

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

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 7-8, 2005**

Prepared on May 27, 2005

**ITEM NUMBER: 24**

**SUBJECT: Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Adventex Domestic Treatment and Leachfield Disposal System, Santa Margarita Feed And Farm Supply, (APN # 069-081-002), San Luis Obispo County, Resolution No. R3-2005-0095**

**KEY INFORMATION**

Disposal Type: Individual on-site Orenco Advantex treatment system with leachfield disposal system  
Design Flow: 150 gallons per day  
Property: 0.575 Acre Commercial  
Landowner/Discharger: John and Jodi Taylor  
Local Oversight Agency: San Luis Obispo County Department of Building and Planning Inspection

**DISCUSSION**

On May 2, 2005, Regional Board staff received a complete Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD): Supplemental Form for Regional Board Subsurface Disposal Exemption Submittal (Supplemental Form) for a proposed on-site Orenco Advantex system at the above-referenced property from the design engineer, Ensitu Engineering. The San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building Inspection determined the site is not suitable for a standard on-site subsurface disposal system and does not meet Basin Plan requirements because of insufficient vertical separation between standard disposal trench bottom and first encountered groundwater. Consequently, San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building Inspection is not authorized to issue a permit without an exemption from the Basin Plan prohibition. The Department of Planning and Building Inspection San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building Inspection and the San Luis Obispo County Environmental

Health Division certified the Supplemental Form on March 31, 2005, and recommended approval of the exemption request.

The Executive Officer approved the Basin Plan exemption and notified the Discharger of this proposed waiver of waste discharge requirements on May 27, 2005.

Waste discharge requirements for on-site wastewater system Basin Plan exemptions were formerly waived under Resolution No. 89-04, *Waiver of Regulation of Specific Types of Waste Discharges*. This waiver policy expired June 30, 2004. State Board staff is currently developing state-wide regulations for on-site systems. Once these regulations are in place, Regional Board staff plans on bringing a general waiver of waste discharge requirements to the Regional Board for review and approval. In the meantime, we propose that on-site systems that local agencies cannot permit be authorized by individual

waivers of waste discharge requirements, provided the Discharger can demonstrate the system poses no threat to water quality.

#### **System Design, Operation, and Maintenance**

The proposed system was conservatively sized for a peak daily flow of 150 gallons per day, which accommodates a store with two employees. To mitigate for shallow groundwater conditions (approximately ten feet below the ground surface), the system uses a recirculating, packed-bed technology to provide secondary fixed-film aerobic treatment. Following treatment, the effluent is disinfected to reduce the chances of transmitting pathogens to the environment. The system includes audible and visual alarms to protect against high or low water levels in the recirculation tank or the dosing pump vault. Disposal occurs via a conventional leachfield.

The owner is required to have a service contract from an Advantex-certified third party provider for operation and maintenance of the system. Also, San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building Inspection staff will provide regular inspection and oversight of the sewage disposal system and will monitor the system for potential flooding.

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building Inspection approved the system design and had the design engineer forward the Supplemental Form to the Regional Board for final review and approval on May 2, 2005. In addition, San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health, as well as the Planning and Building Inspection Department certified the Supplemental Form on March 31, 2005, and recommended approval of the exemption request.

Orenco Advantex systems have been successfully applied under similar conditions throughout the state.

#### **Conditional Waiver**

The waiver of waste discharge requirements and discharge of domestic sewage to the proposed system is subject to various conditions and monitoring and reporting requirements as specified in the attached waiver resolution.

The proposed on-site domestic system, if operated and maintained in accordance with the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Inspection Department permit requirements and the waiver conditions, will be in the public interest. This waiver is conditional and can be terminated at any time. This waiver expires on July 8, 2010.

#### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

Individual subsurface disposal systems for domestic residences are categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guideline 15303.

#### **COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

Comments were solicited from

John and Jodi Taylor

Ms. Laurie Salo  
San Luis Obispo County  
Division of Environmental Health

Bob Mourenza  
San Luis Obispo County Department of  
Planning & Building

Ms. Trisha Coffey  
Ensitu Engineering

No comments were received.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2005-0095

#### **ATTACHMENT**

1. Proposed Resolution No. R3-2005-0095

TJK  
126-01  
Paper File: Agency, San Luis Obispo County Individual Sewage  
Disposal Systems  
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Margarita Feed and Farm Supply\Waiver Staff Report.doc