

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

15 April 2025

Talle Lopez, Director Env Affairs
California Water Service
1720 N. First Street
San Jose, CA 95112

CERTIFIED MAIL
7021 2720 00001 0065 4069

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD RESOLUTION R5-2023-0061; WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS, REPORTS OF WASTE DISCHARGE, AND/OR WATER RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF DISCHARGE WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION; CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY; VISALIA DISTRICT, STATION 83-01; TULARE COUNTY

On 19 March 2024, California Water Service Company (Cal Water or Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD), for coverage under Resolution R5-2023-0061, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, Reports of Waste Discharge, and/or Water Recycling Requirements for Specific Types of Discharge Within the Central Valley Region* (or Low Threat Waiver) for discharge of backwash water from wellhead treatment systems for Cal Water's Visalia District in Tulare County (Station 83-01).

Based on the information provided, the discharge meets the required conditions for approval under the Low Threat Waiver. You are hereby assigned enrollee number **R5-2023-0061-0009**. Please include this number on all correspondence related to this discharge. A [copy of the Low Threat Waiver](#) is enclosed and available on the Central Valley Water Board's website at (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2023-0061.pdf).

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Low Threat Waiver, including the conditions of Discharge (Attachment A of the Low Threat Waiver). The discharge must be managed in accordance with the requirements contained in the Conditions of Discharge and with the information submitted in RWD and Notice of Applicability (NOA). The Low Threat Waiver will expire on **14 December 2028**. Prior to this date, the Discharger shall contact the Central Valley Water Board and either cease the discharge or submit a new RWD and application fee to continue the discharge under a renewed waiver, general order, or individual waste discharge requirements.

In accordance with the requirements in Attachment A of the Low Threat Waiver for filter backwash discharges (Table 1, Category 13), this NOA is accompanied by **Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R5-2023-0061-0009** to ensure compliance with the conditions specified by the Low Threat Waiver.

LOCATION

Cal Water's Visalia District 83-01 was enrolled in the prior Low Threat Waiver (NOA R5-2018-0085-0056-01). The Discharger is requesting coverage under the renewed Low Threat Waiver (Resolution R5-2023-0061) for Station 83-01. As shown in **Attachment A**, Station 83-01 is at 1601 East Monte Verde Avenue (36.3041°, -119.2749°) in Visalia, Tulare County, which is within the Tulare Lake Basin. The operative Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve water quality objectives for all waters of the basin.

DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE

Cal Water installed a well-head treatment system consisting of two Model-10 granular activated carbon (GAC) systems with a total of four carbon vessels at Station 83-01 to remove 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (or 1,2,3-TCP) from groundwater for drinking water consumption. The treatment system consists of a primary GAC vessel and one or more lag vessels. Backwashing of the lead GAC vessel is required periodically due to sediment build up and accumulation of calcium and biofilm within the system. According to the RWD, frequency of backwashing is projected to occur about once every three to five years. Water quality samples presented in the RWD indicate that raw well water exhibits a pH of 7.5 (2020 sample), electrical conductivity (EC) of 230 µmhos/cm (2021 sample), and recent results for 1,2,3-TCP were non-detect (2023 sample).

The 12-foot diameter lead GAC vessel requires flushing at a rate of about 580 gallon per minute for a duration of 45 minutes (or approximately 26,000 gallons). During a backwash event, treated water is pushed back through the lead GAC vessel to break up and dislodge accumulated debris and sediment within the vessel. A process flow diagram is included as **Attachment B**.

The discharge of backwash water is intended flow to a stormwater retention basin owned by the City of Visalia at the intersection of South Burke Street and East Monte Verde Avenue in Visalia (Retention Basin #2). Retention Basin #2 has an estimated volume of approximately 4.8 million gallons, and an August 2021 letter from the City indicates that it is a terminal basin. The RWD includes a user agreement from the City of Visalia for the discharge of backwash water to the City's stormwater system until 31 December 2025.

During the initial backwash event, the Discharger proposes to retain all backwash water in rental tanks and collect water quality samples prior to discharging to the City's stormwater system. Backwash water quality samples will be collected as it flows into the tanks and will be analyzed for pH, electrical conductivity (EC), 1,2,3-TCP, and any other constituents required by the Central Valley Water Board. Discharge to the City's

stormwater system will occur if analytical laboratory results indicate that all constituents of concern are below water quality objectives. Wastewater in subsequent backwash events are expected to be of similar quality to the initial backwash event.

FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Low Threat Waiver and this NOA covers the discharge of filter backwash water from Visalia District Station 83-01 in Visalia. The Discharger shall comply with the requirements specified in the Low Threat Waiver and the facility-specific requirements listed below.

1. Discharge of filter backwash water shall be conducted as described in this NOA and in accordance with the requirements contained in the Low Threat Waiver.
2. Discharge of filtered backwash water at a location or in a manner different from that described in this NOA is prohibited.
3. The Discharger shall comply with the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R5-2023-0061-0009.
4. The Discharger shall obtain a use agreement from the City of Visalia prior to initiating the discharge of filter backwash water to the City's stormwater system/basins.
5. Runoff or discharge of filter backwash water to a wetland, surface water (other than the onsite storage basin specified above), surface water drainage course, or biologically or culturally sensitive area is prohibited.
6. Failure to comply with the requirements of this NOA, attached MRP, and the Low Threat Waiver, could result in enforcement actions as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.
7. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board of any change in agreement or proposed use of the discharge of backwash water as described in the RWD and this NOA.

