

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 September 2022

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PRESTON RESERVOIR CAPACITY AND TERTIARY PLANT NUISANCE CONDITIONS, CITY OF IONE, AMADOR COUNTY REGIONAL OUTFALL AND CASTLE OAKS GOLF COURSE AND DEVELOPMENT, AMADOR COUNTY

On 3 December 1993, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Water Reclamation Requirement (WRRs) 93-240, which regulate the conveyance, storage, tertiary treatment, and land application of secondary treated domestic wastewater from the City of Sutter Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Amador Regional Sanitation Authority (ARSA) operates the conveyance, storage, and disposal system between the Sutter Creek wastewater treatment plant and Preston Reservoir (Preston). The system moves effluent from the Sutter Creek wastewater treatment plant to several land application areas and storage reservoirs (which includes Henderson Reservoir), eventually discharging to Preston, which is in Ione. ARSA and the City of Ione are both named in the WRRs 93-240 and have entered into a formal agreement¹ to send effluent from Preston to the City of Ione Tertiary Treatment Plant (Tertiary Plant) for further treatment and reuse on Castle Oaks Golf Course (golf course).

It is Central Valley Water Board staff's understanding that the City is concerned the water coming out of Preston may be high in hydrogen sulfide, which could cause odor issues at the Tertiary Plant and on the golf course. In addition, the intake of Preston

¹ The Board understands that the status of this agreement is in dispute.

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

water for delivery to the Tertiary Plant occurs at the bottom of the reservoir and has high turbidity which may be causing treatment difficulties. However, the Board has also been made aware that Preston and Henderson Reservoirs are at or near capacity, limiting the ability of the system to withstand higher flows that may occur during the upcoming rainy season. It is of utmost importance for these capacity issues to be resolved promptly to avert potential public health and water quality contamination issues that may occur if the system becomes unable to handle additional inflows.

One way to help alleviate the current situation is for the Board to allow the City to accept water from Preston, even though that may result in the creation of nuisance conditions, which would ordinarily be considered a violation of WRRs 93-240. With the understanding that the capacity issues at Preston are presenting an even greater risk to water quality and public health than potential nuisance concerns related to the treatment of wastewater from Preston at Lone's tertiary facility, the Central Valley Water Board's Compliance and Enforcement Unit will exercise its prosecutorial discretion to not pursue enforcement of odor nuisance conditions that may occur as a result of the City's acceptance of treated wastewater from Preston at the Tertiary Plant or golf course between 9 September 2022 and 1 January 2023.

The Board expects that all dischargers named in WRRs 93-240 will continue to work cooperatively to address both the capacity concerns at Preston and to take all reasonable and appropriate steps to address any odor concerns that may arise. It is also the expectation of the Central Valley Water Board that the City of Lone and ARSA provide the following information on a weekly basis while the Board is exercising its enforcement discretion:

1. Freeboard levels of Preston and Henderson Reservoirs;
2. Flow into Preston and Henderson Reservoirs;
3. Flow in gallons per day from Preston to the Tertiary Plant;
4. A description of any polymer added by added as pre-treatment to address the nuisance conditions.
5. All previous and future water quality and air samples, including a chain of custody and monitoring locations, for all samples collected to verify high hydrogen sulfide and turbidity. This shall be reported to Kari.Holmes@waterboards.ca.gov; and
6. A weekly summary of any nuisance complaints received by the City and the golf course, along with an explanation of how the complaint(s) were resolved. This summary will include details of coordination efforts made between all dischargers to address areas of concern.

The Board is also committed to working with ARSA to resolve issues related to the operation of their facilities, which may include enhanced maintenance requirements such as the dredging of both Henderson and Preston on a regular basis to ensure that these concerns are adequately addressed in the future.

ARSA, Castle Oaks Golf Course, City of Ione

Amador County

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9 September 2022

If you have questions, please contact me directly at John.Baum@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 464-4839.

 **John J.
Baum**  Digitally signed by
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Date: 2022.09.09
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JOHN J. BAUM,
Assistant Executive Officer

cc: list on next page.

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