

# CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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## ORDER R7-2021-0013

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### Order Information

**Dischargers:** Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority d/b/a/  
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway  
**Facility:** Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Valley Station  
**Address:** One Tram Way  
**County:** Riverside County  
**WDID:** 7A331357001  
**GeoTracker ID:** WDR100033984  
**Prior Order:** R7-2009-0026

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I, PAULA RASMUSSEN, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on April 13, 2021.

*Original Signed By*

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PAULA RASMUSSEN  
Executive Officer

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

**ORDER R7-2021-0013**

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
MT. SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY  
DBA PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY, OWNER/OPERATOR  
PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY, VALLEY STATION  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
PALM SPRINGS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) hereby makes the following Findings:

1. Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority (Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF or Facility) that provides treatment to domestic wastewater generated at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Valley Station. The Facility is assigned California Integrated Water Quality System WDID No. 7A331357001 and GeoTracker Global Identification No. WDR100034038.
2. The Facility is located on One Tramway Road, Palm Springs, Riverside County, California 92262. The Assessor's Parcel Number is 556-390-005, and the longitude and latitude coordinates are 116 38' 22.67" degrees west and 33 48'42.13" degrees north, respectively. The Facility location is shown in **Attachment A** – Vicinity Map, made part of the Order by reference.
3. The Facility was most recently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) in Order R7-2009-0026, which was adopted by the Regional Water Board on May 21, 2009.
4. On June 13, 2019, the Regional Water Board issued a stipulated Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R7-2019-0017 for violations of Order R7-2009-0026. Among other things, the CDO required submittal of a workplan to propose corrective actions to bring the Facility back into compliance with Order R7-2009-0026.
5. On July 23, 2020, the Discharger submitted an application and Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to the Regional Water Board, applying for updated WDRs for the Facility.
6. This Order updates the WDRs to reflect changes in Facility operations, including those proposed pursuant to requirements in CDO R7-2019-0017. Accordingly, this Order supersedes R7-2009-0026 upon the effective date of this Order, except for enforcement purposes.

### **Current and Proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility**

7. The current Valley Station WWTF consists of a 4,000 gallon grease interceptor, two 7,500 gallon septic tanks, an AdvanTex secondary treatment system with a 1,400 gallon recirculation tank, two AX100 pods (manufacturers term) for secondary treatment, and a 1,500 gallon denitrification/dosing tank with carbon supplementation.
8. Because the current WWTF repeatedly failed to meet effluent limitations and conditions set by Order R7-2009-0026, in accordance with CDO R7-2019-0017, the Discharger proposed to upgrade the WWTF to a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) system.
9. The proposed SBR system will utilize many of the existing WWTF infrastructure units.
10. The existing treatment processes, such as grease interceptor, will continue to function to provide wastewater pretreatment. The existing septic tanks (ST1 and ST2) will be utilized, as practicable, to remove TSS and provide hydraulic retention for ammonification.
11. A new equalization (EQ) tank system will be designed to provide equalization and storage capacity of up to 20,000 gallons. The existing dosing tank will be used as the effluent tank to provide steady and controlled discharge to the existing leach field. The existing piping from dosing tank to the leach field will be utilized in the new system for discharge of treated wastewater. Existing utilities, including power supply, telecommunication, and water supply, will be used to support the operation of the new system.
12. In general, wastewater will be treated by the grease interceptor, the septic tank, and the SBR system. The treated effluent will then be sent to the leach field via pressure distribution for subsurface disposal.
13. The leach field serving the WWTF is located under asphalt parking lots at the site, approximately 50 feet west of Chino Creek.
14. An estimated average of 3,100 gallons-per-day (gpd) or a maximum of 5,400 gpd of wastewater is generated by the 750,000 visitors every year.
15. The Discharger has provided the SBR design treatment characteristics as follows:

**Table 1. WWTF Design Treatment Characteristics**

<b>Constituents</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Average Influent Value</b>	<b>Design Effluent Value</b>	<b>Design Removal Rate</b>
Flow Rate	gpd	4,400	5,400	--
BOD <sub>5</sub> <sup>1</sup>	mg/L <sup>2</sup>	240	30	88%
TSS <sup>3</sup>	mg/L	170	30	82%
TN <sup>4</sup>	mg/L	230	10	96%

### **Hydrogeologic Conditions**

16. The Valley Station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway is located at an elevation of 2,643 feet above sea level and straddles a narrow, steeply sloping valley formed by Chino Creek.
17. The valley floor is covered with surficial deposits of Quaternary alluvial fan origin, underlain at depth by crystalline bedrock.
18. In 2007, Advanced Onsite System, Inc. investigated the site geology with boreholes advanced to depths of up to 45 feet below ground surface (bgs).
19. The borehole logs from this investigation indicated that 6 inches to 2.5 ft of asphalt and/or sand fill was present at the ground surface, with the remaining depth interval composed exclusively of large, dense, gray granite boulders interbedded with very thin lenses of coarse sand to depth.
20. Boulders throughout the site are composed of unweathered granite and interbedded with very thin layers of sand originating from the granite bedrock.
21. The parking lots, located directly adjacent to the creek, are leveled areas where some boulders were removed, and other smaller boulders were overlain with loose, alluvial material for the pavement.
22. Groundwater flows in the north-northeast direction, the same direction as the surface water flow.
23. Potable water to the Discharger's facilities is supplied by Desert Water Agency (DWA), which operates a catch basin and chlorine disinfection process upstream

<sup>1</sup> Five-day biochemical oxygen demand

<sup>2</sup> Milligrams per liter

<sup>3</sup> Total Suspended Solids

<sup>4</sup> Total Nitrogen

of the Valley Station. The water has a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration ranging from about 150 mg/L to 250 mg/L.

