly average).
   b. For Large WWTPs discharging to groundwater with the MUN beneficial use, but not the AGR beneficial use, the Large WWTP shall not exceed an electrical conductivity effluent limit of **900 µmhos/cm (**as an annual average).

   Dischargers that elect to comply with the Alternative Permitting Approach for the SCP are not subject to these conservative salinity effluent limitations. Instead, Dischargers must comply with the Salinity Action Level Specification specified in Section II.H. and in the NOA.

C. Flow Limitations

1. The flow limitation for each facility enrolled under this Order will be established for either the influent or effluent in the site-specific NOA and shall be based on

the Facility's design treatment capacity and demonstrated storage and disposal capacity as specified in the stamped engineering design documents included in the Discharger's NOI accepted by the Central Valley Water Board. The flow limitation will be specified as a monthly average.

IV. PROVISIONS

A. General Provisions

1. The Discharger shall pay an annual fee to the State Water Board in accordance with the fee schedule for each fiscal year (see Title 23, § 2200). Fees are based on threat to water quality and complexity ratings, which will be determined based on information in the permit application. Annual invoices are issued by the State Water Board for the state fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

2. This Order does not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to the property of another, or protect the Discharger from liabilities under federal, state, or local laws.

3. This Order does not convey any property rights or exclusive privileges.

4. The prohibitions, specifications, limitations, and provisions of this Order are severable. If any prohibition, specification, limitation, or provision of this Order is invalidated, the remainder of this Order shall not be affected.

5. The Discharger shall permit representatives of the Central Valley Water Board and the State Water Board, upon presentation of credentials, to:

    a. Enter and inspect, at reasonable hours, any premises where wastes are treated, stored, or disposed of and facilities in which any records are kept,

    b. Copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this Order,

    c. Inspect, at reasonable hours, monitoring equipment that is or could be used to evaluate compliance with this Order, and

    d. Monitor, sample, photograph, and/or video record any discharge, waste, waste management unit, or monitoring device.

6. WWTPs shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing wastewater treatment operator certificates of the appropriate grades. (Title 23, § 2233, subd. (d)(1).)

7. The Discharger shall operate and maintain all WWTP systems and wastewater disposal areas in accordance with an **Operations and Maintenance Manual** for the WWTP. (See Title 23, § 2233, subd. (d)(2).) The Operations and Maintenance Manual, including expected performance criteria, a process flow diagram, and a copy of all available as-built plans, must be submitted with the Discharger's NOI and kept onsite and periodically updated whenever there is a

change in operational procedures or an expansion of the system. See Appendix B of Attachment C – Notice of Intent Form for additional requirements of the Operations and Maintenance Manual.

8. The Discharger shall keep a copy of this Order, the Discharger's NOA, the separately issued MRP Order, and all technical reports required by this Order at the Large WWTP facility for reference by operating personnel. These technical reports include the following: Pretreatment Program Plan, Operations and Maintenance Manual (including the Sludge Management Plan, Wastewater Disposal Management Plan, and Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan), Recycled Water Feasibility Evaluation and Plan, Salinity Action Plan, Sampling and Analysis Plan, and Title 22 Engineering Report.

9. The Discharger shall ensure that all site operating personnel are familiar with the contents of this Order, the Discharger's NOA, the Operations and Maintenance Manual, the separately issued Monitoring and Reporting Program Order, and, if applicable, any conditionally accepted Title 22 Engineering Report (for non-potable recycled water production and onsite use). To ensure compliance with this requirement, the Discharger shall, at a minimum, implement and document training for all new site operating personnel, as well as annual refresher training for all operating personnel.

10. The Discharger shall maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible any facility, control system, or monitoring device installed to achieve compliance with this Order, the Discharger's NOA, and the associated Monitoring and Reporting Program.

11. For any electrically operated equipment at the WWTP, the failure of which would cause loss of control or containment of waste materials or violation of this Order, the Discharger shall employ safeguards to prevent loss of control over wastes. Such safeguards may include alternate power sources, standby generators, retention capacity, operating procedures, or other means.

12. Public contact with wastewater must be precluded through use of physical barriers, signs, and/or other appropriate means and access to the WWTP must be limited to authorized persons.

13. Dischargers that operate a sanitary sewer system and meet the criteria for coverage under State Water Board *Order WQ-2022-0103-DWQ, Statewide Waste Discharge General Order for Sanitary Sewer Systems*, must enroll under that Order.

14. Following issuance of an NOA, no material changes can be made to the following plans without notifying the Central Valley Water Board. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing at least 90 days in advance of implementing any proposed material change in any of the following plans.

a. Pretreatment Program Plan.
b. Operations and Maintenance Manual.
c. Recycled Water Feasibility Evaluation and Plan.
d. Salinity Action Plan.

15. The Discharger shall submit technical reports as required by this Order (i.e., its NOI, NOA, and MRP) and as requested by the Executive Officer when determined necessary for compliance evaluation. 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 civil engineering, geology, and/or hydrogeology shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, sections 6735, 7835, and 77835.1. Each technical report submitted by the Discharger shall bear the professional's name, signature, and stamp or license number.

16. **Initial Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation Report (required as part of the NOI)**

    An initial evaluation is required for all existing wastewater treatment, storage, emergency bypass, disposal ponds, lagoons, and sludge treatment and storage facilities to determine if wastewater discharged to the facilities poses a threat to underlying groundwater quality. In determining whether unlined pond(s)/unit(s) pose a threat to underlying groundwater, the evaluation should investigate whether downgradient sensitive receptors/beneficial uses have been impacted (e.g., downgradient municipal, private, or agricultural wells). The existing pond and sludge management evaluation report shall be submitted with the NOI. Information regarding the required contents of the initial pond evaluation report is outlined in **Attachment C - Notice of Intent Form**.

17. **Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation Report**

    The Central Valley Water Board may require a Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation Report for Large WWTPs if the Initial Pond and Sludge Management Unit Evaluation Report is found to be incomplete or if existing pond/sludge management units at the facility appear to be causing or contributing to or threatening to cause or contribute to unreasonable degradation of underlying groundwater. Staff will review the Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation Report and information provided in the NOI to determine if a Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation Report is needed. For Large WWTPs required to prepare a Revised Pond Evaluation Report, the NOA and site-specific MRP will require the following:

Table 7: Revised Pond Evaluation Requirements

Item	Due Date
a. **Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation Workplan** The Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation Workplan shall detail the actions the Discharger will take to further assess the potential impact of the Large WWTP's existing ponds and sludge management facilities on underlying groundwater. In addition, the Workplan shall include a **Pond and Sludge Management Unit Hydraulic Conductivity Evaluation Workplan** (See 1 below). In addition to evaluating the pond and sludge management unit hydraulic conductivity, the Workplan should propose actions for obtaining additional groundwater quality monitoring data around the Large WWTP. The Workplan must provide a timeline for completing the proposed tasks.	Specified in the site-specific MRP, but no later than two years from NOA Issuance
b. Annual Status Updates Provide annual updates on the status of the Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation.	Included in the Annual Monitoring Report, as specified in the site-specific MRP.
c. Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation Report The report shall present the results of the Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation as outlined in the approved Workplan. It should include conclusions supported by evidence indicating whether the existing Large WWTP ponds and/or sludge management units impact groundwater quality and, if so, to what extent. If the Discharger has identified actions to mitigate the impact on groundwater quality from ponds and/or sludge management units, the report shall describe those actions and include a timeline for implementation.	Specified in the site-specific MRP, but no later than five years from the established due date of the Revised Pond Evaluation Workplan and not more than 7 years from the NOA Issuance.

1. See Provision IV.A.18. for details of what should be included in the Hydraulic Conductivity Evaluation Workplan

18. Pond and Sludge Management Hydraulic Conductivity Evaluation Workplan

If the Central Valley Water Board determines that the Discharger

needs to conduct a Revised Pond and Sludge Management Evaluation, the Discharger shall also provide a Pond and Sludge Management Unit Hydraulic Conductivity Evaluation Workplan. This evaluation shall determine the hydraulic conductivity of the pond or sludge management unit and any liner system present. At a minimum, the Workplan must include the following:

a. Sampling and Testing Methodology
b. Proposed field investigation methods (e.g., test pits, core samples, borehole drilling, in-situ tests).
c. Planned field equipment and calibration procedures.
d. Anticipated site and weather conditions during testing.
e. Rationale for sample number and locations to ensure representativeness.
f. Laboratory testing procedures to be used (e.g., ASTM standards for hydraulic conductivity).
g. Quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures for sampling, testing, and laboratory accreditation.
h. Data Analysis Approach.
i. How data will be tabulated and summarized.
j. Approach for identifying anomalies, trends, or exceedances.
k. Statistical methods, if applicable.
l. Identification of California-licensed Professional Engineer (PE) or Professional Geologist (PG) responsible for review and certification.
m. Statement that work will follow accepted professional standards.
n. Method Selection Guidance - The Workplan must justify the choice of assessment methods based on required accuracy, site conditions, and wastewater characteristics. Acceptable methods include, but are not limited to:
    i. **In-situ Methods**: Borehole Infiltration, Tension Infiltrometer, Double Ring Infiltrometer
    ii. **Ex-situ Methods**: Flexible Wall Permeameter (Constant Head, Falling Head, Constant Rate of Flow)
    iii. **Water Balance Methods:** Isolated Pond (no inflow/outflow), Un-isolated Pond (inflow/outflow measurement)

19. The Discharger shall identify any information that may be confidential under state law and not subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act (Gov. Code, § 7920.000 et seq.). The Discharger shall identify the basis for confidentiality. If the Executive Officer cannot identify a reasonable basis for treating the information as confidential, the Executive Officer will notify the Discharger that the

information will be placed in the public file unless the Central Valley Water Board receives, within 10 calendar days, a written request from the Discharger to keep the information confidential containing a satisfactory explanation supporting the information's confidentiality. Except for data determined to be exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act and/or Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(2), all reports prepared and submitted in accordance with this Order shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Central Valley Water Board. Data on waste discharges, water quality, meteorology, geology, and hydrogeology shall not be considered confidential.

20. The Discharger shall comply with the separately issued MRP, and any future revisions thereto, as specified by the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer. A template MRP is provided as Attachment A.

21. The California Department of Water Resources sets standards for the construction and destruction of groundwater wells (hereafter DWR Well Standards), as described in California Well Standards Bulletin 74-90 (June 1991) and Water Well Standards: State of California Bulletin 74-81 (December 1981). These standards, 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.

22. 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. 1981].)

B. Reporting and Notification Provisions

Electronic Reporting Requirement

1. The Discharger shall submit all reports and laboratory analytical results electronically via the State Water Board GeoTracker website (http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov). All analytical laboratory data shall be electronically submitted in electronic deliverable format (EDF) for all soil and water samples. Additionally, EDF submittal is also required for all site maps (i.e., GEO_MAP), boring/well survey information, depth to groundwater data, boring logs and well screen intervals, location data (i.e., GEO_XY file), and elevation data (i.e., GEO_Z file). All technical reports (e.g., workplans, assessments, and monitoring reports) shall be electronically submitted in portable document format (PDF). All electronic submittals shall be uploaded to the State Water Board's GeoTracker database over the internet at https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/login.asp. Additional information and guidance for electronic submittal to the GeoTracker Database can be found in the *Electronic Submittal Of Information (Esi) – Frequently Asked Questions*

document (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/electronic_submittal/docs/faq.pdf).

2. More information regarding GeoTracker can be found at http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov. Additionally, Central Valley Water Board staff may request paper copies of a report, data tables, or maps and figures, in certain instances. The Discharger must also report electronically as otherwise specified in the NOA or MRP.

3. The Discharger shall also submit all pretreatment-related documents required by Section II.F, Pretreatment Specifications, the Discharger's NOA, and the facility-specific MRP to the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS).

Violation Notification Requirements

4. If the Discharger does not comply or will be unable to comply with the requirements of this Order or an applicable Title 22 Engineering Report, the Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff by telephone as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 24 hours after the violation is discovered. Current phone numbers for Central Valley Water Board offices may be found on the Dischargers NOA or on the Internet at: Contact Us Page (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/about_us/contact_us/).

5. The Discharger shall provide written notification to the Board within five days of discovering the actual or potential instance(s) of noncompliance. The written notification shall include a description of the date, time, nature, and cause of the instance(s) of actual or potential noncompliance, all immediate response actions undertaken, a detailed schedule of corrective actions to be undertaken to resolve the issue(s), and an estimated date by which the Discharger expects to have resolved the issue(s). The Discharger shall further notify Central Valley Water Board staff in writing when it has returned to compliance.

6. In the event of a wastewater containment failure, the Discharger shall notify the Office of Emergency Services (see Cal. Code Regs. Title 23, § 2250) as soon as possible without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures (see Wat. Code, § 13271, subd. (a)). The Discharger shall also, within 10 days of discovering the containment failure, submit to the Central Valley Water Board a written report of the incident describing the cause of the failure and how a recurrence will be prevented.

7. Notification requirements for the delivery of off-specification recycled water:

    a. In the event the Discharger of non-potable recycled water does not comply with the recycling specifications in Effluent Limitations section III.B.4, the Discharger must notify within 1 day, via telephone and email, the Central Valley Water Board and the applicable DDW District office. Within two weeks of the noncompliance, the Discharger must submit a written follow-up report

to the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer and DDW District Engineer, including pertinent information explaining reasons for the noncompliance and steps being taken to prevent recurrence.

b. In the event the Discharger delivers recycled water not meeting the Uniform Statewide Recycling Criteria specification, the Discharger must immediately notify, via telephone and email, all enrollees of the State Water Board's *Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use (Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW)* with potential to have received recycled water from the WWTP.

8. The Discharger shall report to the Central Valley Water Board any toxic chemical release data that it reports to the State Emergency Response Commission pursuant to section 313 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. § 11023) within 15 days of reporting the data to the Commission.

Signature Requirements

9. All reports submitted in response to this Order, including monitoring reports, shall be signed by one of the following:

   a. For a corporation: by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president.

   b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively.

   c. For a public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

   d. A "duly authorized representative" of one of the above if:

      i. the authorization is made in writing by a person described in this provision above,

      ii. 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); and

      iii. the written authorization is submitted to the Board

   Any person signing a document under this Section shall make the following certification:

   > *I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that*

the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

Change Notification Requirements

10. Pursuant to Water Code section 13260, the Discharger shall file a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) with the Central Valley Water Board before making any material change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge authorized in their NOA. A material change includes, but is not limited to, the following:

    a. A change in area used for waste disposal beyond that specified in the NOA.

    b. A significant change in disposal method, location, or volume (e.g., change from land disposal by spray or drip method to percolation pond or increase in flow).

    c. The addition of a major industrial, municipal, or domestic waste discharge to the influent of the WWTP.

    d. The addition of a major industrial waste discharge to a discharge of essentially domestic sewage, or the addition of a new process or product by an industrial facility, resulting in a change in the character of the waste.

    If the proposed material change is eligible for coverage under this Order, then the ROWD shall include an updated NOI and appropriate Technical Report, as specified in Application for Coverage section of this Order. If the proposed material change may not be eligible for coverage under this Order, the Discharger shall contact the Central Valley Water Board to determine what documentation is required to support a complete ROWD.

11. At least **one year** prior to termination or expiration of any lease, contract, or agreement involving disposal or recycling areas or offsite 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 the measures taken or to be taken to ensure full compliance with this Order and the NOA.

12. Transfer of control, ownership, or operatorship of any Large WWTP covered by this Order must be preceded by a notice to the Central Valley Water Board at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer date. The notice must include a written agreement between the existing Discharger and proposed Discharger containing specific date for transfer of responsibility, coverage, and liability between them. Whether an order may be transferred without modification and a public hearing is at the discretion of the Board. If order modification is necessary, transfer of NOA coverage may be delayed 120 days after the Central Valley Water Board's receipt of a complete Report of Waste Discharge.

13. In the event of any change in ownership, control, or operatorship of the land(s) and/or facility(s) regulated by this Order pursuant to the Discharger's NOA, the succeeding owner, controller, or operator must apply in writing to the Central Valley Water Board requesting a transfer of Order coverage. The request must contain:

    a. The requesting entity's full legal name;

    b. If the requesting entity is a corporation, the state of incorporation;

    c. The address and telephone number of the person(s) responsible for contact with the Central Valley Water Board;

    d. A statement that the new owner or operator assumes full responsibility for compliance with this Order; and,

    e. A completed signed copy of Standard Form 200 – Application/Report of Waste Discharge.

14. Succeeding owners, controllers, and/or operators that fail to submit a request for transfer of coverage shall be discharging waste without a permit, which constitutes a violation of the Water Code. (See Wat. Code, § 13260 et seq.).

15. Within five days of emergency modifications to an SMP, Dischargers shall notify Central Valley Water Board staff with specific actions, related sludge volumes, and supporting rationale.

C. Closure of Facilities

1. Dischargers seeking to close an entire facility or portions of a facility covered under this Order shall file a Facility Closure Workplan with the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with the requirements described below. The Facility Closure Workplan shall include:

    a. A certified statement of intent to close all or a portion of WWTPs enrolled under this Order.

    b. A detailed characterization of the facilities proposed for closure, including:

    - Identification of all areas that have historically stored waste, both liquid and solid.
    - A detailed discussion of the actions completed, or planned, to remove any remaining sludge or waste from the identified areas. This should include proposed methods for data collection (e.g., soil sampling, photographic documentation, or other relevant evidence) to demonstrate that the areas have been adequately cleaned and no longer contain waste that could pose a risk to underlying groundwater quality.
    - Groundwater monitoring well destruction, where applicable.
    - A timeline for implementing the proposed actions.

- A discussion of the intended use of the facilities or areas once the closure is complete.

V. 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 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.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board for administrative review in accordance with Water Code section 13320, and Title 23 section 2050 et seq. To be timely, the State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 pm on the 30th day after the date of this Order, except that 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 pm on the next business day. The law and regulations applicable to filing petitions are available on the internet at the State Water Boards' Public Notices Petitions for Water Quality webpage (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality). Copies will be provided upon request.

VII. REOPENER

The requirements, limitations, and provisions for discharges covered by this Order were developed based on the latest technical information and relevant water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans, and are designed to ensure compliance with these standards. If applicable laws and regulations change, or if new technical information becomes available that requires Order modifications to comply with those laws and regulations, it may be necessary to reopen this Order.