



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region Salem Office

4026 Fairview Industrial Dr SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 378-8240

FAX (503) 373-7944

TTY 711

June 25, 2025

Faye Stewart, Public Works & Development Director
City of Cottage Grove
400 E. Main Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Re: Warning Letter
City of Cottage Grove STP
2025-WL-9907
NPDES Permit #101300, EPA ID OR0020559
File 20306
WQ-Lane County

Dear Mr. Stewart,

DEQ has completed a records review for the City of Cottage Grove to determine compliance with the conditions of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit number 101300 issued by DEQ on January 13, 2011. The findings are summarized below.

Records Review

I reviewed records from August 2024 through May 2025. City of Cottage Grove has submitted all monthly discharge monitoring reports (DMR) on time in NetDMR. I also reviewed two sanitary sewer overflows submitted on March 16, 2025.

Schedule A Violations

1. Schedule A of the permit requires City of Cottage Grove to meet permit limits as outlined in the permit tables. In December 2024 and January 2025 City of Cottage Grove violated their permit as indicated in the following table.

Table 1 – pH Limit Violations

Exceeded the compliance range of 6.1 to 9.0 as follows:

Monitoring Period	Parameter	Reported Value	Over/Under Limit by how much?	Violation Class
December 26, 2024	pH minimum	6.01	<1	III
December 27, 2024	pH minimum	6.00	<1	III
December 28, 2024	pH minimum	6.10	<1	III
December 30, 2024	pH minimum	6.15	<1	III

Monitoring Period	Parameter	Reported Value	Over/Under Limit by how much?	Violation Class
January 1, 2025	pH minimum	5.96	<1	III
January 3, 2025	pH minimum	5.99	<1	III
January 4, 2025	pH minimum	6.03	<1	III
January 7, 2025	pH minimum	6.14	<1	III
January 8, 2025	pH minimum	6.19	<1	III

If the discharge is outside the permitted pH range by 1 pH unit or less, it is a Class III violation per OAR 340-012-0055(3)(b).

Schedule F Violations

1. Schedule F condition B6 prohibits the City of Cottage Grove of sanitary sewer overflows. On March 16, 2025, City of Cottage Grove notified DEQ that they had experienced overflows from several locations within the city. The first location reported was at 1800 N Douglas where about 10,000 gallons of untreated sewage did not reach surface water. The second reported SSO was at two locations at 403 N River Rd and the intersection of 4th Street and Filmore Avenue, the combined overflows were about 2400 gallons that did reach the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. None of these overflows were caused by rainfall in excess of 5-year, 24-hour storm although the rainfall was quite heavy during this time frame. DEQ has determined that the 5-year, 24-hour rainfall for Cottage Grove to be 4 inches. These overflows are a violation of OAR 340-012-0055(1)(c).

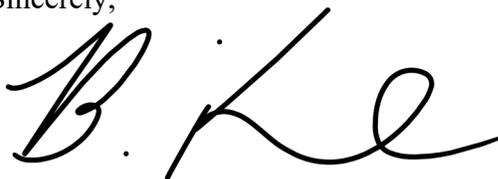
Class I violations are the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious. Compliance with your permit is required by Oregon Revised Statute 468B.025(2).

This notice is a warning letter. DEQ does not intend to take formal enforcement action at this time. However, should you repeat any of these violations, the matter may be referred to DEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement for formal enforcement action, including assessment of civil penalties and/or a DEQ order. Civil penalties can be assessed for each day of violation.

If you believe any of the facts in this warning letter are in error, you may provide information to me at the office at the address shown at the top of this letter. DEQ will consider the new information you submit and take appropriate action.

If you have any questions, please contact me in writing at brenda.kuiken@deq.oregon.gov or by phone at (503) 893-0924.

Sincerely,



Brenda Kuiken

City of Cottage Grove
June 25, 2025
Page 3 of 3

WQ Compliance Specialist

cc: DEQ Salem Office file

ec: Ranei Nomura, Manager, Western Region DEQ
Oregon Records Management Solution
Craig Prosser, Wastewater Superintendent