24. The depth-to-groundwater at the Facility is about 40 feet.
25. There are three active groundwater monitoring wells located within the Facility, MW-1, MW-4, and MW-5. MW-4 is upgradient of the leach field and MW-1 and MW-5 are downgradient of the leach field, with MW-5 being the most downgradient well. Data is collected from the monitoring wells every quarter.
26. Well construction for MW-4 and MW-5 was completed on September 17, 2019, pursuant to a requirement of the CDO issued on June 13, 2019.
27. The annual average groundwater data collected since 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 follows:

**Table 2. Annual Average Groundwater Data**

	Total Nitrogen <sup>5</sup> (mg/L)	Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	Total Coliform (MPN/100ml)
MW-4	0.13	180	3.0 <sup>6</sup>
MW-1	0.97	170	1.3 <sup>7</sup>
MW-5	0.76	170	ND

28. Annual precipitation in the area is approximately 5 inches, and the average temperature is 91 degrees Fahrenheit. The annual evaporation rate is approximately 76 inches.

### **Basin Plan, Beneficial Uses, and Regulatory Considerations**

29. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan), adopted on November 17, 1993 and most recently amended on January 8, 2019, designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the plan. Pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), WDRs must implement the Basin Plan and take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water quality objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance, and the provisions of Water Code section 13241.

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<sup>5</sup> Total nitrogen is the sum of total kjeldahl nitrogen (ammonia, organic and reduced nitrogen) and nitrate-nitrite.

<sup>6</sup> Total Coliform was detected at a concentration of 11 MPN/100ml in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 but is non-detect in every other sampling period.

<sup>7</sup> Total Coliform was detected at a concentration of 5.2 MPN/100ml in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 but is non-detect in every other sampling period.

30. The Facility is located within the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit, and the Basin Plan designates the following beneficial uses for groundwater:
  - a. Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN),
  - b. Industrial Supply (IND), and
  - c. Agricultural Supply (AGR).
  
31. The Facility is situated in the Chino Canyon Creek watershed, and surface water in Chino Creek has the following designated beneficial uses:
  - a. Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN),
  - b. Ground Water Recharge (GWR),
  - c. Water Contact Recreation (REC I),
  - d. Non-contact Water Recreation (REC II),
  - e. Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM), and
  - f. Wildlife Habitat (WILD).
  
32. This Order establishes WDRs pursuant to division 7, chapter 4, article 4 of the Water Code for discharges that are not subject to regulation under Clean Water Act section 402 (33 U.S.C. § 1342).
  
33. These WDRs implement numeric and narrative water quality objectives for groundwater and surface waters established by the Basin Plan and other applicable state and federal laws and policies. The numeric objectives for groundwater designated for municipal and domestic supply include the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64421 et seq. Groundwater for use as domestic or municipal water supply (MUN) must not contain taste or odor-producing substances in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses as a result of human activity.
  
34. It is the policy of the State of California that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This Order promotes that policy by requiring discharges to meet MCLs designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use.
  
35. The discharge authorized by this Order, except for discharges of residual sludge and solid waste, are exempt from the solid waste requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20005 et seq. This exemption is based on section 20090, subdivision (b) of title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, which provides that discharges of wastewater to land, including but not limited to evaporation ponds, percolation ponds, or subsurface leach fields are not subject to the requirements of title 27 as long as:



- a. The applicable regional water board has issued WDRs, reclamation requirements, or waived such issuance;
  - b. The discharge is in compliance with the applicable water quality control plan; and
  - c. The wastewater does not need to be managed according to chapter 11, division 4.5, title 22 of the California Code of Regulations as a “hazardous waste.”
36. The discharge of waste authorized by these WDRs satisfies the conditions to be exempted from the requirements of title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, because (1) the discharge is regulated by these WDRs; (2) these WDRs will ensure the discharge complies with the Basin Plan; and (3) the discharge will not be of “hazardous waste.”
37. Consistent with Water Code section 13241, the Regional Water Board, in establishing the requirements contained herein, considered factors including, but not limited to, the following:
- a. Past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of water;
  - b. Environmental characteristics of the hydrographic unit under consideration, including the quality of water available thereto;
  - c. Water quality conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all factors which affect water quality in the area;
  - d. Economic considerations;
  - e. The need for developing housing within the region; and
  - f. The need to develop and use recycled water.
38. Water Code section 13267 authorizes the Regional Water Board to require technical and monitoring reports. The monitoring and reporting requirements in Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R7-2021-0013 are necessary to demonstrate compliance with this Order. The State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board) electronic database, GeoTracker, facilitates the submittal and review of monitoring and reporting data. The burden, including costs, of the MRP bears a reasonable relationship to the need for the information and the benefits to be obtained from that information.
39. Pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (g), the discharge of waste is a privilege, not a right, and adoption of this Order does not create a vested right to continue the discharge.

### **Antidegradation Analysis**

40. State Water Board Resolution 68-16, entitled *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California* (Resolution 68-16), generally

prohibits the Regional Water Board from authorizing discharges that will result in the degradation of high quality waters, unless it is demonstrated that any change in water quality will (a) be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state, (b) not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, and (c) not result in water quality less than that prescribed in state and regional policies (e.g., the violation of one or more water quality objectives). The discharger must also employ best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) to minimize the degradation of high quality waters. High quality waters are surface waters or areas of groundwater that have a baseline water quality better than required by water quality control plans and policies.

41. Constituents discharged from the Facility effluent that have the potential to degrade groundwater include nitrogen, TDS, and total coliform. Each of these constituents is discussed below:
  - a. **Nitrogen.** The Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) found in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64431 for nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen is 10 mg/L. To account for the fate of transport for the various components of total nitrogen, as a conservative value, it is assumed that all nitrogen present converts to nitrate/nitrite. Background groundwater total nitrogen at 0.13 mg/L. The potential degradation of groundwater is believed to be greatest under the leach field. The ROWD states that the treatment technology that will be implemented can reduce the concentration of total nitrogen discharged to below 10 mg/L. To evaluate potential degradation to groundwater due to discharges of nitrogen, this Order adds quarterly total nitrogen and nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen monitoring in the groundwater monitoring wells. This Order also provides an average monthly effluent limit for total nitrogen of 10 mg/L.
  - b. **TDS.** The Secondary MCL specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64449 for TDS ranges between the “recommended” consumer acceptance level of 500 mg/L and the “upper” consumer acceptance level of 1,000 mg/L, if it is neither reasonable nor feasible to provide more suitable water. Potable water supply has a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration between 150 to 250 mg/L with a 3-year average of 175 mg/L. The typical incremental addition of dissolved salts from domestic water usage in wastewater treatment plants in the area ranges from 150 to 380 mg/L. The reported TDS concentrations for the Facility from October 2017 to September 2020 range from 486 to 980 mg/L with an average of 732 mg/L. The average incremental increase of TDS for wastewater discharged from the WWTF is 557 mg/L, which is significantly greater than typically seen from domestic water usage. To evaluate incremental degradation due to the discharge of elevated concentrations of TDS, this Order adds quarterly TDS monitoring in the groundwater monitoring wells. An interim effluent limitation of 690 mg/L has been set by the Regional Water Board. This Order also requires that the Discharger conduct a TDS study to assess the water quality conditions for the future establishment of an effluent limitation for TDS of 500 mg/L or lower that

takes into account relevant factors such as site-specific hydrogeologic conditions and protects the high quality water present in the basin.

- c. **Total Coliform.** Typical coliform concentrations in domestic raw wastewater are about  $10^7$  to  $10^8$  most probable number (MPN)/100 mL, and  $10^5$  to  $10^6$  for typical secondary treated domestic effluent wastewater. (U.S. environmental Protection Agency, *Design Manual: Municipal Wastewater Disinfection*, EPA/625/1-86/021, October 1986.) The depth to groundwater is approximately 40 feet; it is possible that pathogen-indicator bacteria will reach groundwater in excess of that prescribed in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64426.1. However, groundwater monitoring wells adjacent to the leach field have previously been sampled and analyzed for bacteria with results below the detection limits for total coliform. In addition, surface water monitoring of Chino Creek adjacent to the leach field has also been sampled and analyzed for bacteria with results below the MCLs. To evaluate potential degradation to groundwater and surface water due to pathogens, this Order continues quarterly *E. coli* monitoring in the groundwater monitoring wells and in Chino Creek.
42. The discharge of wastewater to the leach field, as permitted herein, reflects BPTC. The discharge is confined to a reasonable area. The WDRs contained in this Order minimize degradation to areal groundwater; they are designed to ensure that the discharge does not create a condition of pollution or nuisance, and that the beneficial uses of groundwater will be maintained, consistent with the antidegradation provisions of Resolution No. 68-16.
43. Degradation of groundwater by some of the typical waste constituents associated with domestic waster, namely nitrogen, TDS, and total coliform, is consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state. The Discharger supports the economic prosperity of the community by the employment of full-time and part-time personnel at Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. The tramway facilities also provide recreation and tourism to the area to about 750,000 people annually. The economic prosperity of surrounding communities and associated industries is of maximum benefit to the people of the state and provides sufficient justification for allowing the limited groundwater degradation that may occur pursuant to this Order.

### **Stormwater**

44. Federal regulations for stormwater discharges were promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on November 16, 1990 (40 C.F.R. parts 122, 123, and 124) to implement the Clean Water Act's stormwater program set forth in Clean Water Act section 402(p) (33 U.S.C. § 1342(p)). In relevant part, the regulations require specific categories of facilities that discharge stormwater associated with industrial activity to "waters of the United States" to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and to require control of such pollutant discharges using Best Available Technology Economically

Achievable (BAT) and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT) to prevent and reduce pollutants and any more stringent controls necessary to meet water quality standards.

45. The State Water Board adopted Water Quality Order 2014-0057-DWQ (NPDES No. CAS000001), *General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities* (Industrial General Permit) on July 1, 2015. Facilities used in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal or domestic sewage with a design flow of one million gallons per day or more, or that are required to have an approved pretreatment program under 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 403, must enroll under the Industrial General Permit, unless there is no discharge of industrial stormwater to waters of the United States. Because the Facility has a design treatment capacity of 0.0054 MGD (i.e., less than 1 MGD) and is not required to have an approved pretreatment program under 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 403, the Facility is not required to enroll in the Industrial General Permit at this time.
46. The State Water Board also adopted Order 2009-0009-DWQ (NPDES NO. CAS000002), *General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities* (Construction General Permit), which regulates Dischargers whose projects disturb one or more acres of soil, or whose projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres. If appropriate, the Discharger must enroll in the Construction General Permit during construction of the updated wastewater treatment system.

### **CEQA and Public Participation**

47. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, the issuance of these WDRs, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.
48. The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update WDRs for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and to submit comments.
49. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Order R7-2009-0026 is rescinded upon the effective date of this Order, except for enforcement purposes, and, in order to meet the provisions contained in division 7 of the Water Code, and regulations adopted thereunder, the Discharger shall comply with the following:

**A. Effluent Limitations**

The effluent limitations prescribed in this Order shall be effective six months after the WWTF is operational and begins to discharge of treated effluent.

1. The 30-day monthly average daily discharge flow from the WWTF shall not exceed 5,400 gpd. The flow limit shall be applied to the flow leaving the WWTF.
2. Effluent from the WWTF shall not have a pH below 6.0 or above 9.0.
3. Effluent from the WWTP shall not exceed the following effluent limitations:

Table 3: Effluent Limitations

Constituents	Units	30-Day Average	7-Day Average	Daily Average
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	10	----	----
TSS	mg/L	30	45	65
BOD	mg/L	30	45	65
TDS	mg/L	690 <sup>8,9</sup>	----	----

**B. Discharge Prohibitions**

1. The discharge of waste classified as “hazardous,” as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20164, or “designated,” as defined in Water Code section 13173 and California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20164, is prohibited.
2. The discharge of treated wastewater at a location other than the designated disposal area is prohibited.
3. The discharge of wastewater to surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
4. The overflow of wastewater from the leach field is prohibited.
5. The discharge of wastewater to a location or in a manner different from that described in this Order is prohibited.

<sup>8</sup> From October 2017 to September 2020, the 3-year average effluent TDS value was 732 mg/L.

<sup>9</sup> This limit serves as an interim TDS effluent limitation for the new WWTF until a final TDS effluent limitation is approved by the Regional Water Board, no later than five years from the time of the WWTF system startup.

6. The discharge of wastewater to land not owned or controlled by the Discharger, or not authorized for such use, is prohibited.
7. Bypass or overflow of untreated or partially-treated waste is prohibited.
8. The storage, treatment, or disposal of wastes from the Facility shall not cause contamination, pollution, or nuisance as defined in Water Code section 13050, subdivisions (k), (l), and (m).

**C. Receiving Water Limitations**

1. The discharge of wastewater from the Facility shall not cause groundwater to: exceed applicable water quality objectives; acquire taste, odor, toxicity, or color that create nuisance conditions; impair beneficial uses; or contain constituents in excess of California Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), as set forth in title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (including, but not limited to, section 64426.1 for bacteriological constituents; section 64431 for inorganic chemicals; section 64444 for organic chemicals; and section 64678 for lead and copper).

**D. Discharge Specifications**

1. Adequate measures shall be taken to ensure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
2. Public contact with wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, or other acceptable alternatives.
3. Objectionable odors originating at the Facility shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the wastewater treatment and disposal area.
4. There shall be no surface flow of wastewater away from the leach field.
5. The Discharger shall not accept wastewater in excess of the treatment capacity of the Facility.

**E. Sludge and Solids Limitations**

1. Disposal of oil and grease, biosolids, screenings, and other solids collected from liquid wastes shall be pursuant to title 27 of the California Code of Regulations.
2. Sludge use and disposal shall comply with federal and state laws and regulations, including permitting requirements, and technical standards in 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 503.

3. Any proposed change in use or disposal of biosolids requires the approval of the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator, who must be notified at least 90 days in advance of the change.
4. The Discharger shall maintain a permanent log of all solids hauled away from the Facility for use/disposal elsewhere and shall provide a summary of the volume, type (screenings, grit, raw sludge, digested sludge), use (agricultural, composting, etc.), and the destination in accordance with the MRP of this Order. Sludge that is stockpiled at the Facility shall be sampled and analyzed for those constituents listed in the sludge monitoring section of the MRP of this Order and as required by 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 503. The results of the analyses shall be submitted to the Regional Water Board as part of the MRP.

## **F. Special Provisions**

### **1. WWTF Operation Notice**

- a. At least fourteen (14) days prior to WWTF start-up, the Discharger shall submit a notice to the Regional Water Board stating that the WWTF will begin operation and that a discharge is planned.
- b. The Discharger shall start operation of the SBR treatment system once the wastewater flow reaches the minimum design operational capacity of 700 gpd, averaged monthly, and the wastewater biomass concentration reaches 3,000 mg/L.

### **2. TDS Study Work Plan**

- a. Within **nine (9) months** of WWTF system startup, the Discharger shall submit to the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer for review and approval a work plan and time schedule to:
  - i. Monitor groundwater and determine the background concentration for TDS in the area of discharge from the Valley Station WWTF;
  - ii. Determine if wastewater discharged to the leach field is causing or contributing to increased TDS levels in areal groundwater;
  - iii. Propose an effluent limitation for TDS of 500 mg/L or lower that does not cause an exceedance of the receiving water limitations for groundwater.

- iv. Conduct investigation for treatment technologies and propose a timeline to achieve the proposed effluent limitation. The timeline to achieve the new TDS effluent limitation shall not be longer than five years from the time of the WWTF system startup.
3. **Extension Request.** If the Discharger is unable to comply with the Special Provisions within the applicable schedule, the Discharger may request an extension for approval by the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer. The extension request must be in writing and submitted as soon as a delay is recognized and prior to the compliance date. The extension request should include justification for the delay.

## **G. Standard Provisions**

1. **Noncompliance.** The Discharger shall comply with all of the terms, requirements, and conditions of this Order and MRP R7-2021-0013. Noncompliance is a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, § 13000 et seq.) and grounds for: (1) an enforcement action; (2) termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification of these waste discharge requirements; or (3) denial of an Order renewal application.
2. **Enforcement.** The Regional Water Board reserves the right to take any enforcement action authorized by law. Accordingly, failure to timely comply with any provisions of this Order may subject the Discharger to enforcement action. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the assessment of administrative civil liability pursuant to Water Code sections 13323, 13268, and 13350, a Time Schedule Order (TSO) issued pursuant to Water Code section 13308, or referral to the California Attorney General for recovery of judicial civil liability.
3. **Proper Operation and Maintenance.** The Discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all systems and components of collection, treatment, and control installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with this Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes but is not limited to, effective performance, adequate process controls, and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities/systems when necessary to achieve compliance with this Order. All systems in service or reserved shall be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Records of inspections and maintenance shall be retained and made available to the Regional Water Board upon request.
4. **Reporting of Noncompliance.** The Discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. Information shall be provided orally to the Regional Water Board office and



the Office of Emergency Services within twenty-four (24) hours of when the Discharger becomes aware of the incident. If noncompliance occurs outside of business hours, the Discharger shall leave a message on the Regional Water Board's office voicemail. A written report shall also be provided within five business days of the time the Discharger becomes aware of the incident. The written report shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause, the period of noncompliance, the anticipated time to achieve full compliance, and the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. All other forms of noncompliance shall be reported with the Discharger's next scheduled Self-Monitoring Report (SMR), or earlier if requested by the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer.

5. **Duty to Mitigate.** The Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this Order that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.
6. **Material Changes.** Prior to any modifications which would result in any material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the Discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Water Board, and if required by the Regional Water Board, obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
7. **Operational Personnel.** The Facility shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing the necessary expertise in the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment system.
8. **Familiarity with Order.** The Discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Order and maintain a copy of this Order at the site.
9. **Inspection and Entry.** The Discharger shall allow the Regional Water Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter the premises regulated by this Order, or the place where records are kept under the conditions of this Order;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, records kept under the conditions of this Order;
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Order; and

- d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Order or as otherwise authorized by the Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
10. **Records Retention.** The Discharger shall retain copies of all reports required by this Order and the associated MRP. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of five years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. Records may be maintained electronically. This period may be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation regarding this discharge or when requested by the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer.
11. **Change in Ownership.** This Order is not transferable to any person without written approval by the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer. Prior to any change in ownership of this operation, the Discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer in writing at least 30 days in advance. The notice must include a written transfer agreement between the existing owner and the new owner. At a minimum, the transfer agreement must contain a specific date for transfer of responsibility for compliance with this Order and an acknowledgment that the new owner or operator is liable for compliance with this Order from the date of transfer. The Regional Water Board may require modification or revocation and reissuance of this Order to change the name of the Discharger and incorporate other requirements as may be necessary under the Water Code.
12. **Backup Generators.** Standby, power generating facilities shall be available to operate the Facility during a commercial power failure.
13. **Format of Technical Reports.** The Discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 30, as groundwater raw data uploads electronically over the Internet into the State Water Board's GeoTracker database, found at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Documents that were formerly mailed by the Discharger to the Regional Water Board, such as regulatory documents, narrative monitoring reports or materials, and correspondence, shall be uploaded into GeoTracker in the appropriate Microsoft Office software application format, such as Word or Excel files, or as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. Large documents must be split into appropriately labelled, manageable file sizes and uploaded into GeoTracker.
14. **Qualified Professionals.** In accordance with 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

California registered professionals (i.e., civil engineer, engineering geologist, geologist, etc.) competent and proficient in the fields pertinent to the required activities. All technical reports required under this Order that contain work plans, describe the conduct of investigations and studies, or 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 a statement of qualifications of the responsible licensed professional(s) as well as the professional's signature and/or stamp of the seal. Additionally, all field activities are to be conducted under the direct supervision of one or more of these professionals.

15. **Certification Under Penalty of Perjury.** All technical reports required in conjunction with this Order shall include a statement by the Discharger, or an authorized representative of the Discharger, certifying under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the reports were prepared under his or her supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted, and that based on his or her inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, the information submitted is, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, true, complete, and accurate.
16. **Violation of Law.** This Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
17. **Property Rights.** This Order does not convey property rights of any sort, or exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize injury to private property or invasion of personal rights.
18. **Modification, Revocation, Termination.** This Order may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the Discharger for an Order modification, rescission, or reissuance, or the Discharger's notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance, does not stay any Order condition. Causes for modification include, but are not limited to, the violation of any term or condition contained in this Order, a material change in the character, location, or volume of discharge, a change in land application plans or sludge use/disposal practices, or the adoption of new regulations by the State Water Board, Regional Water Board (including revisions to the Basin Plan), or federal government.
19. **Severability.** The provisions of this Order are severable. If any provision of this Order is found invalid, the remainder of these requirements shall not be affected.

Any person aggrieved by this Regional Water Board action may petition the State Water Board for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day after the date of this Order; if the 30th day 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 statutes and regulations applicable to filing petitions are available on the State Water Board's website and can be provided upon request.

**Order Attachments**

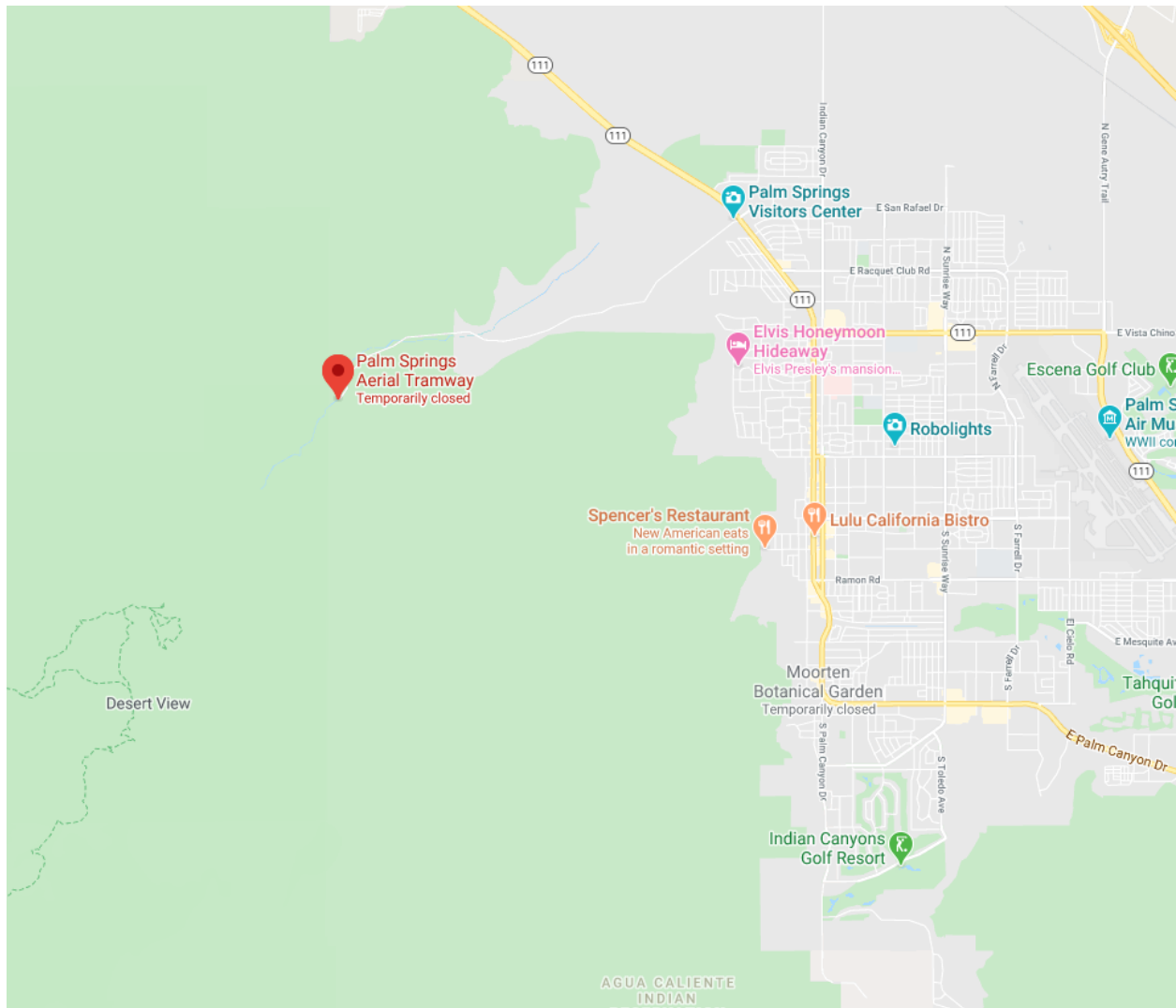
Attachment A—Vicinity Map

Attachment B—Site Map

Attachment C—Site Operations

Attachment D—Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2021-0013

### ATTACHMENT A—VICINITY MAP

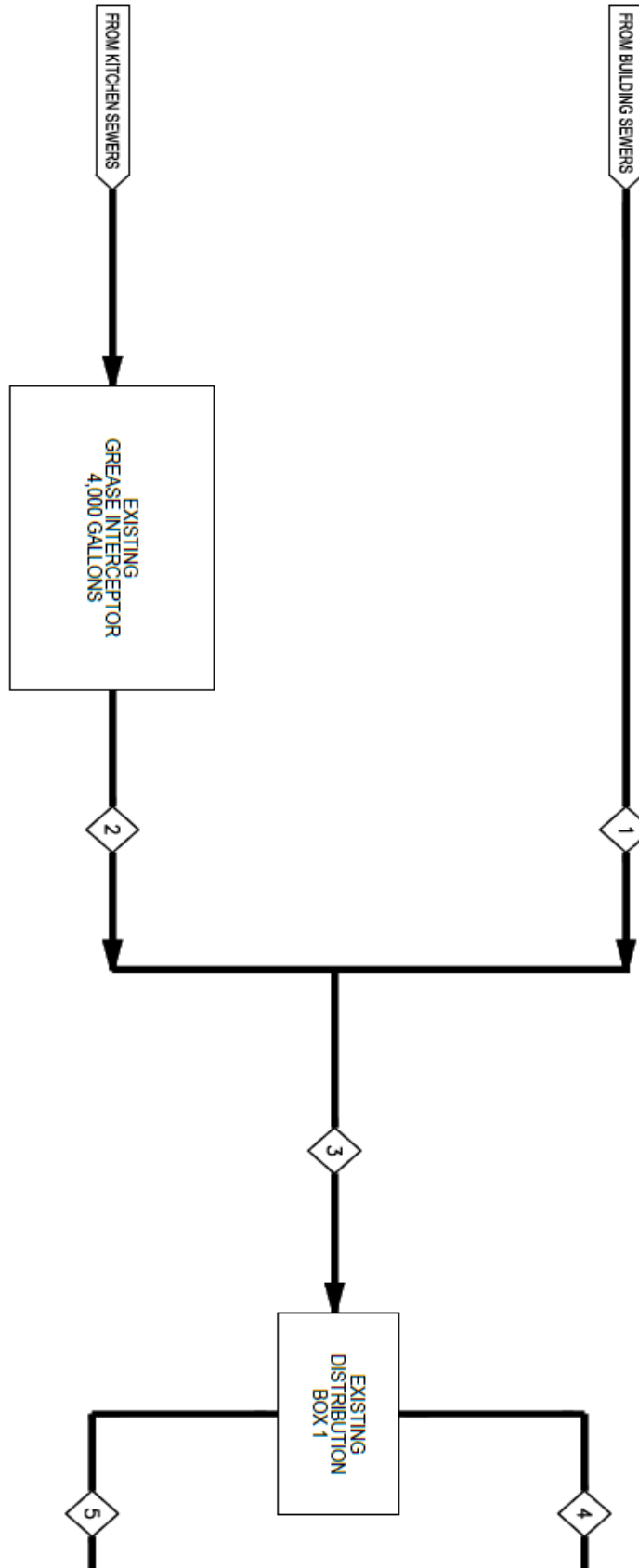


**ATTACHMENT B—SITE MAP**



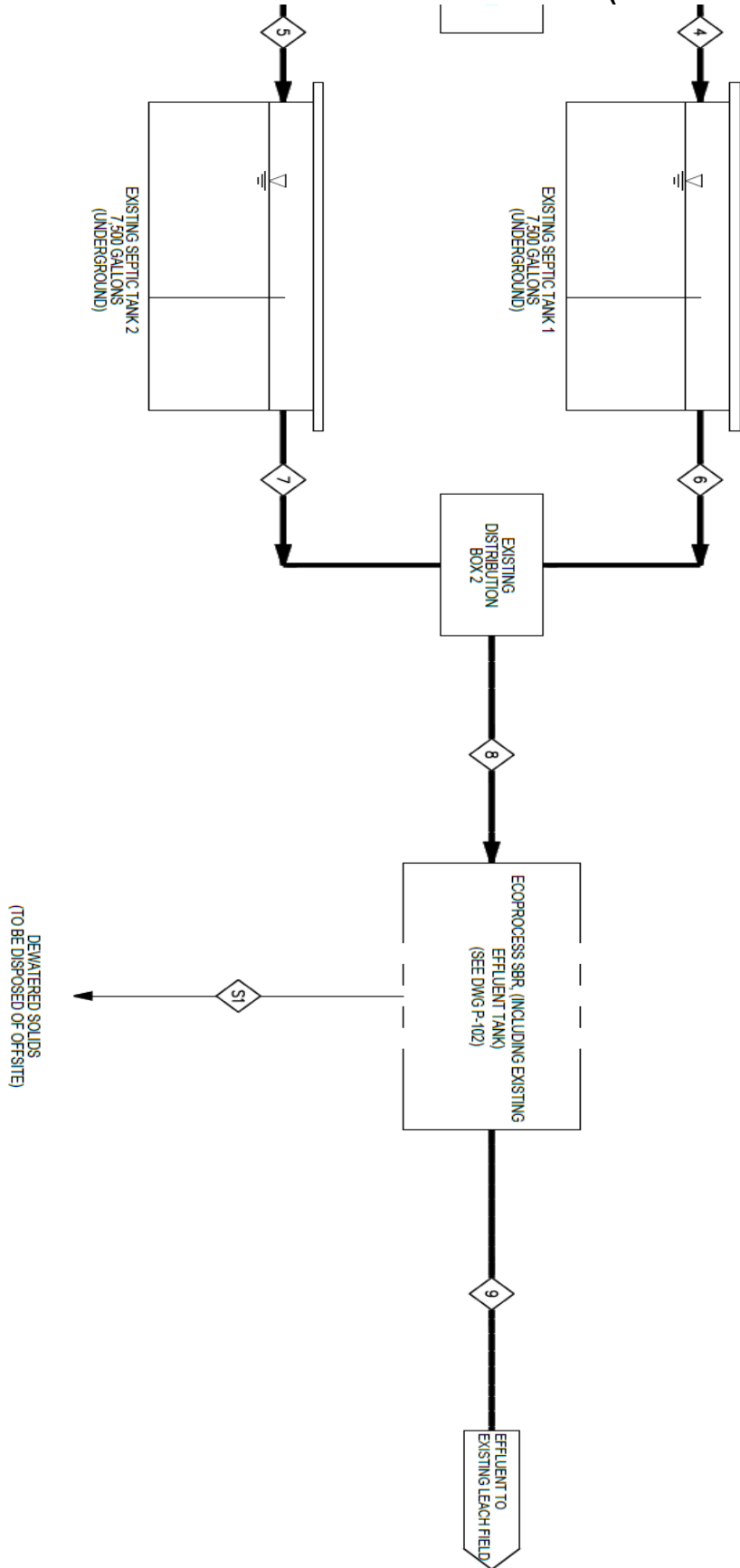


**ATTACHMENT C—PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM (CONTINUE NEXT PAGE)**





# ATTACHMENT C—PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM (CONTINUED)



**ATTACHMENT D – GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS LOCATION**



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM R7-2021-0013**

FOR  
MT. SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY  
DBA PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY, OWNER/OPERATOR  
PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY, VALLEY STATION  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM  
PALM SPRINGS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267 and describes requirements for monitoring the relevant wastewater system and groundwater quality. The Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Regional Water Board or its Executive Officer.

The Discharger owns and operates the wastewater treatment system that is subject to Order R7-2021-0013. The reports required herein are necessary to ensure that the Discharger complies with the Order. Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall implement the MRP and shall submit monitoring reports described herein.

**A. Sampling and Analysis General Requirements**

1. **Testing and Analytical Methods.** The collection, preservation, and holding times of all samples shall be in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)-approved procedures. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of either the USEPA's *Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act* (40 C.F.R. part 136) or *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste: Physical/Chemical Methods Compendium* (SW-846), unless otherwise specified in the MRP or approved by the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer.
2. **Laboratory Certification.** All analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified by the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP), unless otherwise approved by the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer.
3. **Reporting Levels.** All analytical data shall be reported with method detection limits (MDLs) and with either the reporting level or limits of quantitation (LOQs) according to 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 136, Appendix B. The laboratory reporting limit for all reported monitoring data shall be no greater than the practical quantitation limit (PQL).

