

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

TENTATIVE ORDER R5-2026-XXXX

**AMENDING
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ORDER R5-2026-0003 (NPDES PERMIT CA0079111)**

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
COMBINED WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

FINDINGS

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

1. On 27 February 2026, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2026-0003 (NPDES Permit CA0079111) which prescribes waste discharge requirements for the City of Sacramento Combined Wastewater Collection and Treatment System in Sacramento County. For the purposes of this Order, the City of Sacramento is referred to as “Discharger” and the Combined Wastewater Collection and Treatment System is referred to as the “Facility”. This Order amends Order R5-2026-0003 as summarized in Findings 3 and 4.
2. The Discharger is the owner and operator of the Facility, a Combined Sewer System (CSS) that collects and treats domestic and industrial wastewater and storm runoff. During extreme wet weather, the Facility discharges treated and untreated combined wastewater and storm water runoff to the Sacramento River, a water of the United States, within the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta.
3. Order R5-2026-0003 includes an effluent limitation of 700 µmhos/cm as a monthly average for electrical conductivity (EC) based on the Conservative Pathway approach selected by the Discharger and approved by Central Valley Regional Water Board staff under the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) Salt Control Program. However, the Order inadvertently omits effluent monitoring for EC in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E).
4. The Discharger noted the inadvertent omission and requested in an email dated 4 August 2026 a modification to the Order to add effluent monitoring for EC.
5. 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. City Council of City of Riverside* (1977) 73 Cal.App.3d 546, 555-556.). Issuance of this Order is also exempt from the provisions of CEQA in accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, section 15321, subdivision (a)(2).
6. 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 upon adoption, Order R5-2026-0003 is amended as shown in items 1 through 8 below.

1. The Order number is changed from R5-2026-0003 to R5-2026-0003-01 throughout the Order.

2. **Title Page.** Modify the last paragraph to the text shown below:

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 **27 February 2026** and amended by Order R5-2026-XXXX on **XX October 2026**.

3. **WDRs, Section VII.F.** Add the following compliance determination language for the EC effluent limitation:

Electrical Conductivity (Section IV.A.1.h). For discharge points 002, 003, and 004, compliance with the effluent limitation for electrical conductivity shall be determined by averaging all daily average effluent results sampled in a given calendar month, when discharging to surface water, at each discharge point.

4. **Attachment E, Table E-3.** Modify the table as follows:

Table E-3 Effluent Monitoring (EFF-002, EFF-003, and EFF-006)

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency
Maximum Event Flow Rate	MGD	Meter	Continuous
Total Discharge Event Volume	Million gallons	Meter	Continuous
Duration of Discharge	Minutes	Calculate	Continuous
Monthly Average Flow	MGD	Calculate	Continuous
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	Grab or Flow-weighted Composite	1/Discharge Event
TSS	% removal	Calculate	1/Discharge Event
Settleable Solids	ml/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°Celcius	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Discharge Event

Fecal Coliform Organisms	MPN/100 mL	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Chlorine, Total Residual	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Dechlorination Agent Residual	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Mercury, Total Recoverable	µg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Methylmercury	µg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Chlorpyrifos	µg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Diazinon	µg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Temperature	° F	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Ammonia, Total (as N)	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event

5. **Attachment E, Section IV.A.2.h.** Modify testing requirement h as follows:
- h. A handheld field meter may be used for **temperature, EC, pH, and DO** provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.
6. **Attachment E, Table E-4.** Modify the table as follows:

Table E-4. Effluent Monitoring (EFF-004, EFF-005, and EFF-007)

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency
Maximum Event Flow Rate	MGD	Meter	Continuous
Total Discharge Event Volume	Million gallons	Meter	Continuous
Duration of Discharge	Minutes	Calculate	Continuous
Monthly Average Flow	MGD	Calculate	Continuous
pH	Standard Units	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°Celcius	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Temperature	° F	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Grab or Flow-weighted Composite	1/Discharge Event
Settleable Solids	ml/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Fecal Coliform Organisms	MPN/100 mL	Grab	1/Discharge Event
Ammonia, Total (as N)	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event

7. **Attachment E, Section IV.B.2.d.** Modify testing requirement d as follows:

- d. A handheld field meter may be used for **temperature, EC, pH, and DO**, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.

8. **Attachment F, Section VII.B, Rationale for Effluent Monitoring.** Modify paragraph #2 and #4 as follows:

2. Effluent monitoring for those pollutants expected to be present in discharges from Discharge Point 002 (Monitoring Location EFF-002), 003 (Monitoring Location EFF-003), and 006 (Monitoring Location EFF-006) are required as shown in the MRP (Attachment E). To determine compliance with effluent limitations, this Order retains the monitoring requirements for TSS, settleable solids, pH, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform organisms, chlorine residual, temperature, methylmercury, diazinon, and chlorpyrifos from Order R5-2020-0039, and adds effluent monitoring for electrical conductivity. This Order also retains monitoring for mercury to determine compliance with interim effluent limits. Also, consistent with Order R5-2020-0039, flow is required to be monitored continuously. Due to continuing concerns related to ammonia toxicity in CSO discharges, monitoring for ammonia nitrogen also continues to be required (grab samples during each discharge event).
4. Although discharges from Discharge Points 004, 005 and 007 rarely occur, this Order requires monitoring when a discharge does occur for several indicator parameters (flow, pH, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, temperature, total suspended solids, settleable solids, fecal coliform, and ammonia). This data will be used to assess the potential impact(s) to the receiving water when a CSO discharge does occur from any of these discharge points.

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)

(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 **XX October 2026**.

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer