

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706-2007

REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

TENTATIVE ORDER
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5 2025-XXXX
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
PERMIT CA0079219
FOR
CITY OF MERCED
MERCED WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
MERCED COUNTY

Discharger and Tentative Order Information

The City of Merced (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Merced Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), located at 10260 Gove Road, Merced, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the city of Merced, serving a population of approximately 93,000. The Facility provides tertiary treatment for up to an average dry weather flow of 12.0 million gallons per day. Tertiary-treated wastewater from the Facility is discharged to (1) Hartley Slough, which is a tributary to the San Joaquin River, a water of the United States, (2) cropland, and (3) the Merced Wildlife Management Area.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2020-0014, adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 16 April 2020. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The tentative Order includes new or updated effluent limitations for ammonia, copper, chronic whole effluent toxicity, and nitrate plus nitrite.

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: ~~21-22 August 2025~~ **26-27 February 2026**
TIME: To Be Determined
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(Physical Meeting Location 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 written comment period has closed for this item. Interested persons were previously invited to submit written comments concerning the tentative Order. Pursuant to the Notice of Public Hearing, dated 19 June 2025, comments were due by 5:00 p.m. on 21 July 2025.

Written materials submitted after the close of the written comment period will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record, absent a ruling by the Board Chair.

The **Discharger** is a party to this proceeding and may present evidence, including oral testimony. 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 **21 July 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board email at CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov and copy Nicolette.Dentoni@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 **21 July 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board email at CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov and copy Nicolette.Dentoni@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.

Requesting Party Status

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a party must submit a request in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on **21 July 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board email

at CentralValleyFresno@waterboards.ca.gov and copy Nicolette.Dentoni@waterboards.ca.gov. The request must include facts demonstrating how the person will be substantially affected by the proceeding.

The Board Chair will not designate a person as a party if the Board Chair determines the designation will impair the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding. The Board Chair, when granting a request for party status, may impose restrictions on the requestor's hearing participation, including limiting or excluding the use of cross examination and other procedures to promote the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding.

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 **24 February 2026** ~~19 August 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** and any other designated party will be advised in advance of the hearing of the total amount of time allocated for its presentation, including any witness examination, and closing statement. The Discharger and any other designated party are invited to contact staff in advance of the hearing to discuss how much time they believe 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 three 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/). Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706-2007 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 Nicolette Dentoni at (559) 444-2505 or Nicolette.Dentoni@waterboards.ca.gov.

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

Original signed on 31 December 2025 by:
Alexander Mushegan, Supervising Engineer