4. **Sampling Location(s).** Samples shall be collected at the location(s) specified in the WDRs. If no location is specified, sampling shall be conducted at the most representative sampling point available.
5. **Representative Sampling.** All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The time, date, and location of each grab sample shall be recorded on the chain of custody form for the sample. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Regional Water Board staff.
6. **Instrumentation and Calibration.** All monitoring instruments and devices used by the Discharger shall be properly maintained and calibrated to ensure their continued accuracy. Any flow measurement devices shall be calibrated at least once per year to ensure continued accuracy of the devices. In the event that continuous monitoring equipment is out of service for a period greater than 24 hours, the Discharger shall obtain representative grab samples each day the equipment is out of service. The Discharger shall correct the cause(s) of failure of the continuous monitoring equipment as soon as practicable. The Discharger shall report the period(s) during which the equipment was out of service and if the problem has not been corrected, shall identify the steps which the Discharger is taking or proposes to take to bring the equipment back into service and the schedule for these actions.
7. **Field Test Instruments.** Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided that:
  - a. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
  - b. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
  - c. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and
  - d. Field calibration reports are submitted.
8. **Records Retention.** The Discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of the sampling or measurement. This period may be extended by request of the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer at any time. Records of monitoring information shall include:

- a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement(s);
- b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurement(s);
- c. The date(s) analyses were performed;
- d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
- e. The analytical techniques or method used; and
- f. All sampling and analytical results, including:
  - i. units of measurement used;
  - ii. minimum reporting limit for the analyses;
  - iii. results less than the reporting limit but above the method detection limit (MDL);
  - iv. data qualifiers and a description of the qualifiers;
  - v. quality control test results (and a written copy of the laboratory quality assurance plan);
  - vi. dilution factors, if used; and
  - vii. sample matrix type.

**B. Effluent Monitoring**

1. The Discharger shall collect effluent wastewater samples from the effluent tank prior to discharge to the leach field, the sampling shall include the following:

Table 1. Effluent Monitoring

Constituents	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow	gpd	Calculation <sup>10</sup>	Weekly	Monthly
Hydrogen Ion (pH)	Standard Units	Grab	Monthly	Monthly
20° C BOD5	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Monthly

<sup>10</sup> Average daily flow calculated from weekly meter readings.

Constituents	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Monthly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Monthly
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Monthly
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	µg/L	Grab	Annually	Annually

**C. Water Supply Monitoring**

- The Discharger shall collect samples from the water supply sampling station at the WWTF, the sampling shall include the following:

Table 2. Water Supply Monitoring

Constituents	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Monthly
Hydrogen Ion (pH)	pH	grab	Monthly	Monthly
Standard Minerals <sup>11</sup>	mg/L	Grab	Annually	Annually

**D. Chino Creek Monitoring**

- The Discharger shall collect samples from the Chino Creek sampling stations, located upstream and downstream of the leach field, the sampling shall include the following:

Table 4 Chino Creek Monitoring

Constituents	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

<sup>11</sup> Standard Minerals shall include, at a minimum, the following elements/compounds: Barium, Calcium, Magnesium, Nitrogen, Potassium, Sulfate, Total Alkalinity (including alkalinity series), and Hardness.

Constituents	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Hydrogen Ion (pH)	pH	grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Escherichia Coli (E. Coli)	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

**E. Groundwater Monitoring**

1. Groundwater Monitoring – Onsite groundwater monitoring wells (MW-1, MW-4, and MW-5) shall be monitored for the following:

Constituents	Units	Sample Type	Sample Frequency	Reporting Frequency <sup>12</sup>
Groundwater Elevation <sup>13</sup>	0.01 Feet	Calculated	Quarterly	Quarterly
Depth to Groundwater	0.01 Feet	Measurement	Quarterly	Quarterly
pH	Std. Units	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Nitrate as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Sodium	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Chloride	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Coliform Organisms <sup>14</sup>	MPN/100 mL	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
E-Coli	MPN/100 mL	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs)	ug/L	Grab	Annually	Annually

<sup>12</sup> Analysis of data by a California-licensed professional is required at least annually.

<sup>13</sup> Groundwater elevation shall be based on depth to water using a surveyed measuring point elevation on the well and a surveyed reference elevation.

<sup>14</sup> Using a minimum of 15 tubes or three dilutions.

## F. Reporting Requirements

1. Monthly Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs) shall be submitted by the 15th day of the following month following the monitoring period. Quarterly SMRs shall be submitted by January 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Annual SMRs shall be submitted by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
2. Monthly and quarterly SMRs shall include, at a minimum, the following:
  - a. **Cover Letter.** A transmittal letter summarizing the essential points in the report.
  - b. **Summary of Monitoring Data.** Tables of the data collected. Each row shall be a monitoring event and each column shall be a separate parameter at a single location (or a single average, as appropriate).
  - c. **Compliance Summary.** Identification of any violations found since the last report was submitted, and actions taken or planned for correcting each violation. If the Discharger previously submitted a report describing corrective actions and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. If no violations have occurred since the last submittal, this shall be stated.
3. Annual SMRs shall include, at a minimum, the following:
  - a. **Cover Letter.** A transmittal letter summarizing the essential points in the report.
  - b. **Maps.** Maps depicting the Facility layout and the location of sampling points.
  - c. **Summary of Monitoring Data.** Tables of the data collected. The tables shall include all of the data collected to-date at each monitoring point, organized in chronological order, with the oldest data in the top row and progressively newer data in rows below the top row. Each row shall be a monitoring event and each column shall be a separate parameter at a single location (or a single average, as appropriate).
  - d. **Graphical Display.** Graphs depicting monitoring parameters through time, with the concentrations being the y-axis and time being the x-axis. Logarithmic scales can be used for values that vary by orders of magnitude. Individual graphs can combine multiple locations or multiple chemicals if that allows the data to be compared more easily.



- e. **Compliance Summary.** Identification of any violations found since the last annual report was submitted, and actions taken or planned for correcting each violation. If the Discharger previously submitted a report describing corrective actions and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. If no violations have occurred since the last submittal, this shall be stated.
4. SMRs shall be certified under penalty of perjury to be true and correct. Each SMR submitted to the Regional Water Board shall contain the following completed declaration:

“I declare under the penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document, and that based 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 for knowing violations.

Executed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Title)”

5. The SMRs and any other information requested by the Regional Water Board shall be signed by a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. A duly authorized representative of the Discharger may sign the documents if:
- a. The authorization is made in writing by the person described above;
  - b. The authorization specified an individual or person having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated disposal system; and
  - c. The written authorization is submitted to the Regional Water Board’s Executive Officer.
6. The results of any analysis performed more frequently than required at the locations specified in this MRP shall be reported to the Regional Water Board.
7. As specified in Standard Provision G.14, technical reports shall be prepared by or under the direction of appropriately qualified professional(s). Each technical report submitted shall contain a statement of qualification of

the responsible licensed professional(s) as well as the professional's signature and/or stamp of the seal.

8. As specified in Standard Provision G.13, the Discharger shall comply with Electronic Submittal of Information (ESI) requirements by submitting all correspondence and reports required under MRP R7-2021-0013 and any future revision(s) thereto, including groundwater monitoring data and discharge location data (latitude and longitude), correspondence, and PDF monitoring reports to the State Water Board's GeoTracker database. Documents too large to be uploaded into GeoTracker should be broken down into smaller electronic files and labelled properly prior to uploading into GeoTracker.