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

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

Program: Non-15

Place ID: 870458

Facility Name: Visalia District, Station 83-01

Order: R5-2023-0061-0009

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

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Fresno Office
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

All documents, including responses to inspections and written notifications, submitted to comply with this Waiver shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the Compliance and Enforcement Unit, attention to Omar Mostafa. Mr. Mostafa can be reached at (559) 445-5197 or Omar.Mostafa@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding the permitting aspects of the Waiver, and notification for termination of coverage under the Waiver, shall be directed, via the paperless office system, to the WDR Permitting Unit, attention Salvador Vargas. Salvador Vargas can be reached at (559) 444-2488 or by email at Salvador.Vargas@waterboards.ca.gov.

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

Original signed by Alex A. Mushegan

For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Site Map
- Attachment B – Process Flow Diagram

Enclosures:

- Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2023-0061-0009
- Low Threat Waiver Resolution R5-2023-0061

cc's:

- Christopher Moskal, State Water Resources Control Board, OCC (via email)
- WDR-DWQ@waterboards.ca.gov
- Adam Forbes, Division of Drinking Water, Visalia (via email)
- Omar Mostafa, Central Valley Water Board, Fresno (via email)
- Tulare County Resource Management Agency
- Tulare County Environmental Health Division
- Talle Lopez, California Water Service (via email)

ATTACHMENT A – SITE MAP



ATTACHMENT B – PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM



**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. R5-2023-0061-0009
FOR
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY
VISALIA DISTRICT, STATION 83-01
TULARE COUNTY**

On 15 April 2025 the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) Executive Officer issued the California Water Service Company (Discharger) Notice of Applicability (NOA) R5-2023-0061-0009, for coverage under Resolution R5-2023-0061, *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, Reports of Waste Discharge, And/or Water Recycling Requirements for Specific Types of Discharge Within the Central Valley Region* (Low Threat Waiver or Waiver). The NOA regulates the discharge of filter backwash to land from granular activated carbon (GAC) vessels installed for the water treatment system at California Water Service Company's Visalia District, Station 83-01. This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267. The Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until the Central Valley Water Board adopts, or executive Officer issues, a revised MRP.

Section 13267 of the California Water Code states, in part:

"In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the 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 within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region 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."

Section 13268 of the California Water Code states, in part:

"(a) 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 and 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.”

The Discharger owns the water treatment system subject to NOA R5-2023-0061-0009, and the monitoring reports are necessary to ensure the Discharger complies with the NOA and the conditions specified in the Low Threat Waiver. Pursuant to Water Code section 13268, the Discharger shall implement this MRP and shall submit the monitoring reports described herein.

I. GENERAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. FLOW MONITORING

Hydraulic flow rates shall be measured at the monitoring points specified in this MRP. All flow monitoring systems shall be appropriate for the conveyance system (i.e., open channel flow or pressure pipeline) and liquid type. The measurements may be based on flow meter readings or pump run time estimate. The method of measurement must be specified. Unless otherwise specified, each flow meter shall be equipped with a flow totalizer to allow reporting of cumulative volume as well as instantaneous flow rate. Flow meters shall be calibrated at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer; typically, at least once per year and records of calibration shall be maintained for review upon request.

B. MONITORING AND SAMPLING LOCATIONS

Samples shall be obtained at the monitoring points specified in this MRP. The Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer shall approve any proposed changes to sampling locations prior to implementation of the change.

The Discharger shall monitor the following locations to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this MRP:

Table 1 – Visalia District, Station 83-01 Monitoring Locations

Monitoring Location	Monitoring Location Description
EFF-001	Location where a sample of backwash water from Station 83-01 can be collected after treatment but prior to discharge to Retention Basin #2.
BASIN-01	Retention basin used for discharge of backwash water from Station 83-01 (i.e., Retention Basin #2).

C. SAMPLING AND SAMPLE ANALYSIS

All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The name of the sampler, sample type (grab or composite), time, date, location, bottle type, and any preservative used for each sample shall be recorded on the sample chain of custody form. The chain of

custody form must also contain all custody information including date, time, and to whom samples were relinquished. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Central Valley Water Board staff.

Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided that they are used by a State Water Resources Control Board, Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certified laboratory, or:

1. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments.
2. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer.
3. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and
4. Field calibration reports are maintained and available for at least three years.

Laboratory analytical procedures shall comply with the methods and holding times specified in the following (as applicable to the medium to be analyzed):

- *Methods for Organic Chemical Analysis of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater (EPA);*
- *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste (EPA);*
- *Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes (EPA);*
- *Methods for Determination of Inorganic Substances in Environmental Samples (EPA);*
- *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater (APHA/AWWA/WEF); and*
- *Soil, Plant and Water Reference Methods for the Western Region (WREP 125).*

Approved editions shall be those that are approved for use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) or the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). The Discharger may propose alternative methods for approval by the Executive Officer. Where technically feasible, laboratory reporting limits shall be lower than the applicable water quality objectives for the constituents to be analyzed.

