03 April 2025

Chicago Park School District
Chicago Park Elementary School
ATTN: Katie Kohler
15725 Mount Olive Road
Grass Valley, CA 95945

CERTIFIED MAIL
7022 2410 0002 2881 5620

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ FOR CHICAGO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM NEVADA COUNTY

On 9 April 2024, Cranmer Engineering Inc., on behalf of the Chicago Park School District (Discharger), submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) describing the school's Wastewater Treatment System in Nevada County. Based on information provided in the RWD, the wastewater treatment system and discharge are consistent with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order). This Notice of Applicability (NOA) serves as formal notice that the discharge shall be regulated pursuant to the General Order and this NOA. You are hereby assigned Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5421 for the discharge. A copy of the General Order is enclosed and also available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/wq-2014-0153-dwq.pdf

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments, which describe mandatory discharge and monitoring requirements. The General Order contains operational and reporting requirements by wastewater system type. Sampling, monitoring, and reporting requirements applicable to your treatment and disposal methods must be completed in accordance with the appropriate treatment system sections of the General Order and the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) 2014-0153-DWQ-R5421. The Discharger is responsible for all the applicable requirements that exist in the General Order and this NOA.

EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Chicago Park Elementary School wastewater treatment system is located at 15725 Mount Olive Road, in Grass Valley, California, as shown on **Attachment A**, which is incorporated herein. The school is located on 7.64 acres owned by the Chicago Park School District. It is located outside of the Grass Valley city limits and the City of Grass Valley wastewater service area. The City of Grass Valley wastewater service system is approximately 10 miles northwest of the school. The Assessors' Parcel Number for the school is 028-261-016. The school's wastewater treatment system serves a population of approximately 160 students and 20 staff during school season. Wastewater is primarily generated from domestic sewage from restrooms and graywater from sinks.

The existing treatment system has operated for approximately 50 years. The wastewater collection system consists of an all-gravity system containing approximately 605 feet of collection lines, two septic tanks, and a discharge line from the septic tanks to a percolation pond. The wastewater collection system is located throughout the property with the percolation pond located at the southwestern portion. Solids are removed from wastewater via two septic tanks located on the premises northwest of the percolation pond, as shown in **Attachment B**.

The two septic tanks have a design capacity of approximately 4,000 and 4,192 gallons. Based on estimated current daily and projected maximum flow rates, the influent wastewater flow rate is and will be 2,800 gpd and 3,580 gpd respectively during the school season. The septic system is maintained and cleaned as necessary by onsite maintenance or contracted staff. Septic tank pumping is performed by a licensed hauler out of Grass Valley.

The effluent from the septic tanks is discharged by gravity into an unlined 207,409-gallon percolation pond covered with a metal roof that has open sides. The pond is approximately 4 feet deep. The pond also collects discharges from a handwashing station from a nearby school building without a septic tank. No spills or complaints have been reported. Pond maintenance includes weed whacking around the pond berm and removal of leaves from the pond cover as needed. Pond maintenance is performed by the onsite maintenance staff.

One shallow groundwater monitoring well is located approximately 10 feet west of the percolation pond. The depth to groundwater as measured in the well is approximately 12 feet below ground surface (bgs) with a total well depth of 20 feet bgs. Groundwater quality is summarized below using the following acronyms in the table.

EC = electrical conductivity
TDS = total dissolved solids
mg/L = milligrams per liter
MPN/100 mL = most probable number in 100 milliliters
µmhos/cm = micromhos per centimeter
WQOs = water quality objectives

Table 1. Monitoring Well Water Quality

Constituents	Units	Monitoring Well	Potential WQOs
Specific Conductance, EC	µmhos/cm	318	900
TDS	mg/L	290	500
Nitrate as N	mg/L	2.7	10
Chloride	mg/L	12.6	250
Sodium	mg/L	15	69
Total Coliform	(MPN/100 mL)	<1.8	2.2
Fecal Coliform	(MPN/100 mL)	<1.8	2.2

Constituent concentrations are less than WQOs. Based on the current monitoring network, the discharge does not appear to be impacting beneficial uses of groundwater.

A water balance was included in the RWD, although its submittal was not required. As required by the General Order, if wastewater spills have not occurred, *existing ponds system may continue to operate at their present size if they are covered under individual WDRs, or a general order issued by a Regional Water Board*.

SITE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger shall comply with all applicable sections in the General Order, including:

1. Requirements A. Prohibitions

   This section applies in its entirety.

2. Requirements B.1 All Wastewater Systems

   This section applies in its entirety.

3. Requirements B.1.a.

   Effluent flow volumes shall be considered in compliance if the pond maintains 2 feet or more of freeboard. This requirement has been established because the system does not have a flow meter and the cost to install a meter is not feasible at this time.

4. Requirements B.1.b. through B.1.I

   For Section B.1.I, the Discharger shall comply with the following setback requirements listed in in Table 3 of the General Order:

Table 2. Setbacks

Equipment or Activity	Domestic Well	Flowing Stream	Ephemeral Stream Drainage	Property Line
Septic Tank, Aerobic Treatment Unit, Treatment System, or Collection System	150 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.	5 ft.
Treatment Pond	150 ft.	150 ft.	150 ft.	50 ft.

This is an existing wastewater treatment system that does not comply with the setbacks provided herein. Such noncomplying sites may be permitted under this General Order if nuisance conditions do not result from the noncompliance. Expansion of a noncomplying wastewater system shall trigger further evaluation of the setbacks.

5. Requirements B.2 Septic Systems

   The wastewater treatment system utilizes a septic system; therefore Section B.2 of the General Order applies in its entirety.

6. Requirements B.5 Pond Systems

   The wastewater treatment system utilizes a pond system; therefore Section B.5 of the General Order applies in its entirety.

7. Requirements B.8 Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal

   The wastewater treatment system generates sludge/solids/biosolids that must be disposed of; therefore Section B.8 of the General Order applies in its entirety.

8. Requirements C. Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations

   Section C of the General Order applies in its entirety.

9. Requirements D. Effluent Limitations

   D.1.a. A BOD_5 limit is not necessary currently due to low flow volumes, the long-term operation of the system without documented compliance issues (such as odors issues), and that the system does not appear to be impacting beneficial uses of groundwater. If a violation of this NOA or General Order occur, such as, odors become an issue, a BOD_5 effluent limit may be reevaluated at that time.

10. Technical Report Preparation Requirements, Provisions Section E.1 of the General Order.

    The following technical reports shall be submitted as described below:

1. Within 6 months of issuance of this NOA, the Discharger shall submit a Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Response Plan) consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.a.

2. Within 6 months of issuance of this NOA, the Discharger shall submit a Sampling and Analysis Plan consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.b.

11. Effluent flows from the septic tanks to the pond shall not result in freeboard less than two feet, as measured from the water surface to the lowest point of overflow. If freeboard is less than 2 feet or nonexistent, discharges to the pond must cease or be directed to an alternative holding area until sufficient capacity in the active pond is available to resume discharging.

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

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 Resources Control Board on 16 October 2019 (Resolution 2019-0057) and by the Office of Administrative Law on 15 January 2020 (OAL Matter No. 2019-1203-03).

a. For salinity, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements will 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 (**CV-SALTS ID: 3669**) enrolled in the Salt Control Program and participates in the Prioritization and Optimization Study.

b. For the Nitrate Control Program, the Facility falls outside of any prioritized Groundwater Basin, so no action is required at this time.

As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this NOA to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met. More information regarding this regulatory planning process can be found on the Central Valley Water Board CV-SALTS website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity).

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The Discharger shall comply with MRP WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5421, which is incorporated herein.

ENFORCEMENT

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the discharge. Discharge of wastes other than those described in this NOA is prohibited. Prior to allowing changes to the wastewater strength, generation rate, or to the method of waste disposal, you must contact the Central Valley Water Board to determine if submittal of a Report Waste Discharge is required.

The Discharger generates the waste subject to the terms and conditions of Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5421 and maintains exclusive control over the discharge. As such, the Discharger is primarily responsible for compliance with this NOA, MRP, and General Order, with all attachments. Failure to comply with the requirements in the General Order or this NOA could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL

All monitoring reports and other correspondence should be converted to searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to:

centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov.

To ensure that your submittal is routed to the appropriate staff person, the following information should be included in the body of the email or any documentation submitted to the mailing address for this office:

Facility Name: Chicago Park Elementary School
Program: Non-15 Compliance
Order: WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5421
CIWQS Place ID: CW-894355

Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
ECM Mailroom
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Now that the NOA has been issued, the Board's Compliance and Enforcement section will take over management of your case. Guy Childs is your new point of contact for any questions about the Waiver. If you find it necessary to make a change to your permitted operations, Guy will direct you to the appropriate Permitting staff. You may contact Guy at (916) 464-4648 or at guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov.

Digitally signed by
John J. Baum
Date: 2025.04.03
09:06:40 -07'00'

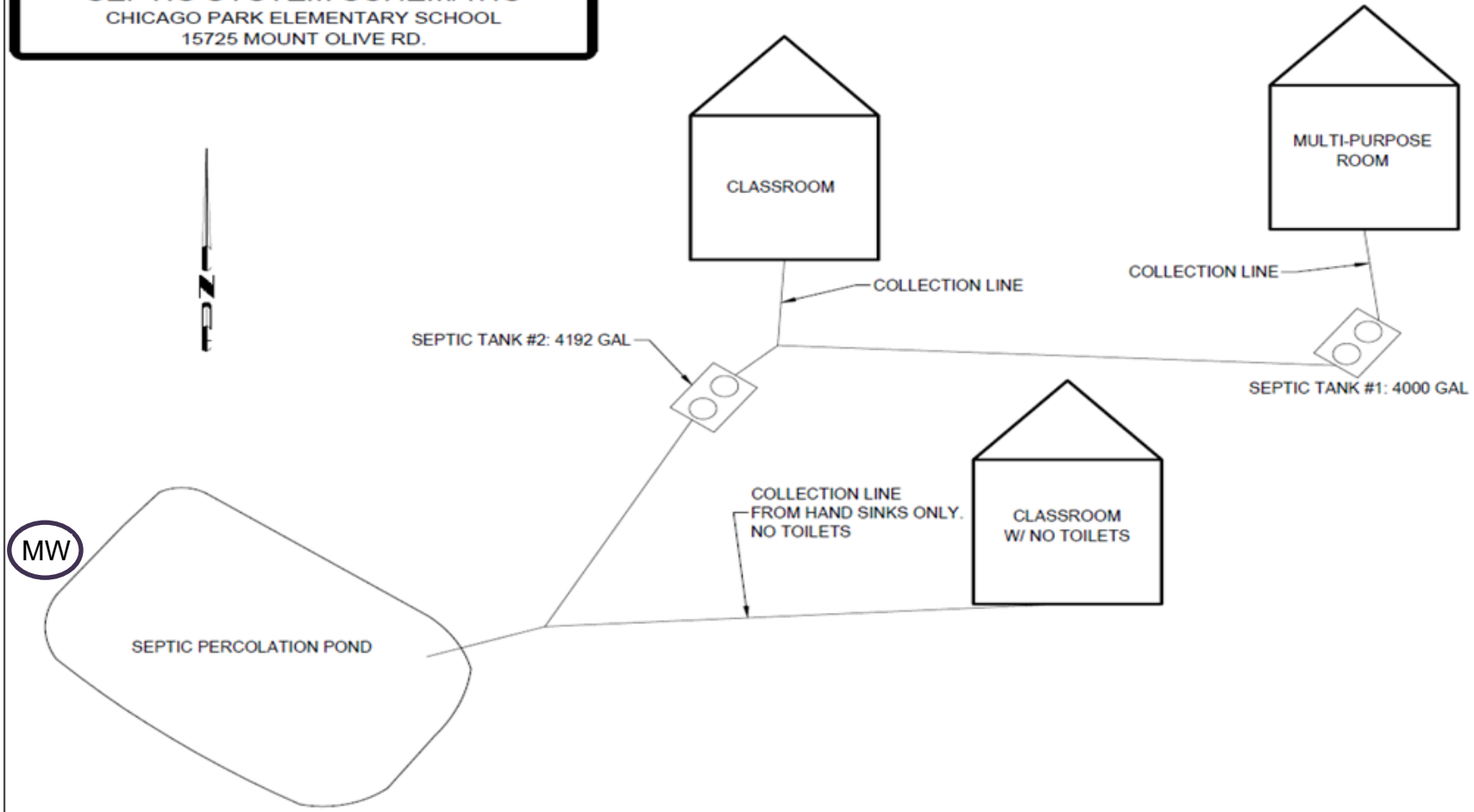
for Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ
Monitoring and Reporting Program WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5421
Attachment A, Location Map
Attachment B, Site Plan

cc w/out enc: Nevada County Environmental Health Department, Nevada City

Drawing Reference: Google Map	**LOCATION MAP** CHICAGO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEVADA COUNTY

FIGURE 2
SEPTIC SYSTEM SCHEMATIC
CHICAGO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
15725 MOUNT OLIVE RD.



Drawing Reference: Chicago Park Elementary School, Report of Wast Discharge, April 2024	**SITE PLAN** CHICAGO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEVADA COUNTY	NOT TO SCALE

FROM: Scott Armstrong
Senior Engineering Geologist

DATE: 03 April 2025

APPLICABILITY OF COVERAGE UNDER STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; CHICAGO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; NEVADA COUNTY

On 9 April 2024, the Chicago Park School District (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge for the wastewater treatment facilities at the Chicago Park Elementary School community to obtain coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order). This memorandum provides a summary of the applicability of this discharge for coverage under the General Order. This site has not been previously permitted.

EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The domestic water supply to the school is provided by the Nevada Irrigation District (NID). Based on the NID's 2020 to 2022 flow metering, the domestic water has an annual flow of 0.52 MG.

The wastewater collection system consists of an all-gravity system containing approximately 605 feet of collection lines, two approximate 4,000 gpd septic tanks, and a discharge line from the tanks to a 207,409-gallon percolation pond.

The effluent from the septic tanks is discharged by gravity into an unlined percolation pond, which is covered with a metal roof that has open sides. The pond also collects discharges from a building with a handwashing station. The system contains no preliminary treatment activities and does not include treatment or disinfection technologies.

The wastewater treatment system serves a population of approximately 160 students and 20 staff during school season. Wastewater is primarily generated from domestic sewage from restrooms and graywater from sinks. The septic system is maintained and cleaned as necessary. Septic tank pumping is performed by a licensed hauler out of Grass Valley.

Based on Discharger's estimated effluent calculation using the California Building Code, the daily and projected maximum flow rate estimates, the influent wastewater flow rate is 2,800 gpd and 3,580 gpd, respectively during school season.

This NOA does not set an influent or effluent flow limit. Effluent flow volumes and treatment capacity shall be considered in compliance if the pond maintains 2 feet or more of freeboard. This requirement has been established because the system does not have a flow meter and the cost to install a meter is not feasible at this time.

Flow volumes are less than 20,000 gpd; therefore, a nitrogen effluent is not required.

A BOD_5 effluent limit is not required at this time because there are no documented reports of compliance issues, including odor complaints, and the flows into the system are considered small (less than <5,000 gpd). If violations of this NOA or the General Order occur, a BOD_5 effluent limit may be reevaluated at that time.

SALT AND NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAMS

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 (Resolution 2019-0057) and by the Office of Administrative Law on 15 January 2020 (OAL Matter No. 2019-1203-03).

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 may comply with the new nitrate program either individually or collectively with other dischargers. For the Nitrate Control Program, the facility falls within Non-Prioritized Groundwater 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.

For salinity, dischargers that are unable to comply with stringent salinity requirements will 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 1863, has opted to participate in the Prioritization and Optimization (P&O) Study.

As these strategies are implemented, the Central Valley Water Board may find it necessary to modify the requirements of this Order to ensure the goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs are met. This order may be amended or modified to incorporate newly applicable requirements. More information regarding this regulatory planning process can be found on the Central Valley Water Board CV-SALTS website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity).