



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

19 June 2018

Darla Harrel  
I-5 Property Services, Inc.  
HC-1, Box 1, 39482 Hwy 33  
Avenal, California 93204

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**7018 0360 0000 1932 6983**

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R5259; GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS; I-5 PROPERTY SERVICES, INC.; I-5 AND DORRIS AVENUE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY; FRESNO COUNTY**

On 6 December 2017, I-5 Property Services, Inc. (Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for I-5 and Dorris Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). Based on the information provided, the Facility treats and disposes of less than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd), and is therefore eligible for coverage under the general and specific conditions of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality Order 2014-0153-DWQ *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order). This letter serves as formal notice that the General Order is applicable to your system and the wastewater discharge described below upon the rescission of Order 92-158. You are hereby assigned General Order **2014-0153-DWQ-R5259** for your system.

You should familiarize yourself with the entire General Order and its attachments enclosed with this letter, which describe mandatory discharge and monitoring requirements. 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) No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5259. This MRP was developed after consideration of your waste characterization and site conditions described in the attached memorandum.

### **DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

The Discharger owns and operates the Facility in the northwest quadrant of I-5 and Dorris Avenue in Fresno County, approximately 15 miles northeast of Coalinga. The Facility treats domestic wastewater from a commercial development that includes six restaurants, three motels, four service stations and one office. The RWD indicates the average wastewater flow from October 2016 through September 2017 was roughly 34,000 gpd. The Facility has a design flow of 115,000 gpd. However, the Facility only has a disposal capacity of 100,000 gpd according to the water balance provided by the Discharger's consultant on 26 March 2018. The Facility utilizes an aerated pond system consisting of an influent coarse screen, lift station and

three partially-mixed aeration ponds in series. The aeration ponds each have a volume of one million gallons with a detention time of approximately 30 days. Treated effluent from the aeration ponds discharges into the first evaporation/percolation pond and then overflows to the second pond. The first pond has limited percolation capacity and remains full majority of the time, the second pond percolates at about 1.95 inches per day. Depth to ground water is approximately 200 to 600 feet.

Solids are predominantly collected from screening at the influent lift station and biosolids are accumulated at the bottom of the partially-mixed aeration ponds. Solids are disposed of in trash bins and eventually hauled to a landfill. Biosolids depth in the aeration ponds are monitored by the operator and is removed as needed. Dried sludge is stockpiled and is hauled off by a sludge handler every two years. Approximately 25 tons of sludge is generated each time the pond is cleaned.

### **FACILITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

The Discharger will maintain exclusive control over the discharge and shall comply with the terms and conditions of this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5259. In accordance with the requirements of the General Order, discharges with flow rates greater than 20,000 must be evaluated as described in Attachment 1 of the General Order to determine if nitrogen effluent limits are required. The attached memorandum includes a nitrogen effluent limit evaluation. Based on the evaluation, Central Valley Water Board staff determined that the nitrogen limit for low threat (50% removal) is appropriate for the Facility.

In accordance with Section B.1 of the General Order, treated wastewater discharged to the Facility's pond system **shall not exceed 100,000 gpd as a monthly average**.

The General Order states in Section B.1.I that the Discharger shall comply with the setbacks described in Table 3. This table summarizes different setback requirements for wastewater system equipment, activities, land application areas, and storage and/or treatment ponds from sensitive receptors and property lines where applicable. The Discharger shall comply with the applicable setback requirements, as summarized in the following table:

<b>Site Specific Applicable Setback Requirements</b>		
<b>Equipment or Activity</b>	<b>Domestic Well</b>	<b>Property Line</b>
Treatment System	150 ft. <sup>1</sup>	5 ft. <sup>1</sup>
Impoundment (undisinfected secondary recycled water) <sup>2</sup>	150 ft. <sup>3</sup>	50 ft.

<sup>1.</sup> Setback established by California Plumbing Code, Table K-1

<sup>2.</sup> Undisinfected secondary recycled water is defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.900.

<sup>3.</sup> Setback established by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60310(d).

The Discharger shall comply with the pond system requirements specified in Section B.5 of the General Order. Section B.5.a states that sufficient freeboard shall be maintained at all times in ponds to provide adequate storage capacity and prevent wastewater spills. Freeboard shall be measured vertically from the lowest elevation of the pond berm to the pond water surface. If freeboard is less than one foot, the discharger shall immediately implement the contingency plan contained in the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Provision E.1.a).

Section B.5.d states that objectionable odors shall not create nuisance conditions beyond the limits of the wastewater treatment facility. A dissolved oxygen concentration less than 1.0 mg/L in the upper one foot of any wastewater pond shall be evidence of the potential to generate objectionable odors.

Section B.7.f of the General Order states if recycled water is applied, it shall comply with the title 22 water recycling criteria, this General Order, the NOA, a title 22 Engineering Report, and any Department of Drinking Water approval conditions. As of the date of this NOA, the Discharger has not submitted a title 22 Engineering Report for the Facility. Therefore, the Discharger is prohibited from reclaiming the Facility's treated effluent on recycled water use areas until a title 22 Engineering Report for the Facility has been approved by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

As discussed in the attached memorandum, the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin*, Second Edition, revised July 2016 (Tulare Lake Basin Plan) includes more stringent effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) for discharges of domestic wastewater to land. Therefore, this NOA includes the secondary treatment effluent limitations required by the Tulare Lake Basin Plan for BOD and TSS. The Discharger shall not exceed the following effluent limitation for nitrogen (as specified in Section D.1.a of the General Order) and for BOD and TSS (as specified in the Tulare Lake Basin Plan):

<b>Effluent Limitations for Wastewater Treatment System<sup>1</sup></b>			
<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Monthly Average<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Annual Average</b>
BOD	mg/L	40	--
TSS	mg/L	40	--
Total Nitrogen (% Reduction)	%	--	50 <sup>3</sup>

BOD denotes biochemical oxygen demand; TSS denotes total suspended solids.

1. The limitations included in this table apply to the treated effluent discharged to the evaporation/percolation ponds.
2. The monthly average concentration is the arithmetic mean of measurements recorded during a calendar month. If only one sample is collected in a calendar month, then that sample measurement is the monthly average concentration.
3. The value represents the minimum percent reduction compared to the untreated wastewater value. Reduction shall be calculated on an annual basis. In no case shall the reduction result in an effluent limit lower than 10 mg/L total nitrogen.

Provision E.1 of the General Order requires dischargers enrolled under the General Order to prepare and implement the following reports within **90 days** of the issuance of this NOA:

- Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Provision E.1.a)
- Sampling Analysis Plan (Provision E.1.b)
- Sludge Management Plan (Provision E.1.c)

The General Order requires the Sludge Management Plan to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board within 90 days of the issuance of this NOA.

By **18 December 2018**, the Discharger shall prepare and submit a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (pursuant to Provision E.1.d) to ensure that the overall impact of treated wastewater does not degrade groundwater. The plan shall identify and address sources of salinity from the Facility, including, but not limited to:

- 1) The chemicals used for drinking water and wastewater treatment
- 2) The contribution of salinity from sewer users and
- 3) The source water (i.e., potable water supply wells).

Failure to comply with the requirements in this NOA, General Order 2014-0153-DWQ, with all attachments, and MRP No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5259 could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of wastes other than those described in this NOA is prohibited. If the method of waste disposal changes from that described in this NOA, you must submit a new Report of Waste Discharge describing the new operation. If flow to the Facility substantially increases and approaches 100,000 gpd, you must contact Central Valley Water Board staff to determine if further analysis is required.

As stated in Provision E.2.w., in the event any change in control or ownership of the facility or wastewater disposal areas, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this General Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing if the discharge regulated by the General Order ceases, so that we may terminate coverage and avoid unnecessary billing.

The Central Valley Water Board has gone to a Paperless Office System. All regulatory documents, submissions, materials, data, monitoring reports, and correspondence should be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted electronically. Documents that are less than 50 MB should be emailed to: [centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov). Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. To ensure that your submittals are routed to the appropriate staff, the following information block should be included in any email used to transmit documents to this office: Program: Non-15, WDID: 5D101032001, Facility Name: I-5 and Dorris Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility, Order: 2014-0153-DWQ-R5259.

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of the General Order has been sent only to the Discharger. Others are advised that the General Order is available on the State Water Board's web site at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2014/wqo2014\\_0153\\_dwq.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf)

Please note that WDRs Order 92-158 is proposed to be rescinded at the **4/5 October 2018** meeting of the Central Valley Water Board. Upon rescission of your individual WDRs, coverage for your facility under the General Order shall become applicable subject to this Notice of Applicability.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Alex Mushegan by phone at (559) 488-4397 or email at [Alexander.Mushegan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Alexander.Mushegan@waterboards.ca.gov).



*for* Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

Attachments: Attachment A – Facility Map  
Attachment B – Wastewater Flow Schematic  
State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ  
(Discharger Only)  
Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2014-0153-DWQ-R5259  
Review Memorandum of I-5 and Dorris Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Report of Waste Discharge

cc: Fresno County Environmental Health Services, Fresno  
Fresno County Planning Development Department, Fresno  
Alfonso Manrique, AM Consulting Engineers, Inc. (via email)