II. SPECIFIC MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM BACKWASH (EFF-01)

Effluent samples shall be taken of the backwash water at **EFF-001** after treatment but prior to discharge to Retention Basin #2. If the backwash water is not treated, effluent monitoring is not required. At a minimum, effluent monitoring shall consist of the following:

Table 2 - Effluent Monitoring

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency (see 2 below)
Flow	gpd	Metered	Continuous	Annually
pH	Standard Units	Grab	Once/event (see 1 below)	Annually
EC	µmhos/cm	Grab	Once/event (see 1 below)	Annually
1,2,3-TCP	µg/L	Grab	Once/event (see 1 below)	Annually

1. Samples shall be collected once during each backwash event.
2. If no backwash events occurred during the year, the Annual Report shall so state.

B. BASIN MONITORING (BASIN-01)

The Discharger shall inspect Retention Basin #2 prior to and during each backwash event. The results of the inspection shall be included as part of the annual monitoring reports. Basin monitoring shall include the following:

Table 3 - Basin Monitoring

Constituent	Units	Sample Type	Reporting Frequency
Freeboard	Feet	Measurement	Annually
Nuisance Odors or Vectors	N/A	Observation	Annually
Berm Condition	N/A	Observation	Annually

In addition, prior to each backwash event the Discharger shall contact the City of Visalia to confirm acceptance of the discharge and implement any additional best management practices (BMPs) as required by the City for the discharge. Confirmation from the City shall be recorded in the annual monitoring report.

C. SOLIDS DISPOSAL MONITORING

The Discharger shall report the handling and disposal of all solids associated with the water treatment system and discharge of backwash water (e.g., filter material, sludge from the unlined basin, etc.). Records shall include the name/contact information for the hauling company, the type and amount of waste transported, the date removed, the disposal facility name and address, and copies of any analytical data required by the entity accepting the waste. These records shall be submitted as part of the annual monitoring report.

III. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All regulatory documents, submissions, materials, data, monitoring reports, and correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50MB should be emailed to: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the appropriate Regional Water Board office, in this case 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706.

To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any email used to transmit documents to this office:

Program: Non-15

Place ID: 870458

Facility Name: Visalia District, Station 83-01

Order: R5-2023-0061-0009

A transmittal letter shall accompany each monitoring report. The letter shall include a discussion of all violations of this MRP during the reporting period and actions taken or planned for correcting each violation. If the Discharger has previously submitted a report describing corrective actions taken and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. The transmittal letter shall contain a statement by the Discharger or the Discharger's authorized agent certifying under penalty of perjury that the report is true, accurate and complete to the best of the signer's knowledge.

In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, sample type (e.g., effluent, groundwater, etc.), and reported analytical result for each sample are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to clearly illustrate compliance with waste discharge requirements and spatial or temporal trends, as applicable. The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the locations specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be reported in the next scheduled monitoring report.

Laboratory analysis reports shall be included in the monitoring reports. All laboratory reports must also be retained for a minimum of three years. For a discharger conducting any of its own analyses, reports must also be signed and certified by the chief of the laboratory.

Monitoring information shall include the method detection limit (MDL) and the Reporting limit (RL) or practical quantitation limit (PQL). If the regulatory limit for a given constituent is less than the RL (or PQL), then any analytical results for that constituent that are below the RL (or PQL) but above the MDL shall be reported and flagged as estimated.

All monitoring reports that involve planning, investigation, evaluation or design, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, 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 7835.1.

A. ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS

The Annual Monitoring Report shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by **February 1st of each year**. The report shall bear the certification and signature of the Discharger's authorized representative. At a minimum, the quarterly reports shall include:

1. Results of all required monitoring data shall be presented in tabular format. If no discharge occurred during the calendar year the annual report shall so state.
2. Copies of laboratory analytical report(s) and chain of custody form(s) for in-house and contracted laboratory.
3. A discussion and summary of the compliance record for the reporting period identifying all corrective actions taken, as well as any planned or proposed actions needed to bring the discharge into compliance with the NOA and/or Low Threat Waiver.
4. A discussion of any data gaps and potential deficiencies/redundancies in the monitoring system or reporting program.

A letter transmitting the monitoring reports shall accompany each report. The letter shall report violations found during the reporting period, and actions taken or planned to correct the violations and prevent future violations. The transmittal letter shall contain the following penalty of perjury statement and shall be signed by the Discharger or the Discharger's authorized agent:

"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.”

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

The Discharger shall implement the above monitoring program as of the date of this MRP.

Ordered by: Original signed by Alex S. Mushegan
For PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer
15 April 15, 2025
(Date)

IV. GLOSSARY

EC	Electrical conductivity at 25° C
Continuous	The specified parameter shall be measured by a meter continuously
Once/event	Once per backwash event.
Daily	Every day
Annually	Once per year
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
µg/L	Micrograms per liter
µmhos/cm	Micromhos per centimeter
gpd	Gallons per day