

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

TENTATIVE ORDER
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5 2025-XXXX
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
PERMIT CA0079138
FOR
CITY OF STOCKTON
WASTETWATER RECOVERY CENTER
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Discharger and Tentative Order Information

The City of Stockton (Discharger) is the owner of the Regional Wastewater Control Center (Facility), located at 2500 Navy Drive, Stockton, CA 95206. The Discharger provides sewerage service for the City of Stockton, Port of Stockton, and surrounding unincorporated areas of San Joaquin County, and serves a population of approximately 350,000. Sources of wastewater in the service area are primarily domestic, but also include both commercial and industrial connections. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2020-0007-01 (NPDES Permit No. CA0079138) authorizes the discharge of up to 55 million gallons per day of tertiary treated effluent to the San Joaquin River, a water of the United States and within the legal boundary of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Facility is situated on both the eastern and western banks of the San Joaquin River and is connected via a bridge over the receiving water. The Discharger recently completed major upgrades to the Facility, known as the Facility Modifications Project. The upgraded Facility treatment includes fine screening, grit removal, primary clarification, activated sludge with nutrient removal, secondary clarification, tertiary filtration with disk filters, and UV disinfection. Solids treatment includes primary sludge thickening in the primary clarifiers with primary sludge pumping, gravity thickening of primary sludge, gravity belt thickening of waste activated sludge, anaerobic digestion, digested sludge holding, centrifuge dewatering with belt filter press backup, and on-site storage and hauling of dewatered cake.

Along with the Facility Modifications Project, the Discharger re-instated an old outfall on the east bank of the San Joaquin River (East Bank Outfall) which will replace the old outfall located on the west bank of the river (West Bank Outfall). The Order was amended in 2023 to reflect this transition. Once the Discharger initiates discharges solely from the new East Bank Outfall, discharges from the West Bank Outfall will cease, and various facilities on the west bank of the river will be decommissioned.

Treatment units on the west bank side of the San Joaquin River (i.e. the facultative ponds, constructed wetlands, nitrifying bio-towers, dissolved air flotation, tertiary filters, and chlorine contact basin) and the West Bank Outfall will temporarily remain in operation, as needed, until the Discharger completes final adjustments to the Facility Modifications Project, and fully transitions to the upgraded Facility and use of the new East Bank Outfall.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2020-0007-01 (NPDES Permit), issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on 20 February 2020, and amended by Order R5-2023-0039 on 10 August 2023.

An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The tentative Order includes updated effluent limitations for ammonia, bromoform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane. The tentative Order removes effluent limitations for acute whole effluent toxicity and electrical conductivity and includes new effluent limitations for chronic whole effluent toxicity.

Public Hearing Date and Location

A public hearing concerning the tentative Order will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 24-25 April 2025
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central
Valley Region
1685 E. Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Physical meeting with remote meeting option.

The [final meeting agenda](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) will be available at least **10 days** before the meeting. The agenda will provide the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item and anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the tentative Order.

Nature and Purpose of Hearing

At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will hear testimony and oral comments regarding the tentative Order. This proceeding will be a formal adjudicatory proceeding. The [procedures governing Central Valley Water Board adjudicatory hearings](#) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. and are available upon request.

Prehearing Submission of Written Comments and Evidence

The **Discharger** is a party to this proceeding. As a party, the Discharger must submit written evidence or comments, if any, for the Board to consider no later than 5:00 p.m. on **19 February 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Interested persons include any non-party that is interested in the outcome of the hearing. Interested persons wishing to comment, in writing, on the tentative Order shall submit comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **19 February 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4, the Board Chair may refuse to admit written evidence or comments that are not submitted in accordance with this Notice and shall refuse to do so when there is a showing of prejudice to the Discharger or the Board. Excluded material will not be considered by the Board.

Visual Presentations

Hearing participants may use PowerPoint or other visual presentations at the hearing, but the presentation content shall not exceed the scope of previously submitted written material. Presentations, if any, must be provided to the below Central Valley Water Board Contact by 12:00 p.m. on 22 April 2025.

Hearing Procedure and Time Limits

The hearing on the tentative Order will be conducted in the general order listed under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.5, except that the Board Chair may modify the order for good cause.

The **Discharger** will be advised in advance of the hearing of the total amount of time allocated for its presentation and closing statement. The Discharger is invited to contact staff in advance of the hearing to discuss how much time it believes is necessary.

Interested persons may speak at the hearing and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals, if any. Each interested person will have 3 minutes to present oral comments. Additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Hearing Accommodations

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call 916-464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Availability of Documents

The tentative Order and related documents may be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Scheduling an appointment to review the file by contacting the below Central Valley Water Board Contact in advance is not required but calling ahead will help ensure timely access to these documents.

Central Valley Water Board Contact

Anyone having questions regarding this hearing item should contact Sarah Thompson at (916) 464-4713 or sarah.thompson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Adam Laputz, Assistant Executive Officer