

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
TENTATIVE ORDER R5-2025-XXXX
AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2006-0019-001
FOR
EL DORADO COUNTY
UNION MINE SEPTAGE/LEACHATE TREATMENT FACILITY
EL DORADO COUNTY

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

Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2006-0019

1. On 26 January 2006, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2006-0019, prescribing requirements for Union Mine Septage/Leachate Treatment Facility (WWTF) in El Dorado County. El Dorado County (hereafter Discharger) owns and operates the facility.
2. The WWTF consists of aerobic digesters, two sludge centrifuges, a disinfection system, two effluent storage tanks, and land application areas (LAAs). Secondary disinfected treated wastewater from the facility is discharged to either the on-site LAAs via sprinklers or sent for further treatment to the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) Deer Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Deer Creek WWTP is regulated under Municipal General NPDES Order R5-2017-0085-006, which has a discharge flow limit of 3.6 million gallons per day as an average dry weather flow.
3. WDRs Order R5-2006-0019 contains an inflow limit of 10,500 gpd as a monthly average. However, the WDRs Order indicates that if the Discharger obtains a permit with EID to discharge wastewater to the EID Deer Creek WWTP, upon Executive Officer approval, the flow limit may increase to 16,000 gpd. On 17 June 2010, the Central Valley Water Board approved flow limit increase from 10,500 to 16,000 gpd.
4. On 18 February 2021, WDRs Order R5-2006-0019 was amended by Order R5-2021-0010, which authorizes flow limit increase:

Discharge Specifications B.1. of WDRs Order R5-2006-0019 shall be amended as follows:

*The monthly average inflow to the WWTF shall not exceed **20,000 gpd**. However, the Discharger may submit a request to the Executive Officer, and upon approval, the Executive Officer may authorize increasing the flow limit up to the disposal capacity of **22,000 gpd**.*

Therefore, amended WDRs Order R5-2006-0019-001 has a flow limit of 20,000 gpd.

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5. On 18 June 2025, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) to request the influent flow limit increase from 20,000 to 22,000 gpd as a monthly average. This Order authorizes the requested increase.
6. Finding No.68 of WDRs Order R5-2006-0019-001 states:
 - a. *For nitrate, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take on alternate compliance approaches that involve providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. Dischargers could comply with the new nitrate program either individually or collectively with other dischargers. For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility falls within Groundwater Non-Prioritized Basins. Notices to Comply for Non-Prioritized Basins will be issued within two to four years after the effective date of the Nitrate Control Program.*
 - b. *For salinity, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements would instead need to meet performance-based requirements and participate in a basin-wide effort to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. Dischargers will receive a Notice to Comply with instructions and obligations for the Salt Control Program within one year of the effective date of the amendments (17 January 2020). Upon receipt of the Notice to Comply, the Discharger will have no more than six months to inform the Central Valley Water Board of their choice between Option 1 (Conservative Option for Salt Permitting) or Option 2 (Alternative Option for Salt Permitting).*
7. The RWD indicates that currently the Deer Creek WWTP is a primary discharge location and the onsite LAAs are only used as backup. The LAAs have not been used since July 2022.
8. The effluent discharged to the Deer Creek WWTP is regulated under an EID permit, which contains a flow limit of 144,000 gpd (annual flow limit of 52 MG) and a zinc limit of 0.150 mg/L.
9. Based on a review of 29 sets of effluent zinc data from May 2018 through July 2022, the average effluent zinc concentration is 0.13 mg/L with a maximum concentration of 0.44 mg/L and a minimum concentration of 0.02 mg/L. Eight of 29 data sets exceed the EID's zinc limit of 0.150 mg/L.
10. In order to meet EID Permit limit of 0.150 mg/L for zinc, the Discharger's June 2025 RWD proposed an effluent zinc reduction system, which will be installed within the next five years. This proposed system will be used occasionally when the effluent zinc concentrations exceed the zinc limit for the effluent discharged to the Deer Creek WWTP.
11. The proposed zinc reduction system consists of oxidation-reduction (adding low concentration NaOH to form zinc hydroxide precipitation), coagulation (adding polymer),

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and filtration processes. The system will be installed between two effluent tanks to filter zinc precipitate from the effluent.

Proposed Changes

12. A new section "Proposed Changes" should be added following Finding No.33.
13. A new Finding No.34 should be added to include an analysis for zinc exceedances.
14. A new Finding No.35 should be added to include the proposed zinc reduction system.
15. Finding No.68 of WDRs Order R5-2006-0019-001 should be renumbered as No.70 and amended as following:
 - a. *For nitrate, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take on alternate compliance approaches that involve providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. Dischargers could comply with the new nitrate program either individually or collectively with other dischargers. For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility falls within Groundwater Non-Prioritized Basins. So no action is required at this time.*
 - b. *For salinity, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements would instead need to meet performance-based requirements and participate in a basin-wide effort to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. The Discharger, with CV-SALTS ID 2766, has participated in the Conservative Option for Salt Permitting.*
16. Findings No.34 through 70 should be renumbered as Findings No.36 through 72, respectively.
17. Discharge Specifications B.1. of WDRs Order R5-2006-0019-001 should be amended allowing flow limit increase to 22,000 gpd.
18. Provision G.1.a states: *At least 90 days prior to any sludge removal or disposal from the storage tanks, the Discharger shall submit a Sludge Cleanout Plan. The plan shall include a detailed program and schedule for periodic tank cleanout and disposal of sludge, provide a description on how sludge will be dewatered, stored and handled on-site, and provide a description of where the sludge will be disposed of.* This requirement shall be deleted.
19. A new Provision G.1.a should be added to include requirements of Completion Report for installation and testing of the new Zinc Reduction System.

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Public Notice

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 for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

The Central Valley Water Board, in a public meeting, heard, and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order R5-2006-0019-001 is amended. Pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, the Discharger, its agents, successors and assigns, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with amended Order R5-2006-0019-002 as follows:

1. A section "Proposed Changes" shall be added following Finding No.33.
2. A new Finding No.34 shall be added:

The effluent discharged to the Deer Creek WWTP is regulated under an EID permit, which contains a flow limit of 144,000 gpd (annual flow limit of 52 MG) and a zinc limit of 0.150 mg/L. Based on a review of 29 sets of effluent zinc data from May 2018 through July 2022, the average zinc concentration is 0.13 mg/L with a maximum concentration of 0.44 mg/L and a minimum concentration of 0.02 mg/L. Eight of 29 data sets exceed the EID's zinc limit of 0.150 mg/L.

3. A new Finding No.35 shall be added:

In order to meet EID Permit limit of 0.150 mg/L for zinc, on 18 June 2025, the Discharger submitted an RWD. The RWD proposed an effluent zinc reduction system consisting of processes of oxidation-reduction, coagulation and filtration. The system will be installed between two effluent tanks to filter zinc precipitate from the effluent. This proposed system will be used occasionally when the effluent zinc concentrations exceed the zinc limit for the effluent discharged to the Deer Creek WWTP.

4. Finding No.68 of WDRs Order R5-2006-0019-001 should be renumbered as No.70 and amended as following:

The Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. The Basin Plan Amendments were conditionally approved by the State Water Board on 16 October 2019 and the Office of Administrative Law on 15 January 2020.

- a. For nitrate, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent nitrate requirements will be required to take on alternate compliance approaches that involve providing replacement drinking water to persons whose drinking water is affected by nitrates. Dischargers could comply with the new nitrate program either individually or

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collectively with other dischargers. For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility falls within Groundwater Non-Prioritized Basins. So no action is required at this time.

- b. For salinity, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements would instead need to meet performance-based requirements and participate in a basin-wide effort to develop a long-term salinity strategy for the Central Valley. The Discharger, with CV-SALTS ID 2766, has participated in the Conservative Option for Salt Permitting.
- 5. Findings No.34 through 72 shall be renumbered as Findings No.36 through 74, respectively.
 - 6. Discharge Specifications B.1. of WDRs Order R5-2006-0019-001 shall be amended as follows:
 - B. Discharge Specifications:
 - 1. The monthly average inflow to the Facility shall not exceed 22,000 gpd.
 - 7. Provision G.1.a shall be deleted.
 - 8. A new Provision G.1.a shall be added as follows:
 - a. Within **90 days** after the zinc reduction project is completed, the Discharger shall submit a Completion Report. The Completion Report shall describe the project and certify that the system is tested and is ready for use.

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 Water Code 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 of this Order, 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 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:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality
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 December 2025.

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer