

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

DRAFT TIME SCHEDULE ORDER R5-2025-XXXX

REQUIRING
STALLION SPRINGS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
KERN COUNTY

TO COMPLY WITH WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN
ORDER R5-2023-0025
(NPDES PERMIT CAG585001)

FINDINGS

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

1. Stallion Springs Community Services District (Discharger) owns and operates the Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). The Facility discharges an average dry weather flow up to 0.1 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated wastewater to Chanac Creek, a water of the United States and a tributary to Tejon Creek.
2. On **XX Month 20XX**, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) R5-2023-0025-0XX with an effective date of **XX Month 20XX** 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-XXX section **VI** includes, in part, the following final effluent limitations applicable to discharges from the Facility at Discharge Point 001 with compliance measured at Monitoring Location EFF-001:

Table 4. Effluent Limitations

Parameter	Units	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Instantaneous Minimum	Instantaneous Maximum	Municipal General Order Section Reference
Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N) (1 April – 31 October)	mg/L	0.49	1.7			V.A.1.c.v.(b) Table 18B
Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N) (1 November – 31 March)	mg/L	0.61	2.2			V.A.1.c.v.(b) Table 18B
pH	S.U.			6.5	8.3	V.A.1.c.iv.(c)

NEED FOR TIME SCHEDULE AND LEGAL BASIS

4. NOA R5-2017-0085-013, which preceded NOA R5-2023-0025-XXX, included seasonal average monthly and average weekly final effluent limitations for total ammonia of 0.79 mg/L and 2.9 mg/L (1 April – 31 October), and 1.6 mg/L and 3.5 mg/L (1 November - 31 March), respectively. NOA R5-2017-0085-013 also included year round effluent limits for pH of 6.5 and 8.3.
5. On 30 July 2020, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer issued Time Schedule Order (TSO) R5-2020-0901, which provided until 31 August 2025 for the Discharger to come into compliance with the final effluent limitations in NOA R5-2017-0085-013 for total ammonia and pH.
6. In its request and justification for a time schedule to comply with the total ammonia and pH effluent limitations in NOA R5-2017-0085-013, the Discharger proposed to monitor and evaluate ammonia and pH at Monitoring Location EFF-001C, develop and implement alternatives for total ammonia and pH control, and construct new treatment controls and/or modify the existing treatment process.
7. The 1 July 2024 TSO Annual Progress Report for pH and total ammonia included several recommendations to improve the discharge. The Discharger started adding acid to the chlorine contact chamber to improve pH. Based on the data submitted, it appears to have reduced the number of exceedances. However, pH still exceeds final effluent limitations occasionally at Monitoring Location 001C. On 29 May 2025, the Discharger submitted an Infeasibility Report indicating it installed a means to bypass the storage pond (Monitoring Location 001B) to directly discharge to the Chanac Creek. The Discharger expects the bypass will allow it to achieve compliance with the pH final effluent limitations in NOA R5-2023-0025-XXX and provide some reduction in ammonia concentrations discharged to Chanac Creek.

The Discharger also submitted an application to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Division of Financial Assistance seeking funding approval for a compliance project. The compliance project includes installing a screw press to improve solids control and processing. This improvement is expected to allow the Discharger to optimize nitrification and help the Facility meet the total ammonia final effluent limitations in NOA R5-2023-0025-XXX.

8. The Discharger's 29 May 2025 Infeasibility Report also requested additional time to comply with the final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH in NOA R5-2017-0085-013 and the updated total ammonia and pH final effluent limitations in NOA R5-2023-0025-XX. For compliance with the final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH, the Discharger has requested additional time to install the screw press as well as monitor and fine tune the recently constructed storage pond bypass to directly discharge treated effluent to Chanac Creek.

9. The Discharger cannot consistently comply with the total ammonia and pH effluent limitations in NOA R5-2023-0025-XX and must implement additional actions to reach compliance. This Order extends the time schedule for compliance with final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH, sets interim limitations for total ammonia and pH, and is intended to provide protection from mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) for these constituents.

MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES

10. 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 discharges from these 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.
11. 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 section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i).
 - b. The final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH are new, more stringent, or modified regulatory requirements that became applicable to the waste discharge on 1 September 2020 under NOA R5-2017-0085-013 and after 1 July 2000. New or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH. The new or modified control measures cannot be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days.
 - c. To comply with final effluent limitations, the Discharger requested additional time to implement the actions described above.
 - d. This Order establishes a time schedule to bring 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.
12. By statute, a Time Schedule Order may provide protection from MMPs for up to five years. However, CWC section 13385, subdivision (j)(3)(C)(ii)(II), authorizes the Central Valley Water Board to extend the time schedule for an additional five years if the Board finds, following a public hearing, that a Discharger is making diligent progress towards bringing the waste discharge into compliance and that the additional time is necessary to comply with the effluent limitations.

13. Compliance with this Order exempts the Discharger from mandatory minimum penalties as follows:
 - a. **Total Ammonia.** Compliance with this Order exempts the Discharger from mandatory minimum penalties for violations of the final effluent limitations found in NOA R5-2023-0025-0XX from **<effective date of this Order>** until **<5 years from effective date of this Order>**.
 - b. **pH.** Compliance with this Order exempts the Discharger from mandatory minimum penalties for violations of the final effluent limitations found in NOA R5-2023-0025-0XX from **<effective date of this Order>** until **<5 years from effective date of this Order>**.
14. In accordance with CWC section 13385(j)(3), the total length of protection from mandatory minimum penalties for the final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH does not exceed ten (10) years.
15. This Order provides a time schedule for completing the actions necessary to ensure compliance with the final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH contained in NOA R5-2023-0025-0XX. Since the time schedule for completion of actions necessary to bring the waste discharge into compliance exceeds one (1) year, this Order includes interim effluent limitations and interim requirements and dates for their achievement.
16. This Order includes interim performance-based effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH. The interim average weekly effluent limitation (AWEL) and average monthly effluent limitation (AMEL) for total ammonia are based on the current treatment plant performance. From November 2021 through October 2024, there were 101 total ammonia samples reported at Monitoring Location 001A. The interim AWEL was determined by using the maximum effluent concentration (MEC) of 22 mg/L and setting it as the interim AWEL. The interim AMEL is based on the highest monthly average concentration of 17 mg/L and setting it as the interim AMEL.

For pH, this Order uses the final effluent limitations from NOA R5-2023-0025-XX as interim effluent limitations, for which compliance is measured at Monitoring Location 001A. Based on monitoring data collected at Monitoring Location 001A between November 2021 through October 2024, the Discharger reported a MEC of 8.24.
17. The Discharger can maintain compliance with the interim effluent limitations 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.

18. 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 CWC section 13385(j)(3). It is the intent of the Board that a violation of an interim average monthly effluent limitation subjects the Discharger to only one MMP for that monthly averaging period. In addition, a violation of an interim average weekly effluent limitation subjects the Discharger to one MMP for the week in which the sample was collected.

OTHER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

19. 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.”

20. CWC section 13383 states, in part:

“(a) The state board or 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.”

“(b) The state board or regional boards may require any person subject to this section to establish and maintain monitoring equipment or methods, including, where appropriate, biological monitoring methods, sample effluent as prescribed, and provide other information as may be reasonably required.”

21. 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 NOA R5-2023-0025-XX and with this Order.

22. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) (“CEQA”) 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.).

23. On **XX August 2025**, in Rancho Cordova, California, after due notice to the Discharger and all other affected persons, the Central Valley Water Board conducted a public hearing at which evidence was received to consider this Time Schedule Order under CWC section 13300 to establish a time schedule to achieve compliance with waste discharge requirements.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, Time Schedule Order R5-2020-0901 is rescinded upon the effective date of this Order, except for enforcement purposes, and pursuant to CWC sections 13300 and 13383, the Discharger shall comply with the following:

1. The Discharger shall comply with the following time schedule to ensure compliance with final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH in NOA R5-2023-0025-XX and ensure completion of the compliance actions described in the Findings above:

Table 1. Compliance Schedule for Total Ammonia and pH Effluent Limitations

Task	Compliance Date
1. 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.	1 September, annually
2. Submit a technical report evaluating the effectiveness of the screw press and a certification of completion by the design engineer.	6 months following screw press installation.
3. Comply with final effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH.	<5 years from effective date of this Order>

2. Discharge from Discharge Point 001 (compliance measured at Monitoring Location EFF-001A) shall not exceed the interim effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH specified in Table 2 below. The following interim effluent limitations for total ammonia and pH shall be effective beginning **<effective date of this Order>**. The Discharger shall comply with the following interim effluent limitations through **<5 years from effective date of this Order>**, or when the Discharger is able to come into compliance with the final effluent limitations, whichever is sooner.

Table 2. Interim Effluent Limitations – Discharge Point 001 (EFF-001A)

Parameter	Units	Instantaneous Minimum	Instantaneous Maximum	Interim AMEL	Interim AWEL
Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N) (year-round)	mg/L			17	22
pH	S.U.	6.5	8.3		

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 the WDR Order 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

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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) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

I, Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on **XX August 2025**. This Order shall become effective upon the effective date of NOA R5-2023-0025-XX, which is XX Month 20XX.

PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer