CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2025-0050

AMENDING ORDER
R5-2023-0033
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
CA0084271

CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOUSE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

FINDINGS

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Central Valley Water Board) finds that:

1. On 22 June 2023, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2023-0033 (NPDES Permit No. CA0084271), prescribing waste discharge requirements for the City of Mountain House, (formerly the Mountain House Community Services District) Wastewater Treatment Plant. For the purposes of this Order, the City of Mountain House is hereafter referred to as "Discharger" and the Wastewater Treatment Plant is hereafter referred to as "Facility."

2. Current Order R5-2023-0033 authorizes an average dry weather flow (ADWF) discharge of up to 3 million gallons per day (MGD) of tertiary treated effluent to the Old River, a water of the United States and within the legal boundary of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

3. Current Order R5-2023-0033 includes a reopener provision in WDRs Section VI.C.1 that allows modification of the permitted ADWF up to 5.4 MGD, provided the Discharger complies with specific conditions.

4. Current Order R5-2023-0033 also includes antidegradation findings for the permitted discharge flow increase that have been carried forward since the adoption of Order 98-192 in 1998. In adopting Order 98-192, the Regional Water Board made findings that, "The permitted discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provisions of 40 CFR 131.12 and State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16." In adopting subsequent permit renewals, the Regional Water Board again considered 40 CFR 131.12 and Resolution 68-16 and found that the increased permitted discharge flow rate is consistent with Resolution 68-16 because (1) any such degradation is consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state, (2) the discharge is the result of wastewater utility service that is necessary to accommodate growing housing and economic expansion, and (3) it results in a high level of treatment of sewage waste. The current Order requires tertiary treatment or equivalent, which is a high level of treatment that is considered best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) for most constituents in wastewater and will result in attaining water quality standards applicable to the discharge.

5. The Discharger submitted a technical memorandum, dated 28 January 2025, demonstrating that Facility upgrades and expansion are substantially complete and requesting an expansion of the permitted ADWF from 3 MGD to 4 MGD to be discharged to the Old River. The technical memorandum also demonstrated compliance with the conditions in WDRs Section VI.C.1.i of the current Order.

6. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) ("CEQA") pursuant to Water Code section 13389, since the adoption or modification of a NPDES permit for an existing source is statutorily exempt and this Order only serves to implement a NPDES permit. (Pacific Water Conditioning Ass'n, Inc. v. Discharger Council of Discharger of Riverside (1977) 73 Cal.App.3d 546, 555-556.).

7. The Central Valley Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend Waste Discharge Requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

BOARD ACTION
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Effective immediately, Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2023-0033 (NPDES CA0084271) is amended as shown in items 1 through 10, below.

1. The Order number is changed from R5-2023-0033 to R5-2023-0033-01 throughout the Order.

2. The Discharger name is changed from Mountain House Community Services District to City of Mountain House throughout the Order, consistent with the name change adopted on 18 October 2024 by Order R5-2024-0057.

3. Cover Page. Modify the last paragraph to the text shown below:

   I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 22 June 2023 and amended by Order R5-2025-0050 on **22 August 2025**.

4. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Section III.E. Modify the text as shown below:

   E. **Average Dry Weather Flow.** Discharges exceeding an average dry weather flow of 4 million gallons per day (MGD) are prohibited.

5. Attachment C – Remove Figure C-1, which is the flow schematic of the old Facility, and rename Figure C-2 as Figure C-1 and relabel it to "Current City of Mountain House Wastewater Treatment Plant Flow Schematic."

6. Attachment F – Section I. PERMIT INFORMATION. Modify Table F-1 Facility information to update the authorized person contact information, facility permitted flow and design flow as shown below (Only sections of the table with changes are shown):

Table F-1. Facility Information

Facility Contact, Title and Phone Number:	Ronald Tobey, Chief Plant Operator, (925) 914-0855 Greg Wiltfong, Regional Manager, (530) 392-6322
Authorized Person to Sign and Submit Reports:	Karen Morgan, Utilities Manager, (209) 831-5648
	Ronald Tobey, Chief Plant Operator, (925) 914-0855 Greg Wiltfong, Regional Manager, (530) 392-6322
Facility Permitted Flow:	Existing Plant: 4.0 million gallons per day (MGD), average dry weather flow. Expanded Plant: 5.4 MGD, average dry weather flow
Facility Design Flow:	Existing Plant: 4.0 MGD, average dry weather flow. Expanded Plant: 5.4 MGD, average dry weather flow

7. Attachment F – Section II. FACILITY DESCRIPTION. Modify the section as shown below:

II. Facility Description

The Discharger provides sewerage service for the community of Mountain House and serves a population of approximately 21,750. The current design daily average flow capacity of the Facility is 4.0 MGD, with plans to expand the capacity up to 5.4 MGD.

A. Description of Wastewater and Biosolids Treatment and Controls

The Discharger has completed construction of modifications and improvements to the Facility to improve treatment reliability and production of effluent quality that meets Title 22 recycled water applications, and the average dry weather flow treatment capacity has increased to 4 MGD. The Facility improvements included installation of five new influent pumps, new ultra-fine screening and grit removal headworks, replacing the sequencing batch reactors (SBRs) and disk filters with membrane bioreactors (MBRs), and upgrading the UV disinfection system. The capacity of the influent pump station has increased to 18 MGD to sustain peak wet weather flows.

The Facility consists of the following unit operations: influent pumping, flow measurement, fine screening, grit removal, emergency storage,

MBR process for biological treatment and filtration, UV disinfection, effluent pumping, effluent disposal, chlorine residual addition (on and offsite reuse), and solids handling.

The Facility also includes two lined, aerated storage reservoirs for use during emergency situations and during plant maintenance. The storage reservoirs have a capacity of approximately 12 million gallons, which provide automatic short-term emergency storage. Level and flow metering, aeration equipment, and discharge pumping facilities are available to allow a metered return to the regular process stream.

Sludge handling at the Facility includes two stage aerobic digesters, a drum thickener, and a centrifuge. Sludge supernatant is returned to the anoxic reactor headworks prior to proceeding to the fine screens. Solids are collected in a truck and removed by a hauler (currently Synagro) for disposal at a licensed biosolids facility. The Facility produces approximately 150 dry metric tons of dried biosolids annually. Transportation and disposal/reuse of the biosolids is regulated by U.S. EPA under 40 C.F.R. part 503.

8. Attachment F – Section II.E. Update the Planned Changes as shown below:

E. Planned Changes

The Discharger has plans to ultimately expand treatment capacity to 5.4 MGD to accommodate population growth. The Facility is currently using four out of the six filter bays in the MBR system. Once another expansion is needed, the remaining two filter bays will be equipped with new filters and permeate pumps, along with some minor adjustments made to the control strategy in the operating system. The need for an expansion of treatment capacity to 5.4 MGD is dependent upon the rate of population growth.

9. Attachment F – Section III.C.d. Add the below paragraph to the end of the section:

On 28 January 2025, the Discharger submitted a request to reopen Order R5-2023-0033 to amend the permitted discharge flow rate, consistent with the provisions in WDRs Section VI.C.2.i. The provisions required the Discharger to demonstrate that the upgraded Facility and expanded discharge flow rate from 3 to 4 MGD can comply with the Thermal Plan effluent and receiving water limitations, and any applicable Thermal Plan exceptions. As part of the request, the Discharger submitted a technical memo demonstrating that the discharge, at a flow rate of 4 MGD average dry weather flow, can meet the temperature effluent limit approved by the Thermal Plan exception and temperature receiving water limits. Central Valley Water Board staff find that the increase in discharge flow does not change any of the aforementioned thermal impacts analysis or determinations.

10. Attachment F – Section VI.B.1.f. Modify Reopener Provision for Facility Expansion as shown below:

    f. **Facility Expansion.** In January 2025, the Discharger submitted a request to expand the permitted ADWF discharge to Old River to 4.0 MGD following the completion of certain upgrades at the Facility. As required by this reopener provision, the Discharger certified that the upgraded facility meets the requirements of sections IV.A.1, IV.A.2, and V.A of this Order and that the upgraded Facility can accommodate and de-water the increased sludge volume. The Discharger also provided information demonstrating the increased discharge will comply with section V.A.14 of this Order.

    The Discharger has requested an expansion of allowable flows to be discharged up to 5.4 MGD to the Old River following the completion of the Facility's expansion. This provision requires the Discharger to certify that the upgraded facility can meet the requirements of sections IV.A.1, IV.A.2, and V.A of this Order and that the upgraded Facility can accommodate and de-water the increased sludge volume. The Discharger is required to provide information demonstrating the increased discharge will comply with section V.A.14 of this Order. Therefore, this Order may be reopened to modify the permitted average dry-weather flow up to 5.4 MGD upon compliance with the above conditions.

End of Amendments

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with CWC section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date that this Order becomes final, except that if the thirtieth day following the date that this Order becomes final falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday (including mandatory furlough days), the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day.
Links to the laws and regulations applicable to filing petitions
(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) may be found on the Internet or will be provided upon request.

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 22 August 2025.

Date: 2025.09.04 15:25:50 -07'00'

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer