STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2004

Prepared on February 18, 2004

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: LOW THREAT CASES

DISCUSSION

Low Threat and General Discharge Cases:

Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order No. 97-10-DWQ

Cappy Culver Elementary School, San Luis Obispo County [Tom Kukol 805/549-3689]

The San Miguel Joint Union School District submitted a Report of Waste Discharge for a new discharge; the Cappy Culver Elementary School's sanitary wastewater discharge. The Cappy Culver Elementary School will process sanitary wastewater through a septic tank/leach field system that is designed according to our Basin Plan criteria. The discharge meets the criteria (less than 20,000 gallons per day flowing to a standard septic system) contained in Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (Order No. 97-10-DWQ). Therefore Staff recommends regulating the discharge under Order No. 97-10-DWQ.

Low Threat General NPDES Permit:

Copeland's Project Parking Structure Dewatering, City of San Luis Obispo [Matt Thompson 805/549-3159]

Staff enrolled the Copeland's Project Parking Structure dewatering discharge under the General NPDES Permit for Discharges with Low Threat to Water Quality (Low Threat General Permit) on January 23, 2004. Stormwater that accumulates in the excavations of the parking structures under construction at Palm Street and Morro/Court Street in downtown San Luis Obispo will be pumped out at approximately 80 gallons per minute through a geotextile filter bag to remove silt, into the City of San Luis Obispo storm drain system to San Luis Obispo Creek. Enrollment under the Low Threat General Permit requires the discharger to comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-119 (MRP), which has been modified specifically for this discharge. The MRP requires daily monitoring of effluent flow, turbidity, and pH; and one-time monitoring of petroleum compounds and volatile organic compounds, which have been discovered in similar excavations nearby. The discharger has agreed to immediately cease the discharge if any contamination is discovered in the excavation and contact this agency immediately.

Staff Closed Cases:

Santa Cruz SPCA, 2200 7th Avenue, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County; (RWQCB #3465) [Tom Sayles 805-542-4640]

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals owns an animal shelter located at 2200 7th Avenue in Santa Cruz. The shelter's site had a 500-gallon gasoline underground storage tank (UST) that was removed on October 26, 1992. Following UST removal, excavation of hydrocarbon-contaminated soil was performed and subsequent soil samples were collected to determine the extent of contamination. The maximum concentrations detected in the samples collected beneath the excavation were 1,100 milligrams per kilograms (mg/kg) total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPH-G), and 3.5 mg/kg benzene at 8 feet below grade (fbg). On February 10, 1994, an investigation was conducted to further assess subsurface site conditions. The investigation results indicated a maximum concentration of 2,600 micrograms per liter (μg/L) of TPH-G and

46 µg/L benzene detected in the "grab" groundwater samples. Based on these results, three groundwater monitoring wells were installed and subsequent samples collected on October 12, 1996 indicated a maximum concentration of 4,900 µg/L of TPH-G; benzene and methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) were not detected. Groundwater sampling results from December 9, 2003 indicate concentrations below laboratory detection limits and water quality objects (WQOs) for TPH-G, benzene, and MTBE for the three wells.

The site lies within the Santa Cruz Hydrologic Unit (304.10), which the "Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Region" (Basin Plan) designates groundwater as having beneficial uses for domestic and municipal supply, agricultural supply, and industrial supply. Therefore, the site WQOs for common gasoline constituents are as follows: 1,000 µg/L for TPH-G, 1 µg/L for benzene, and 5 µg/L for MTBE; WQOs for MTBE and TPH-G are established based on taste and odor thresholds.

Groundwater monitoring data indicate non-detectable levels for all petroleum constituents and the former leak site does not pose a threat to groundwater quality. Consequently, no further groundwater investigation or cleanup action is necessary. The Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services Agency agrees with this determination. The responsible party and property owner has been notified of the case closure, and has been directed to abandon all site monitoring wells and submit a case closure summary form. Therefore, staff is proceeding to close this case. Staff will issue a formal case closure letter upon receipt of a report documenting the proper destruction of the monitoring wells and a completed case closure summary form.

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