



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region Salem Office

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Salem, OR 97302

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TTY 711

February 25, 2026

Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director
City of Veneta
PO Box 458
Veneta, OR 97487

Re: Warning Letter
Veneta Sewage Treatment Plant
2026-WL-10131
NPDES Permit #102480, EPA ID OR0020532
File 92762, Site RID 21627
WQ-Lane County

Dear Mr. Schauer,

DEQ has completed a records review for the City of Veneta to determine compliance with the conditions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit number 102480, issued on December 13, 2013. The findings are summarized below.

Records Review

I reviewed records from November 2025 through January 2026. City of Veneta has submitted all monthly discharge monitoring reports (DMR) on time in NetDMR. Based upon this review, DEQ has concluded that the city is responsible for the following violations.

Schedule A Violations

Schedule A of the permit requires City of Veneta to meet permit limits listed in this section. The City violated their permit as listed in the table 1 below:

Table 1 - Total Suspended Solids Load Limit Violations

Exceeded monthly average, weekly average, and/or daily maximum limits of 130, 200, and 260 pounds per day, respectively, as follows:

Monitoring Period	Limit	Reported Value	Percentage Over Limit	Violation Class
Week of Dec 28, 2025-Jan 3, 2026	Weekly average, lb/d	290.2	45%	II
December 30, 2025	Daily maximum, lb/d	290.2	12%	III

Violating TSS loading limits is a Class I violation if the discharge level exceeds the limit by 50% or more per OAR 340-012-0055(1)(k); a Class II violation if the discharge level exceeds the limit by 20% or more but less than 50% per OAR 340-012-0055(2)(a)(A); and a Class III violation if the discharge level exceeds the limit by less than 20% per OAR 340-012-0055(3)(b)(A).

In the noncompliance report dated January 13, 2026, the City acknowledged the violations and listed the excessive amount of rain received earlier in December as the cause of the violations. While the treatment plant has a surge basin in use for wet-weather equalization, the facility received 7.4 inches of rain in the month. In preparation for further amounts of rainfall, it was determined to lower the level of the surge basin. The amount of flow from the surge basin into the wastewater treatment system was too much for the treatment system to handle at that load and flow. Once the surge basin was back at an acceptable level, flow to treatment plant was decreased and the facility recovered within a week. The following analysis showed that the facility was below the permit limits for both loading and concentration.

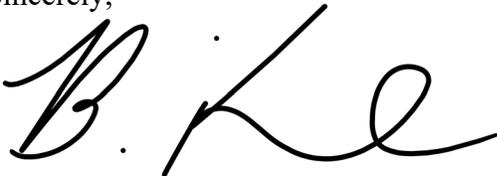
Class I violations are the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious. Compliance with your permit is required by Oregon Revised Statute 468B.025(2).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Kuiken', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brenda Kuiken
WQ Compliance Specialist

cc: DEQ Salem Office file

ec: Ranei Nomura, Manager, Western Region DEQ
Oregon Records Management Solution