

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

TIME SCHEDULE ORDER R5-2025-0901

REQUIRING
CITY OF LODI
WHITE SLOUGH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

TO COMPLY WITH
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER DISCHARGERS THAT MEET OBJECTIVES/CRITERIA
AT THE POINT OF DISCHARGE TO SURFACE WATER ORDER R5-2023-0025
(NPDES PERMIT NO. CAG585001)
AND
NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY R5-2023-0025-010

FINDINGS

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

1. The City of Lodi (Discharger) owns and operates the White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility (Facility), which provides wastewater treatment service to the City of Lodi and the San Joaquin County Flag City Service Area with a total population of approximately 67,000. The current design average dry weather flow capacity of the Facility is 8.5 million gallons per day (MGD). The Facility is permitted to discharge 8.5 MGD of tertiary treated wastewater to Dredger Cut within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
2. Effective 1 April 2025, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) R5-2023-0025-010, authorizing the Discharger's continued waste discharge from the Facility to Dredger Cut coverage under the *Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Wastewater Dischargers that meet Objectives/Criteria at the Point of Discharge to Surface Water*, Order R5-2023-0025, NPDES No. CAG5850001 (Municipal General Order).
3. NOA R5-2023-0025-010, section V, Table 3 includes Final Effluent Limitations at Discharge Point 001 as shown, in part, in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Effluent Limitations

Parameter	Units	Average Monthly Effluent Limitations	Average Weekly Effluent Limitations
Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N)	mg/L	1.7	5.5

NEED FOR TIME SCHEDULE AND LEGAL BASIS

4. On 18 December 2024, the Discharger submitted an infeasibility analysis requesting additional time to comply with the final effluent limitations for ammonia proposed in

then-tentative NOA R5-2023-0025-010. In the request, the Discharger stated that it required additional time to develop and implement pollution prevention practices, confirm the source(s) of ammonia, and evaluate alternative water sources and/or treatment options.

5. The Discharger cannot consistently comply with the ammonia effluent limitations in NOA R5-2023-0025-010 and must implement additional actions to reach compliance. This Time Schedule Order (TSO or Order) contains a time schedule for compliance with final effluent limitations for ammonia contained in NOA R5-2023-0025-010, sets interim limitations for ammonia. Compliance with this Order exempts the Discharger from mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) for violations of the final effluent limitations for ammonia found in NOA-R5-2023-0025-010, from **1 April 2025** (the effective date of this Order) until **1 January 2028**. The Discharger has not previously been protected from mandatory minimum penalties for violations of the ammonia effluent limitations.

MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES

6. Water Code section 13385(h)-(i) requires the Central Valley Water Board to impose MMPs upon dischargers that violate certain effluent limitations. Water Code section 13385(j)(3) exempts discharges from these MMPs where the waste discharge is in compliance with a time schedule order issued pursuant to sections 13300 or 13308 and if all other requirements specified therein are met. For the purposes of this subdivision, the time schedule may not exceed five years in length (Wat. Code, § 13385(j)(3)(C)(ii)).
7. Per the requirements of Water Code 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 MMPs pursuant to Water Code section 13385(h)-(i).
 - b. To comply with final effluent limitations, the Discharger proposed that a period of three (3) years is necessary to develop and implement the actions presented in Finding 4 and achieve compliance with the effluent limits for ammonia.
 - c. The final effluent limitations for ammonia are new, more stringent, or modified regulatory requirements that became applicable to the waste discharge after the effective date of NOA R5-2023-0025-010 and after 1 July 2000. New and/or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the final effluent limitations for ammonia. The 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 for bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitations 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 effluent limitations.

8. In accordance with Water Code section 13385(j)(3)(C), the total length of protection from mandatory minimum penalties for the final effluent limitations for ammonia does not exceed five years.
11. This Order provides a time schedule for completing the actions necessary to ensure compliance with the final effluent limitations for ammonia contained in NOA R5-2023-025-010. Since the time schedule for completion of actions necessary to bring the waste discharge into compliance exceeds one year, this Order includes interim effluent limitations and interim requirements and dates for their achievement. This Order includes new performance-based interim effluent limitations for ammonia. The Central Valley Water Board calculated an interim average monthly effluent limitation (AMEL) for ammonia based on the current treatment plant performance. With 10 or more sampling data points, sampling and laboratory variability is accounted for by establishing interim effluent limitations that are based on normally distributed data where 99.9 percent of the data points will lie within 3.3 standard deviations of the mean (Basic Statistical Methods for Engineers and Scientists, Kennedy and Neville, Harper and Row). However, the maximum effluent concentration (MEC) exceeds the mean plus 3.3 standard deviations, therefore the MEC is used instead of the mean to calculate the interim limitations.

The interim average weekly effluent limitation (AWEL) was calculated using the MDEL/AMEL multipliers per Table 2 of the State Water Resources Control Board's Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California. In calculating interim effluent limitations for ammonia, effluent data collected between February 2020 and April 2023 were used. The following table summarizes the calculation of the interim effluent limitations for ammonia:

Table 2. Interim Effluent Limitations

Parameter	Units	Interim AMEL	Interim AWEL
Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N)	mg/L	46	124

11. The Central Valley Water Board has determined that the Discharger can maintain compliance with the interim effluent limitations prescribed by this Order.
12. If an interim effluent limit 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 Water Code section 13385(j)(3). It is the intent of the Central Valley Water Board that a violation of an interim monthly effluent limitation shall subject the Discharger to only one MMP for that monthly averaging period. In addition, a violation of an interim daily maximum effluent limit shall subject the Discharger to one MMP for the day in which the sample was collected.

OTHER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

13. Water Code section 13300 states:

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.

14. Water Code section 13383(a) 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.

15. The Discharger owns and operates the Facility, which is a publicly owned treatment works. The technical and monitoring reports required by this Order are necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of this Order, the Municipal General Order, and NOA R5-2023-0025-010.

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

17. This Order is issued under authority delegated to the Executive Officer in accordance with Water Code section 13223.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to Water Code 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 7.b, above:

Table 3. Compliance Schedule

Task	Compliance Date
i. Submit Progress Reports. The progress reports shall detail the steps taken to comply with this Order, including documentation showing completion of tasks, construction progress, evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented measures, and assessment of whether additional measures are necessary to meet the compliance dates.	31 January, annually
ii. Submit and implement a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) pursuant to Water Code section 13263.3 for ammonia as part of the first progress report.	31 January 2026
iii. Complete aeration improvements to aeration basins.	1 July 2026
iv. Complete electrical and control improvements.	1 April 2027
v. Complete testing of new electrical and control equipment.	1 October 2027
vi. Submit report demonstrating final compliance.	1 January 2028

2. The following interim effluent limitations for ammonia shall be effective **1 April 2025** and shall apply in lieu of the corresponding final effluent limitations in NOA R5-2023-0025-010. The Discharger shall comply with the following interim effluent limitations through **1 January 2028**, or until the Discharger is able to come into compliance with the final effluent limitations, whichever is sooner.

Table 4. Interim Effluent Limitations

Parameter	Units	Interim AMEL	Interim AWEL
Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N)	mg/L	46	124

- 3 Any person signing a document submitted pursuant to this TSO 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 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, 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 the NOA R5-2023-0025-010 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 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. Links to the laws and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the [Water Quality Petitions Page](#) (http://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