

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2007
Prepared on January 30, 2007

ITEM NUMBER: 14

SUBJECT: Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0123, for Mission Canyon District County Service Area 12, Santa Barbara County; regulation by the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems Water Quality Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ (General WDR)

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger: Mission Canyon District
Location: County Service Area 12, Santa Barbara County
Discharge Type: Sanitary Sewer System tributary to El Estero Wastewater Treatment Facility
Existing Order: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0123 for Local Wastewater Collection Agencies Tributary to the City of Santa Barbara El Estero Wastewater Treatment Facility
This Action: Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0123

SUMMARY

On October 22, 2004, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0123 to regulate wastewater collection systems tributary to the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Facility located in the City of Santa Barbara, which included Mission Canyon District County Services Area 12 (District). The District submitted a letter dated November 30, 2006, formally requesting the rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0123. The District requested the rescission because it filed an application for enrollment under the Statewide Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems Water Quality Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ (General WDR) on July 14, 2006, and was formally enrolled under the General WDR on August 18, 2006. Central

Coast Water Board staff recommends rescinding Order No. R3-2004-0123 because the General WDR appropriately regulates the same activities.

DISCUSSION

The District is located north of the City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County. The District is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0123, which sets requirements for the management and operations of its wastewater collection systems and upholds state water quality standards.

As part of Order No. R3-2004-0123, the District is required to develop a Wastewater Collection System Management Plan (Management Plan). The District, when developing the Management Plan, is required to include goals, organization,

legal authority, measures and activities, design and performance provisions; monitoring, measurement and plan modifications; overflow emergency response plan, source control program, system evaluation and capacity assurance plan, and annual updates. The District submitted its management plan on August 31, 2005, satisfying Order No. R3-2004-0123 requirements.

Order No R3-2004-0123 also requires notification for SSOs that occur within the District's jurisdictional area boundary.

STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (GENERAL WDR)

The State Water Board adopted the General WDR on May 2, 2006. The purpose for the General WDR is to require public entities to manage their jurisdictional collection systems in order to reduce sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). Facilities subject to the General WDR include all federal agencies, state agencies, municipalities, counties, districts, and other public entities that own and/or operate sanitary sewer systems greater than one mile in length, which collect and convey untreated or partially treated wastewater to a wastewater treatment facility.

The State Water Board understands that other regional boards have implemented specific collection systems management programs. The General WDR addresses this issue in the General WDR fact sheet stating the following:

"It is the State Water Board's intent to have one statewide regulatory mechanism that lays out the foundation for consistent collection system management requirements and SSO reporting. In order to provide a consistent and effective SSO prevention program, as well as to develop reasonable expectations for collection system management, these General WDRs should be the primary regulatory

mechanism to regulate public collection systems."

In an effort to maintain statewide consistency, the State Water Board requests that regional boards rescind redundant collections system permits. However, the General WDR provides regional boards with the discretion to impose more stringent permitting requirements for public entities that own and/or operate collection systems greater than one mile in length. Because of the essential equivalence between Order No R3-2004-0123 and the General WDR, and no known need to apply more stringent requirements to the District, staff recommends the rescission of Order No, R3-2004-0123.

The General WDR requires enrolled public entities to develop a Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) and report SSOs through an online database. Section D.13 of the General WDR provides the required elements for SSMP development, and the General WDR Monitoring and Reporting Program describes notification requirements for SSOs. The District's existing Management Plan is equivalent to the General WDR SSMP requirements.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Central Coast Regional Board staff sent the District a notice of violation for failure to submit an annual report on January 30, 2005. The District responded immediately and submitted the annual report. The District has otherwise complied with Order No. R3-2004-0123, reporting that no SSOs occurred while regulated by Order No, R3-2004-0123.

RECOMMENDATION

In staff's best professional judgment, the General WDR requirements reflect the existing requirements of Order No, R3-2004-0123. To maintain statewide consistency in managing collection systems, and to eliminate redundant regulation, staff

recommends the rescission of Order No. R3-2004-0123.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Existing Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0123
2. Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems Water Quality Order No, 2006-0003-DWQ