

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

In the Matter of:

**City of Rio Vista
Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility
Solano County**

ORDER R5-2022-0503 (Proposed)

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND
STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF
ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY
ORDER**

I. Introduction

1. This Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order (Stipulated Order or Order) is entered into by and between the Assistant Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), on behalf of the Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team (Prosecution Team), and the City of Rio Vista (Discharger) (collectively known as the Parties) and is presented to the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, for adoption as an order by settlement, pursuant to California Water Code section 13323 and Government Code section 11415.60.

II. Recitals

2. The Discharger owns and operates the Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, which provides sewerage service to the City of Rio Vista. Treated municipal wastewater is discharged to the Sacramento River, a water of the United States.
3. In order to regulate discharges from the Facility, on 7 February 2014 the Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2014-0012 (NPDES CA0079588), which was amended to R5-2014-0012-01 by order R5-2014-0122 on 9 October 2014. On 8 February 2019, the Board adopted WDRs Order R5-2019-0016, which became effective on 1 April 2019. Order R5-2019-0016 rescinded Order R5-2014-0012-01 except for enforcement purposes.
4. WDRs Order R5-2014-0012-01, IV.A.1.f., includes the following effluent limitations at Discharge Point 001:
 - f. **Total Coliform Organisms.** Effluent total coliform organisms shall not exceed:
 - i. 23 most probable number (MPN) per 100 mL, as a 7-day median; and
 - ii. 240 MPN/100 mL, more than once in any 30-day period.
5. WDRs Order R5-2019-0016, IV.A.1.a., includes, in part, the following effluent limitations at Discharge Point 001:

Table 1. Effluent Limitations

Parameter	Units	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-day @ 20°C)	mg/L	30	45	--
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	30	45	--
Ammonia	mg/L	11	24	--

6. WDRs Order R5-2019-0016, IV.A.1.b., includes the following effluent limitations:

b. Percent Removal. The average monthly percent removal of 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) and total suspended solids (TSS) shall not be less than 85 percent.

7. WDRs Order R5-2019-0016, IV.A.1.f., includes the following effluent limitations:

f. Total Coliform Organisms. Effluent total coliform organisms shall not exceed:

- i. 23 most probable number (MPN) per 100 mL, as a 7-day median; and
- ii. 240 MPN/100 mL, more than once in any 30-day period.

8. WDRs Order R5-2019-0016, IV.A.1.h., includes the following effluent limitation:

b. Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C. The effluent calendar year annual average electrical conductivity shall not exceed 1,300 µmhos/cm.

9. On 20 April 2022, Central Valley Water Board staff issued the Discharger a Notice of Violation and draft Record of Violations (ROV) for effluent limitation violations which occurred from 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2021. The Discharger responded on 2 May 2022 to the ROV and agreed with the violations.

10. This Order addresses an administrative civil liability (ACL) for effluent limitation violations that occurred between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2021. These violations are specifically identified in Attachment A, Record of Violations, to this Order as subject to mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs). Attachment A to this Order is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

11. Water Code section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i) require assessment of mandatory penalties and state, in part, the following:

Water Code section 13385, subdivision (h)(1) states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, and except as provided in subdivisions (j), (k), and (l), a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be assessed for each serious violation.

Water Code section 13385, subdivision (h)(2) states:

For the purposes of this section, a “serious violation” means any waste discharge that violates the effluent limitations contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements for a Group II pollutant, as specified in Appendix A to Section 123.45 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by 20 percent or more or for a Group I pollutant, as specified in Appendix A to Section 123.45 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by 40 percent or more.

Water Code section 13385, subdivision (i)(1) states, in part:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, and except as provided in subdivisions (j), (k), and (l), a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be assessed for each violation whenever the person does any of the following four or more times in any period of six consecutive months, except that the requirement to assess the mandatory minimum penalty shall not be applicable to the first three violations:

- A) Violates a waste discharge requirement effluent limitation.
- B) Fails to file a report pursuant to Section 13260.
- C) Files an incomplete report pursuant to Section 13260.
- D) Violates a toxicity effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements where the waste discharge requirements do not contain pollutant-specific effluent limitations for toxic pollutants.

12. According to the Discharger’s self-monitoring reports, the Discharger committed ten (10) serious violations and sixteen (16) non-serious violations of the above effluent limitations contained in WDRs Order R5-2014-0012-01 and WDRs Order R5-2019-0016 as shown in Attachment A. All (10) serious violations are subject to MMPs under Water Code section 13385, and eleven (11) of the sixteen (16) non-serious violations are subject to MMPs under Water Code section 13385, subdivision (i)(1) because these violations were preceded by three or more effluent limit violations within a 180-day period.

13. The total amount of the MMPs assessed for the alleged effluent violations is **sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000)**. As stated herein, a detailed list of the alleged effluent limitation violations is included in Attachment A. This Order addresses an ACL for violations that are specifically identified in Attachment A as subject to MMPs.

14. Water Code section 13385, subdivision (k) states:

(1) In lieu of assessing all or a portion of the mandatory minimum penalties pursuant to Water Code section 13385 subdivisions (h) and (i) against a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community, the state board or the regional board may elect to require the publicly owned treatment works to spend an equivalent amount towards the completion of a compliance project proposed by the publicly owned treatment works, if the state board or the regional board finds all of the following:

- (A) The compliance project is designed to correct the violations within five years.
- (B) The compliance project is in accordance with the enforcement policy of the state board, excluding any provision in the policy that is inconsistent with this section.
- (C) The publicly owned treatment works has prepared a financing plan to complete the compliance project.

(2) For the purposes of this subdivision, “a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community” means a publicly owned treatment works serving a population of 20,000 persons or fewer or a rural county, with a financial hardship as determined by the state board after considering such factors as median income of the residents, rate of unemployment, or low population density in the service area of the publicly owned treatment works.

15. Under the State Water Resources Control Board’s Water Quality Enforcement Policy (Enforcement Policy), a publicly owned treatment work (POTW) serving a small community is a POTW serving a community that has a financial hardship and has a population of 10,000 or fewer people or lies completely within one or more rural counties.

Following adoption of the Enforcement Policy, Water Code section 13385, subdivision (k)(2) was amended to raise the population threshold to 20,000 or fewer people.

16. Under the Enforcement Policy, “financial hardship” means that the community served by the POTW meets one of the following criteria:

- a. Median household income for the community is less than 80 percent of the California median household income;
- b. The community has an unemployment rate of 10 percent or greater; or
- c. Twenty percent of the population is below the poverty level.

17. The Central Valley Water Board finds the Discharger is eligible for a Compliance Project because the Facility is a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community with a financial hardship—it is located in Solano County, which is a qualified rural county based on the 2013 United States Department of Agriculture Rural-Urban Continuum Codes for California, and serves a population of 5,287, of which 1,060 (or 20%) are below the poverty level according to 2020 decennial census block data.

18. The Parties have engaged in confidential settlement negotiations and agree to settle the matter without administrative or civil litigation by presenting this Stipulated Order to the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, for adoption as an order by settlement, pursuant to Water Code section 13323 and Government Code section 11415.60. To resolve the violations by consent and without further administrative

proceedings, the Parties have agreed to the imposition of an ACL in the amount of **sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000)** in MMPs against the Discharger.

19. The Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team believes that the resolution of the alleged violations is fair and reasonable and fulfills its enforcement objectives, that no further action is warranted concerning the violations alleged herein and that this Stipulated Order is in the best interest of the public.

III. Stipulations

The Parties stipulate to the following:

20. **Jurisdiction:** The Parties agree that the Central Valley Water Board has subject matter jurisdiction over the matters alleged in this action and personal jurisdiction of the Parties to this Stipulation.

21. **Administrative Civil Liability:**

- a. The Discharger hereby agrees to the imposition of an ACL in the amount of **sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000)** to the Central Valley Water Board to resolve the violations specifically alleged in Attachment A to this Order.
- b. In lieu of assessing all of the **sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000)** the Parties agree that the Discharger shall spend an equivalent amount towards the completion of a Compliance Project and the ACL shall be suspended (Suspended Liability) if the Discharger complies with the time schedule and requirements for the Compliance Project as detailed herein and in Attachment B of this Order. Attachment B to this Order is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

19. **Description of the Compliance Project:** The Compliance Project consists of wastewater treatment plant and collection system modifications to improve effluent water quality and minimize violations associated with treated effluent discharge. The compliance project consists of:

- Install pH sensor in the primary clarifier effluent channel and integrate into SCADA.
- Install pH sensor at the Marina Lift Station.
- Install pH sensor at the City Hall Lift Station.
- Install automatic gate valves in the aeration basins.

Additional information regarding the Compliance Project is found in Attachment B.

20. **Representations and Agreements of the Discharger to Implement and Complete, Report, and Guarantee Implementation of the Compliance Project:** The Discharger understands that its promise to implement the Compliance Project, in its entirety and in accordance with the schedule for implementation, is a material condition of this settlement of liability between the Discharger and the Central Valley

Water Board Prosecution Team. As a material consideration for the Central Valley Water Board's acceptance of this Stipulated Order, the Discharger represents and agrees that, in accordance with Water Code section 13385, subdivision (k)(1):

- a. The Compliance Project is designed to correct the violations within five years.
- b. The Compliance Project is in accordance with the enforcement policy of the state board.
 - i. The Discharger will implement and complete the Compliance Project as described in Attachment B to this Order;
 - ii. The Discharger will provide certifications and written reports to the Central Valley Water Board contact consistent with the terms of this Stipulated Order;
 - iii. The Discharger will guarantee implementation of the Compliance Project identified in Attachment B to this Order by remaining liable for the ACL of sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000) until the Compliance Project is completed and accepted by the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with the terms of this Stipulated Order;
 - iv. The Discharger agrees that the Central Valley Water Board has the right to require a third-party audit of the funds expended by it to implement the Compliance Project; and
 - v. The Discharger shall permit inspection of the Compliance Project by Central Valley Water Board staff during normal business hours, at any location where the Compliance Project is being implemented, as well as review of any documents associated with implementation of the Compliance Project, at any time without notice.
- c. The Discharger has prepared a financing plan to complete the Compliance Project.

21. Extension of the Implementation Schedule Deadlines: If the Discharger cannot meet any of the deadlines or the Completion Deadline contained in Attachment B to this Order due to circumstances beyond the Discharger's anticipation or control, the Discharger shall notify the Executive Officer in writing within thirty (30) days of the date the Discharger first knew of the event or circumstance that caused or could cause a violation of this Order. The notice shall describe the reason for the nonperformance and specifically refer to this Paragraph. The notice shall describe the anticipated length of time the delay may persist, the cause or causes of the delay, the measures taken or to be taken by the Discharger to prevent or minimize the delay, the schedule by which the measures will be implemented, and the anticipated date of compliance. The Discharger shall adopt all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize such delays. The determination as to whether the circumstances were beyond the reasonable control of the Discharger and its agents will be made by the Executive Officer. Where the Executive Officer concurs that compliance was or is impossible, despite the timely good faith efforts of the

Discharger, due to circumstances beyond the control of the Discharger that could not have been reasonably foreseen and prevented by the exercise of reasonable diligence by the Discharger, a new compliance deadline shall be established and this Order will be revised accordingly. The Executive Officer will endeavor to grant a reasonable extension of time if warranted.

22. **Compliance Project Oversight:** The Discharger will oversee implementation of the Compliance Project. The Central Valley Water Board will provide additional oversight. The Discharger is solely responsible for paying all reasonable oversight costs incurred by the Central Valley Water Board to oversee the Compliance Project. The Compliance Project oversight costs are in addition to the ACL imposed against the Discharger and are not credited towards the Discharger's obligation to implement and complete the Compliance Project. Reasonable oversight tasks to be performed by the Central Valley Water Board include but are not limited to, reviewing and evaluating progress, reviewing the final report, and verifying completion of the Compliance Project.
23. **Third Party Financial Audit of Compliance Project:** At the written request of the Central Valley Water Board, the Discharger, at its sole cost, shall submit a report prepared by an independent third party(ies) acceptable to the Central Valley Water Board providing such party's(ies') professional opinion that the Discharger has expended money in the amounts claimed by the Discharger. The written request shall specify the reasons why the audit is being requested. The audit report shall be provided to the Central Valley Water Board within three (3) months of notice from the Central Valley Water Board to the Discharger of the need for an independent third-party audit. The audit need not address any costs incurred by the Central Valley Water Board for oversight.
24. **Failure to Expend the Entire Suspended Liability on the Approved Compliance Project:** In the event that the Discharger is not able to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Central Valley Water Board that the entire Suspended Liability has been spent for the completed Compliance Project, the Discharger shall pay an ACL of the difference between the Suspended Liability and the amount the Discharger can demonstrate was actually spent on the Compliance Project. The Discharger shall be liable to pay the State Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Account this amount within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Central Valley Water Board's determination that the Discharger failed to demonstrate that the entire Suspended Liability was spent to complete the Compliance Project.
25. **Failure to Complete the Compliance Project:** Except as provided for in Paragraph 24, if the Compliance Project as described in Attachment B to this Order is determined to be infeasible, or if the Discharger fails to complete the Compliance Project by the deadline contained in Attachment B to this Order, the Central Valley Water Board shall issue an invoice to the Discharger in the amount of sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000), plus any Compliance Project oversight costs incurred.

The Discharger shall be liable to pay the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account this suspended liability within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

26. **Certification of Completion of the Compliance Project:** On or before 30 June 2022, the Discharger shall provide a certified statement of completion of the Compliance Project (Certification of Completion). The Certification of Completion shall be submitted by a responsible official under penalty of perjury under the law of the state of California, to the Central Valley Water Board contact identified in Paragraph 30. The Certification of Completion shall include the following:
- a. Certification that the Compliance Project has been completed in accordance with the terms of this Stipulated Order. Such documentation may include photographs, invoices, receipts, certifications, and other materials reasonably necessary for the Central Valley Water Board to evaluate the completion of the Compliance Project and the costs incurred by the Discharger.
 - b. Certification documenting the expenditures by the Discharger during the completion period for the Compliance Project. Expenditures may include but are not limited to, payments to outside vendors or contractors implementing the Compliance Project. The Discharger shall provide any additional information requested by Central Valley Water Board staff that is reasonably necessary to verify Compliance Project expenditures.
 - c. Certification that the Discharger followed all applicable environmental laws and regulations in the implementation of the Compliance Project including but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the federal Clean Water Act, and the Porter-Cologne Act.
27. **Completion of the Compliance Project to the Central Valley Water Board's Satisfaction:** Upon the Discharger's satisfaction of its Compliance Project obligations under this Stipulated Order, and any audit requested by the Central Valley Water Board, Central Valley Water Board staff shall send the Discharger a letter recognizing satisfactory completion of its obligations under the Compliance Project. Receipt of this letter shall terminate any further Compliance Project obligations of the Discharger and result in the dismissal of the Suspended Liability.
28. **Publicity:** Whenever the Discharger or its agents or subcontractors publicizes one or more elements of the Compliance Project, it shall state in a prominent manner that the Compliance Project is being undertaken as part of the settlement of an enforcement action by the Central Valley Water Board against the Discharger.
29. **Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulatory Changes:** The Discharger understands that payment of an ACL in accordance with the terms of this Stipulated Order and/or compliance with the terms of this Stipulated Order is not a substitute for compliance with applicable laws, and that additional violations of the type alleged may subject it to further enforcement, including additional ACLs. Nothing in this Stipulated Order shall excuse the Discharger from meeting any more stringent

requirements which may be imposed hereafter by changes in applicable and legally binding legislation or regulations.

30. Party Contacts for Communications Related to Stipulated Order:

For the Central Valley Water Board:

Xuan Luo, Ph.D., P.E.
Senior Water Resources Control Engineer
NPDES/Forest Activities Compliance and Enforcement
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 464-4606
Xuan.Luo@waterboards.ca.gov

For the Discharger:

Rob Hickey, City Manager
City of Rio Vista
One Main Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571
(707) 374-6451
rhickey@ci.rio-vista.ca.us

- 31. Attorney's Fees and Costs:** Except as otherwise provided herein, each Party shall bear all attorneys' fees and costs arising from the Party's own counsel in connection with the matters set forth herein.
- 32. Public Notice:** The Discharger understands that this Stipulated Order will be noticed for a 30-day public review and comment period prior to consideration by the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee. If significant new information is received that reasonably affects the propriety of presenting this Stipulated Order to the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, for adoption, the Assistant Executive Officer may unilaterally declare this Stipulated Order void and decide not to present it to the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee. The Discharger agrees that it may not rescind or otherwise withdraw its approval of this proposed Stipulated Order.
- 33. Procedure:** The Parties agree that the procedure that has been adopted for the approval of the settlement by the Parties and review by the public, as reflected in this Order, will be adequate. In the event procedural objections are raised prior to this Stipulated Order becoming effective, the Parties agree to meet and confer concerning any such objections and may agree to revise or adjust the procedure as necessary or advisable under the circumstances.
- 34. No Waiver of Right to Enforce:** The failure of the Prosecution Team or Central Valley Water Board to enforce any provision of this Stipulated Order shall in no way be deemed a waiver of such provision, or in any way affect the validity of this Stipulated Order. The failure of the Prosecution Team or Central Valley Water Board

to enforce any such provision shall not preclude it from later enforcing the same or any other provision of this Stipulated Order. No oral advice, guidance, suggestions, or comments by employees or officials of any Party regarding matters covered under this Stipulated Order shall be construed to relieve any Party regarding matters covered in this Stipulated Order. The Central Valley Water Board reserves all rights to take additional enforcement actions, including without limitation the issuance of ACL complaints or orders for violations other than those addressed by this Order.

35. **Effect of Stipulated Order:** Except as expressly provided in this Stipulated Order, nothing in this Stipulated Order is intended nor shall it be construed to preclude the Central Valley Water Board or any state agency, department, board or entity or any local agency from exercising its authority under any law, statute, or regulation.
36. **Interpretation:** This Stipulated Order shall not be construed against the party preparing it but shall be construed as if the Parties jointly prepared it and any uncertainty and ambiguity shall not be interpreted against any one party.
37. **Modification:** This Stipulated Order shall not be modified by any of the Parties by oral representation whether made before or after the execution of this Order. All modifications must be made in writing and approved by the Central Valley Water Board or its delegee.
38. **Integration:** This Stipulated Order constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and may not be amended or supplemented except as provided for in this Stipulated Order.
39. **If Order Does Not Take Effect:** In the event that this Stipulated Order does not take effect because it is not approved by the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, or is vacated in whole or in part by the State Water Board or a court, the Parties acknowledge that the Prosecution Team may proceed to a contested evidentiary hearing before the Central Valley Water Board to determine whether to assess an ACL for the underlying alleged violations, or may continue to pursue settlement. The Parties agree that all oral and written statements and agreements made during the course of settlement discussions will not be admissible as evidence in any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding or hearing and will be fully protected by California Evidence Code sections 1152 and 1154; California Government Code section 11415.60; Rule 408, Federal Rules of Evidence; and any other applicable privilege under federal and/or state law. The Parties also agree to waive any and all objections related to their efforts to settle this matter, including, but not limited to:
- a. Objections related to prejudice or bias of any of the Central Valley Water Board members or their advisors and any other objections to the extent that they are premised in whole or in part on the fact that the Central Valley Water Board members or their advisors were exposed to some of the material facts and the Parties settlement positions, and therefore may have formed impressions or conclusions, prior to conducting any contested evidentiary hearing in this matter; or

- b. Laches or delay or other equitable defenses based on the time period that the Order or decision by settlement may be subject to administrative or judicial review.
40. **Waiver of Hearing:** The Discharger has been informed of the rights provided by Water Code section 13323, subdivision (b), and hereby waives its right to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board.
41. **Waiver of Right to Petition:** The Discharger hereby waives the right to petition the Central Valley Water Board's adoption of the Stipulated Order as written for review by the State Water Board, and further waives the rights, if any, to appeal the same to a California Superior Court and/or any California appellate level court.
42. **Covenant Not to Sue:** Upon the effective date of this Stipulated Order, Discharger shall and does release, discharge, and covenant not to sue or pursue any civil or administrative claims against any State Agency or the State of California, its officers, agents, directors, employees, attorneys, representatives, for any and all claims or cause of action, which arise out of or are related to this action.
43. **Water Boards Not Liable:** Neither the Central Valley Water Board members, nor the Central Valley Water Board staff, attorneys, or representatives shall be liable for any injury or damage to persons or property resulting from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions by the Discharger or its respective directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, or contractors in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order, nor shall the Central Valley Water Board, its members, staff, attorneys, or representatives be held as parties to or guarantors of any contract entered into by the Discharger, or its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, or contractors in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order.
44. **Authority to Bind:** Each person executing this Stipulated Order in a representative capacity represents and warrants that he or she is authorized to execute this Order on behalf of and to bind the entity on whose behalf he or she executes the Order.
45. **Necessity for Written Approvals:** All approvals and decisions of the Central Valley Water Board under the terms of this Stipulated Order shall be communicated to the Discharger in writing. No oral advice, guidance, suggestions, or comments by employees or officials of the Central Valley Water Board regarding submissions or notices shall be construed to relieve the Discharger of its obligation to obtain any final written approval required by this Stipulated Order.
46. **No Third-Party Beneficiaries:** This Stipulated Order is not intended to confer any rights or obligation on any third party or parties, and no third party or parties shall have any right of action under this Stipulated Order for any cause whatsoever.
47. **Severability:** This Stipulated Order is severable; should any provision be found invalid the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

48. **Effective Date:** This Stipulated Order shall be effective and binding on the Parties upon the date the Central Valley Water Board, or its delegee, enters the Order.

49. **Counterpart Signatures:** This Order may be executed and delivered in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall be deemed to be an original, but such counterparts shall together constitute one document.

IT IS SO STIPULATED.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Prosecution Team
Central Valley Region

By: Original signed by _____
John J. Baum
Assistant Executive Officer

8/3/2022
Date

City of Rio Vista

By: Original signed by _____
Robert Hickey
City Manager

8/4/2022
Date

HAVING CONSIDERED THE PARTIES STIPULATIONS, THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, BY AND THROUGH ITS EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FINDS THAT:

1. The foregoing Stipulation is fully incorporated herein and made part of this Order.
2. This is an action to enforce the laws and regulations administered by the Central Valley Water Board. The Central Valley Water Board finds that issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, sections 21000 et seq.), in accordance with section 15321, subdivision (a)(2), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations.
3. The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board is authorized to refer this matter directly to the Attorney General for enforcement if the Discharger fails to perform any of its obligations under this Order.

Pursuant to Water Code section 13323 and Government Code section 11415.60, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** on behalf of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Attachment A: Record of Violations
Attachment B: Compliance Project Description

**CITY OF RIO VISTA
 CITY OF RIO VISTA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
 RECORD OF VIOLATIONS (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2021) MANDATORY PENALTIES
 (Data reported under Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2014-0012-01 and R5-2019-0016)**

The following table lists the alleged violations subject to mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs), pursuant to Water Code section 13385(h) and (i).

Table A. Violations Subject to Mandatory Penalties

Item	Date	Parameter	Units	Limit	Measured	Period	Violation Type	MMP Type	CIWQS
1	4/6/2018	Total coliform	MPN/100 mL	23	181	7-Day Median	OEV	NCHRON	1043791
2	12/12/2020	BOD	mg/L	45	58	Weekly Average	CAT 1	NCHRON	1086962
3	12/12/2020	TSS	mg/L	45	56	Weekly Average	CAT 1	NCHRON	1086963
4	12/31/2020	Conductivity	umhos/cm	1300	1322	Annual Average	CAT 1	NCHRON	1085220
5	12/31/2020	TSS Removal	%	85	78	Monthly Average	CAT 1	CHRON	1086964
6	1/9/2021	BOD	mg/L	45	106	Weekly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1086938
7	1/9/2021	TSS	mg/L	45	95	Weekly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1086942
8	1/16/2021	BOD	mg/L	45	81	Weekly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1086939
9	1/16/2021	TSS	mg/L	45	94	Weekly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1086943
10	1/31/2021	BOD	mg/L	30	51	Monthly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1086936
11	1/31/2021	TSS	mg/L	30	49	Monthly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1086937
12	1/31/2021	BOD Removal	%	85	70	Monthly Average	CAT 1	CHRON	1086940
13	1/31/2021	TSS Removal	%	85	24	Monthly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1086941
14	9/25/2021	BOD	mg/L	45	86	Weekly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1102228
15	9/30/2021	Ammonia	mg/L	11	13	Monthly Average	CAT 1	NCHRON	1102229
16	9/30/2021	BOD	mg/L	30	50	Monthly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1102230
17	10/23/2021	TSS	mg/L	45	55	Weekly Average	CAT 1	CHRON	1097424
18	10/23/2021	BOD	mg/L	45	71	Weekly Average	CAT 1	CAT 1 SIG	1097425
19	10/31/2021	TSS Removal	%	85	76	Monthly Average	CAT 1	CHRON	1097426

Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order R5-2022-0503
 Attachment A
 City of Rio Vista

Item	Date	Parameter	Units	Limit	Measured	Period	Violation Type	MMP Type	CIWQS
20	10/31/2021	BOD Removal	%	85	84	Monthly Average	CAT 1	CHRON	1097427
21	11/2/2021	Total coliform	MPN/100 mL	23	79	7-day Median	OEV	CHRON	1098601
22	11/8/2021	Total coliform	MPN/100 mL	23	105	7-day Median	OEV	CHRON	1098602
23	11/12/2021	Total coliform	MPN/100 mL	23	865	7-day Median	OEV	CHRON	1098596
24	11/18/2021	Total coliform	MPN/100 mL	23	81	7-day Median	OEV	CHRON	1098598
25	11/24/2021	Total coliform	MPN/100 mL	23	66	7-day Median	OEV	CHRON	1098599
26	11/30/2021	Total coliform	MPN/100 mL	23	66	7-day Median	OEV	CHRON	1098600

VIOLATIONS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021

Group I Serious Violations:	10
Group II Serious Violations:	0
Non-Serious Violations Not Subject to MMPs:	5
Non-serious Violations Subject to MMPs:	11
Total Violations Subject to MMPs:	21

Mandatory Minimum Penalty Amount for Effluent Limit Violations

10 of Serious Violations x \$3,000 Violation = \$30,000

11 of Non-Serious Violation subject to MMP x \$3,000 per Violation = \$33,000

Total Expedited Payment Amount = \$63,000

Table B. Definitions

Abbreviation	Description
CAT 1	Violation of effluent limitation for Group I pollutant.
CAT 2	Violation of effluent limitation for Group II pollutant
CHRON	Chronic violation as defined by Water Code section 13385 (i). Any non-serious violation that falls within a 180-day period with three preceding violations. Thus, the fourth non-serious violation that occurs within a 180-day period is subject to MMPs.
CIWQS	California Integrated Water Quality System database. (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/)
CTOX	Violation of chronic toxicity effluent limitation.
DREP	Deficient reporting violation. This will only result in MMPs if the report is so deficient as to make determination of compliance impossible for the reporting period.
LREP	Late Reporting violation. Every 30-Days a report is late counts as one serious late reporting violation subject to MMPs.
Measured	Reported value for the monitoring period by the Discharger.
MMP Type	Classification of the type of MMP violation.
Occurrence Date	Date that a violation occurred. For averaging period limitation violations, such as weekly and monthly averages, the last day of the reporting period is used such as last day of the week (Saturday) and last day of the month, respectively.
OEV	Violation of any constituent-specific effluent limitation not included in Group I or Group II.
NCHRON	Non-serious violation falls within the first three violations in a 180-day period, thus, not subject to MMP.
SIG	Serious Violation: For Group I pollutants that exceed the effluent limitation by 40 percent or more. For Group II pollutants that exceed the effluent limitation by 20 percent or more.

Compliance Project Description

1. **Project Title:** Emergency Influent Diversion Project (Project)
2. **Service Area:** City of Rio Vista Downtown Area
3. **Name of Responsible Entity:** City of Rio Vista
4. **Contact Information:**

Rob Hickey
City Manager
One Main Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571
(707) 374-6451 ex 1101
rhickey@ci.rio-vista.ca.us

5. **Project Objective and Description:** The objective of the Project is to avoid impacts to the biological treatment system at the Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) caused by influent to the Facility with abnormal characteristics (e.g., atypical pH, cleaning agents, petroleum-related discharges) and which result in Facility upset and discharges of partially treated effluent to the Sacramento River. The project will provide early detection of Facility influent with pH characteristics outside the operating parameters of the Facility, and provide capability to divert such influent before it reaches the biological treatment system. These steps will preserve the integrity of the biological treatment system reduce the possibility of discharging partially treated wastewater.

Since cleaning agents and petroleum products can have high or low pH, depending on additives and applicable uses, the Project will provide some protection from cleaning agents and petroleum products in Facility influent that also have high or low pH.

The project includes the following components:

- a. **Install pH sensor in the primary effluent channel and integrate into SCADA.** Currently the effluent channel from the primary clarifiers does not have a continuous pH sensor. The new sensor will be integrated into the existing annunciator and auto dialer, which will notify operators when pH in the primary clarifier effluent exceeds the Facility's operating parameters. This will allow operators to implement emergency diversion options at the Facility to prevent impacts to the biological treatment process. Estimated cost: **\$32,392.**
- b. **Install a pH sensor at the Marina Lift Station.** Currently there is no continuous pH sensor at this lift station. This sensor will be integrated into the SCADA system so that an alarm will notify personnel in the event that pH is outside appropriate parameters. The estimated travel time of wastewater from the Marina lift station to the Facility is approximately 30 minutes during dry weather

conditions. Therefore, notification of a pH excursion at the Marina lift station may provide operators with time to implement emergency diversion options to prevent impacts to the biological treatment process. Estimated cost: **\$35,196**.

- c. **Install a pH sensor at the City Hall Lift Station.** There is no continuous pH sensor currently at this lift station. This sensor will be integrated into the SCADA system so that an alarm will notify personnel in the event that pH is outside appropriate parameters. The estimated travel time of wastewater from the City Hall lift station to the Facility is approximately 60 minutes during dry weather conditions. Therefore, notification of a pH excursion at the City Hall lift station would provide operators with time to implement emergency diversion options to prevent impacts to the treatment process. Estimated cost: **\$30,980**.
- d. **Install automatic gate valves in the aeration basins.** Currently the Facility does not have the capability to divert and store wastewater in order to avoid discharging effluent to the Sacramento River that does not meet permit conditions. Installing automatic gate valves in the aeration basins will allow use of one of the aeration basins for emergency storage of problematic influent while preserving the biological treatment capability of the other aeration basin. The valves will be activated by the SCADA system if pH in the primary clarifier effluent is outside the Facility’s operating parameters. Additionally, the operators will be able to activate the gate valves remotely via the SCADA system.

During ten-to-eleven months of the year, the Facility can function with one aeration basin, allowing the other aeration basin to be utilized as a diversion basin. During major rain events, it may be necessary to use both aeration basins for wastewater treatment in order to preserve the hydraulic capacity of the system and prevent wash-out of the biomass. In these situations, one of the aeration basins be operated at 50% capacity for wastewater treatment, making the remainder of the basin’s capacity available for emergency storage. The Project includes making adjustments to the treatment system and operating procedures so that the Facility can be operating with only one aeration basin.

Estimated cost: **\$94,000**

Individual task cost estimates are provided in the table below.

Table 1. Estimated Costs: Compliance Project Components

Compliance Project Component	Estimated Cost (\$)
Install primary effluent pH sensor and integrate into SCADA	\$32,392
Install influent pH sensor at the Marina Lift Station	\$35,196
Install an influent pH sensor at the City Hall Lift Station.	\$30,980
Install gate valves in the aeration basins	\$94,000
Total Estimated Project Cost:	\$192,568

6. Project Schedule and Deliverables:

- a. **Completion Date.** The Discharger shall complete all Project components by **31 December 2022.**
- b. **Progress Reports.** The Discharger shall submit quarterly progress reports summarizing the progress of the compliance project components. At a minimum, each progress report shall include the status of the compliance project components, photographs, and receipts for expenditures.

Due Date: Progress reports shall be submitted as shown below:

Table 2: Progress Reports and Due Dates

Progress Report	Due Date
Second Quarter 2022	1 August 2022
Third Quarter 2022	1 November 2022

- c. **Final Report.** The final report will document that compliance project goals have been achieved, and shall include a Certification of Completion as described in Paragraph 26 of the Settlement Agreement. The Certification of Completion shall include a Certification of Expenditures, Certification of Performance of Work, and Certification that Work Performed Met or Exceeded CEQA and Other Environmental Laws. The accounting will clearly show whether the final cost of the compliance project is less than, or equal to, or more than the liability suspended amount. The report shall be submitted by **1 February 2023.**

Due Date: 1 February 2023