



# CVCWA

## Central Valley Clean Water Association

*Representing Over Fifty Wastewater Agencies*

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March 8, 2013

*Submitted Electronically Only*

Ms. Anne Olson  
Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Drive #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
[aolson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:aolson@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Re: Comments on the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2013-XXXX, City of Lone and Greenrock Ranch Lands, LLC, Lone Wastewater Treatment Facility, Amador County**

Dear Ms. Olson:

The Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments on the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2013-XXXX, City of Lone and Greenrock Ranch Lands, LLC, Lone Wastewater Treatment Facility (Tentative Order). CVCWA is a non-profit association of public agencies located within the Central Valley region that provide wastewater collection, treatment, and water recycling services to millions of Central Valley residents and businesses. We approach these matters with the perspective of balancing environmental and economic interests consistent with state and federal law. In this spirit, we provide the following comments regarding the Tentative Order's proposed effluent limitation for total nitrogen, as it is applied to discharges to the percolation ponds.

Specifically, Provision C.1 of the Tentative Order proposes an effluent limitation of 10 mg/L for Total Nitrogen as N as a monthly average. (Tentative Order, p. 24.) Setting an effluent limitation for Total Nitrogen as N is inappropriate for several reasons. First, there is no water quality objective for Total Nitrogen as N set at 10 mg/L. There is a primary maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate at 10 mg/L but not for total nitrogen. Thus, there is no water quality basis to such a limit. At most, the Regional Board could determine that an effluent

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limitation for nitrate at 10 mg/L is appropriate based on the MCL. However, total nitrogen is different and distinguishable from nitrate and the proposed limit is not consistent with any adopted water quality objective or known criteria.

Second, the findings in the Tentative Order provide no reasoning or explanation to support such a limitation. Finding 50(d) discusses why a groundwater limitation of 10 mg/L for nitrate is appropriate, but this finding is completely void with respect to indicating why it is necessary for the Regional Water Board to adopt an effluent limitation for Total Nitrogen as N of 10 mg/L. Findings are necessary to bridge the analytical gap between the evidence and the regulatory requirement. Here, there is no identification of any evidence to support an effluent limitation for Total Nitrogen as N of 10 mg/L. Accordingly, the requirement is not supported by the evidence in the record, and must therefore be removed.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and request that you revise the Tentative Order by eliminating the effluent limitation for total nitrogen. If you have any questions or if CVCWA can be of further assistance, please contact me at (530) 268-1338 or [eeofficer@cvcwa.org](mailto:eeofficer@cvcwa.org).

Sincerely,



Debbie Webster  
Executive Officer

c: Pamela Creedon – CVRWQCB (via email)  
Lixin Fu – CVRWQCB (via email)  
Edwin Pattison – City of Lone (via email)