

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Bill Johnson)
MEETING DATE: July 11, 2007

ITEM: 5A

SUBJECT: **County of Santa Clara Roads & Airports Department
Pump Station at Oregon Expressway and Alma Street,
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County—Rescission of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: August 2000—NPDES Permit reissued

DISCUSSION: Santa Clara County operates a pump station in Palo Alto where the Oregon Expressway passes under Alma Street. The pump station collects and discharges groundwater from roadway underdrains to prevent flooding. Because the groundwater is contaminated from off site, the water is treated to remove volatile organic compounds and discharged to Matadero Creek.

The discharge qualifies for coverage under an existing regional general permit for treated groundwater containing volatile organic compounds. Therefore, the existing individual permit is unnecessary, and Order No. 00-085 should be rescinded.

This Tentative Order rescinds the permit and requires Santa Clara County to obtain coverage under the general permit. Santa Clara County has indicated that it will not contest this action.

RECOMMEN-
DATION: Adoption of the Tentative Order

APPENDICES: A. Tentative Order
B. Comment Letter
C. Response to Comment

APPENDIX A

Tentative Order

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**ORDER No. R2-2007-XXXX
NPDES PERMIT No. CA0038784**

RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA ROADS & AIRPORTS DEPARTMENT
PUMP STATION AT OREGON EXPRESSWAY AND ALMA STREET
PALO ALTO, SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter "Water Board") finds that:

1. The County of Santa Clara Roads & Airports Department (hereinafter "Discharger") operates a pump station where the Oregon Expressway passes under Alma Street in Palo Alto.
2. The pump station collects and discharges groundwater from roadway underdrains to prevent the Oregon Expressway underpass from flooding. The pump station also collects storm water runoff (including urban runoff) from the area. The average groundwater flow is about 260 gallons per minute (gpm). Up to 450 gpm of combined groundwater and storm water flow is treated to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and discharged to Matadero Creek.
3. On August 16, 2000, the Water Board adopted Order No. 00-085, reissuing NPDES Permit No. CA0038784 for the discharge. This permit covers the discharge of groundwater and storm water from the pump station.
4. On February 14, 2005, the Discharger submitted a timely application for permit reissuance; therefore, the permit was administratively extended beyond its expiration date.
5. The application describes the groundwater discharge characteristics, including concentrations of VOCs (i.e., 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane and trichloroethylene) and metals (i.e., chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, and zinc).
6. Santa Clara County municipal storm water discharges are regulated under Order No. 01-024 (Permit No. CAS029718), as amended by Order No. 01-119 and Order No. R2-2005-0035. The air stripping treatment provided at the Oregon Expressway underpass does not add any pollutants to the storm water; therefore, duplicate regulation of the storm water is unnecessary.
7. The Water Board reissued General Permit No. CAG912003 (Order No. R2-2004-0055) on July 21, 2004, to regulate the discharge and reuse of extracted and treated

groundwater resulting from the cleanup of groundwater containing VOCs. All dischargers eligible for this permit may file a Notice of Intent to obtain coverage.

8. The Discharger's groundwater discharge qualify for General Permit coverage because (a) it results from the cleanup of VOC-containing groundwater, (b) it is consistent with the water reuse policy provisions of Resolution No. 88-160, and (c) the treatment system is capable of ensuring that the discharge will meet the provisions, prohibitions, and limitations of the General Permit.
9. Because the storm water discharge is covered by another existing permit, and because the groundwater discharge may be covered by a general permit, the existing individual permit is unnecessary, and Order No. 00-085 should be rescinded.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to provisions of the California Water Code (Division 7) and the regulations, plans, and policies adopted thereunder, that:

1. The Discharger shall file a Notice of Intent for coverage under General Permit No. CAG912003 no later than July 31, 2007.
2. Order No. 00-085 is rescinded effective September 30, 2007.

I, Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region, on _____, 2007.

Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer

APPENDIX B

Comment Letter

County of Santa Clara

Roads and Airports Department
Roads And Fleet Operations

1505 Schallenberger Road
San Jose, California 95131-2499
(408) 494-2760 FAX 297-0530



June 7, 2007

Mr. Bill Johnson
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Tentative Order for Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Pump Station at Oregon Expressway Underpass and Alma Street, Palo Alto; NPDES Permit No. CA0038784; File No. 2189.8265 (bjj)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This comment is being submitted in regards to the above Tentative Order. The County requests that the current NPDES permit No. CA0038784 not be rescinded until the County has obtained coverage under the General Permit No. CAG912003 regulating the discharge and reuse of extracted and treated groundwater resulting from the cleanup of groundwater containing VOCs. The County is in the process of preparing a NOI for coverage under the general permit, which is expected to be submitted prior to the end of June 2007.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact me at (408)494-2719.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Jakaby".

Nicole Jakaby, MPH, REHS
Environmental Health and Safety Compliance Specialist

cc: MJM, RJ
Denise Kato, Varian w/encl.
Elizabeth McDonald, HP w/encl.
Mark Becker, Secor

APPENDIX C

Response to Comment

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

County of Santa Clara Pump Station at Oregon Expressway and Alma Street
NPDES Permit No. CA0038784
July 11, 2007

The Water Board circulated the Tentative Order for public comment from May 8, 2007, through June 8, 2007, and received one comment letter from the County of Santa Clara.

Comment: *The County asked that its individual permit not be rescinded until after it obtains general permit coverage, and stated its intent to submit a Notice of Intent for general permit coverage by the end of June 2007.*

Response: The Tentative Order is crafted to allow time for the County to obtain general permit coverage prior to the rescission becoming effective. The Tentative Order requires the County to submit a Notice of Intent by July 31, 2007. Water Board staff typically require no more than two weeks to issue a Notice of General Permit Coverage when a complete Notice of Intent is filed. The Tentative Order rescinds the existing permit effective September 30, 2007. This allows two months for Water Board staff to issue a Notice of General Permit Coverage. Assuming that the County submits a complete Notice of Intent, we see no problem issuing the Notice of General Permit Coverage before the rescission takes effect.