

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

TENTATIVE TIME SCHEDULE ORDER R5-2025-XXXX

REQUIRING
CITY OF WILLIAMS
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
COLUSA COUNTY

TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN
ORDER R5-2023-0025
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)
PERMIT CAG585001
OR SUBSEQUENT WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENT ORDERS
AND NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY
MUNICIPAL GENERAL ORDER ENROLLEE NUMBER R5-2023-0025-009
OR SUBSEQUENT WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENT ORDERS

FINDINGS

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

1. The City of Williams (Discharger), owns and operates the Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). The Facility discharges up to 0.5 million gallons per day of tertiary treated and disinfected municipal wastewater to Salt Creek, a water of the United States and tributary to the Colusa Basin Drain, within the Sacramento – Stone Corral watershed.
2. On XX October 2025, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) R5-2023-0025-009 with an effective date of 1 January 2026, authorizing the Discharger coverage under the Municipal Wastewater Dischargers that meet Objectives/Criteria at the Point of Discharge to Surface Water Order R5-2023-0025 (Municipal General Order) for discharges from the Facility.
3. NOA R5-2023-0025-009 section V.A, Table 2. Effluent Limitations includes, in part, the following final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity applicable to discharges from the Facility at Discharge Point 001 with compliance measured at Monitoring Location EFF-001:

Table 2. Effluent Limitations

Parameter	Units	Annual Average Effluent Limit	Municipal General Order Section Reference
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C	µmhos/cm	1600	V.A.1.b.viii.(b) Table 23

NEED FOR TIME SCHEDULE AND LEGAL BASIS

4. The Discharger is currently unable to consistently comply with final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity contained in NOA R5-2023-0025-009. On 13 March 2025, the

Discharger submitted the *City of Williams, Wastewater Treatment Plant Infeasibility Analysis*, and requested a time schedule for compliance with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity. The request provided detailed information supporting the infeasibility to immediately comply with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity. After discussions between Central Valley Water Board staff and the Discharger, the Discharger submitted the *City of Williams, Revised Wastewater Treatment Plant Infeasibility Analysis* on 27 March 2025. For compliance with the final effluent limitations for electrical conductivity the Discharger has requested time to develop and implement pollution prevention practices, confirm the sources of electrical conductivity, and perform a feasibility study to evaluate alternative treatment options.

5. This Time Schedule Order (TSO or Order) contains a time schedule for compliance with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity contained in NOA R5-2023-0025-009, sets an interim limitation for electrical conductivity, and provides protection from mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) for potential exceedances of the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity.

MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES

6. California Water Code (CWC) section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i), requires the Central Valley Water Board to impose MMPs upon dischargers that violate certain effluent limitations. CWC section 13385(j)(3) exempts the discharge from MMPs:

“...where the waste discharge is in compliance with either a cease and desist order issued pursuant to Section 13301 or a time schedule order issued pursuant to Section 13300 or 13308, if all the [specified] requirements are met...for the purposes of this subdivision, the time schedule may not exceed five years in length...”

7. Per the requirements of CWC section 13385(j)(3), the Central Valley Water Board finds that:
 - a. This Order specifies the actions that the Discharger is required to take in order to correct the violations that would otherwise be subject to CWC sections 13385(h) and (i).
 - b. To comply with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity, the Discharger has proposed five years to develop and implement the actions presented in Finding 4.
 - c. The final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity is a new, more stringent, or modified regulatory requirement that became applicable to the waste discharge after the effective date of NOA R5-2023-0025-009, and after 1 July 2000. New and/or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity. New and/or modified control measures cannot be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days.
 - d. This Order establishes a time schedule to bring the waste discharge into compliance with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity that is as short as possible, taking into account the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect the

design, development, and implementation of the control measures that are necessary to comply with the final effluent limitation.

8. By statute, a Cease and Desist Order or Time Schedule Order may provide protection from MMPs for up to five years.
9. Compliance with this Order exempts the Discharger from MMPs for violations of the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity found in NOA R5-2023-0025-009 from **01 January 2026** (the effective date of this Order) through **31 December 2030**. The Discharger has not previously been protected from MMPs for violations of the electrical conductivity effluent limitations.
10. In accordance with CWC section 13385(j)(3)(C), the total length of protection from mandatory minimum penalties for the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity does not exceed five years.
11. This Order provides a time schedule for completing the actions necessary to ensure compliance with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity contained in NOA R5-2023-0025-009. Since the time schedule for completion of actions necessary to bring the waste discharge into compliance exceeds one year, this Order includes an interim effluent limitation and interim requirements and dates for their achievement.
12. This Order includes a performance-based interim annual average effluent limitation (AAEL) for electrical conductivity of 2100 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$. The interim limitation is based on the current treatment plant performance.
13. The Central Valley Water Board finds that the Discharger can maintain compliance with the interim effluent limitation included in this Order. Interim effluent limitations are established when compliance with the final effluent limitations cannot be achieved by the existing Facility. Discharge of constituents in concentrations in excess of the final effluent limitations, but in compliance with the interim effluent limitations, can significantly degrade water quality and adversely affect the beneficial uses of the receiving stream on a long-term basis. However, the interim effluent limitations establish an enforceable ceiling concentration until compliance with the final effluent limitation can be achieved.
14. If the interim effluent limitation contained in this Order is exceeded, then the Discharger is subject to MMPs for that particular exceedance as it will no longer meet the exemption in CWC 13385(j)(3). It is the intent of the Central Valley Water Board that a violation of an interim average annual effluent limitation subjects the Discharger to only one MMP for that year averaging period.

OTHER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

15. CWC section 13300 states, in part:

“Whenever a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the regional board, or

the state board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a discharger are approaching capacity, the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements.”

16. CWC section 13383 states, in part:

“[A] regional board may establish monitoring, inspection, entry, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements . . . for any person who discharges, or proposes to discharge, to navigable waters, any person who introduces pollutants into a publicly owned treatment works, any person who owns or operates, or proposes to own or operate, a publicly owned treatment works or other treatment works treating domestic sewage, or any person who uses or disposes, or proposes to use or dispose, of sewage sludge.”

17. The Discharger owns and operates the Facility which is subject to this Order. The technical and monitoring reports required by this Order are necessary to determine compliance with this Order, NOA R5-2023-0025-009, and subsequent waste discharge requirements.

18. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) pursuant to CWC 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).

19. This Order is issued under authority delegated to the Executive Officer in accordance with Central Valley Water Board Resolution No. R5-2018-0057, and Water Code section 13223.

20. On 24 September 2025, Central Valley Water Board staff issued a notice of public hearing and provided a 30-day comment period for consideration of adopting a TSO under section 13300 of the Water Code to establish a time schedule for achieving compliance with waste discharge requirements. The notice stated that any member of the public may request an oral hearing before the Executive Officer, and if no hearing is requested, the Executive Officer’s review of the administrative record, including any written comments received shall constitute the public hearing.

BOARD ACTION

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, pursuant to CWC sections 13300 and 13383, the Discharger shall comply with the following time schedule to submit reports and ensure completion of the compliance project described in Finding 4, above:

1. The Discharger shall comply with the following time schedule, in Table 2 below, to ensure compliance with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity in NOA R5-2023-0025-009 and to ensure completion of the compliance tasks described in Finding 4, above:

Table 2. Time Schedule

Task	Description	Compliance Date
1	Submit Annual Progress Reports. The progress reports shall detail the steps taken to comply with this Order including documentation showing completion of tasks, construction progress (if applicable), evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented measures, and assessment of whether additional measures are necessary to meet the compliance dates.	1 February 2027 1 February 2028 1 February 2029 1 February 2030
2	Submit documentation that electrical conductivity data collection has been completed.	1 July 2026
3	Submit draft Feasibility Study.	17 December 2027
4	Submit final Feasibility Study identifying the chosen project alternative.	28 April 2028
5	Submit documentation that implementation of the chosen project has commenced.	30 August 2028
6	Submit documentation that the chosen project has been completed.	30 August 2030
7	Submit documentation that the discharge complies with the final effluent limitation for electrical conductivity.	31 December 2030

2. The following interim effluent limitation is effective beginning **1 January 2026** and shall apply in lieu of the corresponding final effluent limitation in NOA R5-2023-0025-009. The Discharger shall comply with the following interim effluent limitation, in Table 3 below, through **31 December 2030**, or when the Discharger is able to come into compliance with the final effluent limitation, whichever is sooner.

Table 3. Interim Effluent Limitation

Parameter	Units	Annual Average Effluent Limit
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C	µmhos/cm	2100

3. Any person signing a document submitted under this Order shall make the following certification:

“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 knowledge and 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.”

4. In accordance with California Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, engineering and geologic evaluations and judgments shall be performed by or under the direction of registered professionals competent and proficient in the fields pertinent to the required activities. All technical reports specified herein that contain work plans for, that describe the conduct of investigations and studies, or that contain technical conclusions and recommendations concerning engineering and geology shall be prepared by or under the direction of appropriately qualified professional(s), even if not explicitly stated. Each technical report submitted by the Discharger shall contain the professional's signature and/or stamp of the seal.

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order or with NOA R5-2023-0025-009 may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to \$10,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to the Water Code, including sections 13350 and 13385. The Central Valley Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

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 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 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 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 on the [Water Quality Petitions Page](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.

This Order is effective upon the date of signature.

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

Date