

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1-2, 2005

Prepared on November 1, 2005

ITEM NUMBER: 25

SUBJECT: Adoption of Revised Waste Discharge/Recycled Water Requirements for the Los Alamos Community Services District Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facilities, Santa Barbara County (Order No. R3-2005-0133)

KEY INFORMATION

Facility/Owner: Los Alamos Community Services District
Location: 82 North Saint Joseph Street, Los Alamos
Discharge Type: Municipal/Domestic
Design Capacity: 400,000 gallons per day (gpd; current flow is approximately 100,000 gpd)
Treatment Type: Advanced Primary (Conventional Pond System)
Disposal/Recycling: Pasture irrigation
Existing Order: Waste Discharge and Water Reclamation Requirements Order No. 92-93

SUMMARY

The Los Alamos Community Services District (District) recently acquired enough property to accommodate wastewater disposal needs for the community's eventual build-out. The District requests the Central Coast Water Board's authorization to utilize this additional land for treated wastewater reclamation. Existing Order No. 92-93 authorizes the reclamation of up to 176,000 gpd, and easily meets the community's current needs. The community's build-out will require reclamation capacity up to 225,000 gpd.

Order No. R3-2005-0133 proposes revisions to waste discharge and water reclamation requirements, updating the existing requirements of Order No. 92-93. Revisions to the thirteen-year old Order to recognize the expanded spray-irrigation area and increase the authorized daily effluent flow from 176,000 gpd to 225,000 gpd are relatively minor in nature. Staff further updated the Order to include standard biosolids disposal

and wastewater collection system requirements.

DISCUSSION

The District owns and operates wastewater collection, treatment and disposal/reclamation facilities serving the community of Los Alamos population of approximately 1,300 people. The treatment facilities consist of a lift station, bar screen and comminutor (headworks), and two lined, mechanically aerated oxidation ponds. The treated wastewater is transferred to an evaporation/percolation pond, which also serves as storage prior to the wastewater's reclamation in the adjacent 29.6-acre spray-irrigation area. The expanded reclamation area adds 18 acres for spray irrigation, for a total of 47.6 acres. The existing treatment facility is capable of treating up to 400,000 gpd, so it is already designed to exceed the build-out wastewater flow rate of 225,000 gpd.

The treatment facility currently receives approximately 100,000 gpd.

This property acquisition was primarily motivated by the increase in local land use for vineyards, and the availability of property immediately adjacent to the current treatment facility.

The treatment facility is located on level topography approximately one mile north of San Antonio Creek, and is surrounded by undeveloped open space and pasture land. The treatment and disposal facility locations are shown on Attachment A of the proposed Order.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

The District has an excellent compliance history, with no significant violations reported or detected.

PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS

The proposed Order is based on Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Basin Plan requirements and recommendations, and staff's professional judgment. In addition to authorizing the expanded spray-irrigation area and increasing the daily effluent flow from 176,000 gpd to 225,000 gpd, the Order is consistent with the District's existing requirements (except for revisions described below). The requirements are designed to protect water quality for existing and anticipated beneficial uses of surface and ground waters in the vicinity of the discharge.

Prohibitions and Discharge/Reclamation Specifications - Proposed prohibitions limit the discharge to wastewater receiving full treatment and disposed of at designated disposal and reuse areas depicted on Attachment A of the Order. Discharge to other areas or to surface waters is prohibited. Effluent flow limitations are within the design capacity of the treatment facilities. Constituent concentrations common for land disposal and irrigation (settleable solids, biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids

and pH) are consistent with Basin Plan objectives and comparable facility requirements, and ensure long-term use of the disposal/reclamation areas. Effluent salts (total dissolved solids, sodium and chloride) limitations based upon performance history are included to ensure long-term protection of ground water and implementation of Basin Plan objectives. Requirements ensuring protection of public health (personnel training, minimizing public contact and signage) implement Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and are carried over from the existing Order and updated as appropriate.

Sludge/Biosolids Specifications - Sludge and biosolids disposal requirements are a new component to the District's WDR. U.S. EPA provided the biosolids specifications and recommends them for all treatment facilities treating domestic sewage. The language is standard to WDRs throughout the Region and requires compliance with federal biosolids disposal regulations.

The proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program also contains U.S. EPA sludge/biosolids monitoring. Biosolids disposal is anticipated to occur at eight to ten-year intervals based on the facility's design and history to date.

Wastewater Collection System Management Plan - The Order requires development and implementation of a Collection System Management Plan to ensure ongoing proper operation, maintenance, spill prevention and response. The Collection System Management Plan requirements (outlined in Attachment 1 of the Monitoring and Reporting Program) are consistent with WDRs adopted throughout the Region during the past few years. The proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program also contains recordkeeping and reporting requirements for sanitary sewer overflows.

Provisions - The proposed Order requires compliance with a Monitoring and Reporting Program and with Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements (standard to WDRs

throughout the Region), including provisions regarding nuisance prevention and public safety.

Monitoring Requirements – The proposed Order includes monitoring and reporting to assess compliance with requirements. Regular influent, effluent, and disposal area monitoring is required along with monthly reporting of results. Monitoring parameters and frequencies are similar to comparable facilities and carried over from existing requirements.

Order Provision G.6 establishes August 1, 2006, as the submittal date for the District's technical report describing the locations and complete details of groundwater monitoring wells installed and monitored to measure compliance with the Groundwater Limitations of the Order and to comply with Sludge/Biosolids Monitoring. Upon report submittal and staff review, the Executive Officer shall determine the appropriate groundwater monitoring provisions and issue a revised Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Staff made two changes to the Order as described in the Comments section of this Staff Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

The District adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the expanded spray irrigation area on August 27, 2003 (SCH # 2002061137), in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) and the California Code of Regulations. The Mitigated Negative Declaration found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, with no mitigation measures necessary in relation to the wastewater discharge.

With the exception of the expanded irrigation area, these waste discharge requirements are for an existing treatment and disposal facility and are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15301.

COMMENTS

On October 3, 2005, staff issued a hearing notice for the Central Coast Water Board's proposed action to renew the District's WDRs, soliciting comments from all known interested parties.

On October 11, 2005, staff discussed by telephone the draft WDR with Mr. Kevin Barnard, the District's Operations Manager. Staff provided clarification on several questions from Mr. Barnard, and revised the Order as follows:

1. WDR Finding No. 8 – This finding formerly indicated that the disposal area is approximately one-half mile from the District's water supply wells. Staff corrected the approximate distance to one and one-half miles.
2. Monitoring and Reporting Program, Table 3, Effluent Monitoring – Staff added weekly effluent pH sampling.

Staff received no further comments on the draft WDR.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt WDR Order No. R3-2005-0133.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft WDR Order No. R3-2005-0133
2. WDR Order No. 92-93