

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

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 14-15, 2012**

Prepared on February 22, 2012

**ITEM NUMBER: 10**

**SUBJECT: Low Threat and General Discharge Cases**

**DISCUSSION**

The following items serve as notification that the subject sites have been enrolled under the noted general order.

**Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Systems, Order No. 97-10-DWQ**

Duncan Farms, Cuyama, Santa Barbara County [Sorrel Marks 805/549-3695]

In October 2011, Duncan Farms submitted a Report of Waste Discharge/Application for authorization to discharge waste from a proposed portable toilet discharge facility at 390 Bell Road, Cuyama. The proposed project includes a conventional septic system (septic tank, distribution box, leachfield) designed to treat and dispose of up to 3,500 gallons per day of domestic waste from portable toilets serving agricultural workers. The system is designed to meet criteria specified in the Basin Plan and Santa Barbara County regulations. Groundwater in the vicinity of the discharge is more than one hundred feet below ground surface and the nearest stream is over a mile from the site. Accordingly, the discharge meets criteria specified in Order No. 97-10-DWQ, which include demonstrating consistency with Basin Plan requirements for on-site wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, staff enrolled the discharge under Order No. 97-10-DWQ. Enrollment under Order No. 97-10-DWQ includes requirements for system maintenance, record keeping, periodic inspection and monitoring, submittal of annual reports, and payment of annual fees.

**General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste, Order No. R3-2008-0018**

Solis Winery, Gilroy, Santa Clara County [Cecile DeMartini 805/542-4782]

Water Board staff enrolled Solis Winery under the Small Winery Waiver on February 8, 2012. Solis Winery is located at 3920 Hecker Pass Hwy, in Gilroy, Santa Clara County. Solis Winery was previously named Rancho de Solis when originally enrolled into the Small Winery General WDRs in 2002, under different ownership. The current owners have operated the facility for the past four years and have requested their enrollment status be changed from enrollment in the Small Winery General WDRs to enrollment in the Small Winery Waiver of WDRs due to their low production volume. Solis Winery produces up to 4000 cases of wine annually. Peak process wastewater flows are approximately 100 gallons per day. Solis Winery disposes of process wastewater into a

1,500 gallon treatment tank, which eventually discharges into a leachfield. Depth to groundwater is between 50 to 100 feet below ground surface.

**General Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Discharges, Resolution No. R3-2008-0010**

North Monterey County Unified School District, Echo Valley School, Water Supply Filter Backwash, Monterey County [Tom Kukol 805/549-3689]

The North Monterey County Unified School District is a community school system that includes the Echo Valley School, which is located at 147 Echo Valley Road in Prunedale. The Echo Valley School receives supply water from a permitted (California Department of Public Health, system no. 2700552), non-transient, non-community water system. The water system has a single active well, which receives treatment to remove arsenic, iron, and manganese. The Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District manages the water supply wells at three North Monterey County Unified School District sites, including the Echo Valley School site, under a fee for service agreement.

Domestic water going to the Echo Valley School passes through a filter gallery (four vessels in parallel) that uses Birm® granular filter media as a catalyst to oxidize and precipitate arsenic, iron and manganese. The filters are backwashed every two weeks, running automatically with a local controller. A typical backwash cycle will generate approximately 2,000 gallons of flow (10 minutes per filter at 50 gpm times 4 filters). The backwash wastewater contains arsenic, iron, and manganese that, if not regulated, could degrade receiving waters.

To protect receiving waters, the North Monterey County Unified School District directs backwash water through a paper cartridge filter to remove particulate arsenic, iron and manganese. The paper cartridge filter will be periodically changed out and the spent paper cartridge filter will be disposed of at a permitted landfill. Wastewater that passes through the paper cartridge filter will be directed to the existing sanitary septic system. To mitigate the introduction of a high volume of backwash water to the sanitary septic system, the backwashing will be scheduled to occur on non-school days (Sundays), with a rest period between the four filter vessels programmed into the cycle (flush #1 for 10 minutes, wait one hour, flush #2 for 10 minutes, wait one hour, etc.). This should prevent any overloading of the existing septic tank.

On February 14, 2012, the Executive Officer enrolled the school district in the General Waiver.

Plains Exploration and Production, Price Canyon Dewatering Project, San Luis Obispo County [David LaCaro 805/549-3892]

Plains and Exploration Production Company (PXP) is planning to construct a treatment system for produced water resulting from oil production activities at its Price Canyon facility. A component of the construction project involves temporary construction dewatering for the installation of concrete Pads G and F and associated infrastructure. Dewatering will occur via 55 wells located southeast of Pads G and F and is anticipated to produce a total of approximately 2 million gallons. The project is estimated to last 4 weeks. The collected water will be pumped to a 2,000-gallon holding tank then discharged to a 3-million-gallon detention/percolation pond.

Groundwater testing indicates that the discharge will meet water quality objectives. Discharge monitoring will consist of daily flow metering (totalizer) to assess flow stabilization once the system reaches a steady-state flow condition and groundwater depth monitoring to measure effectiveness of dewatering. The dewatering pumps will be visually checked on a daily basis.

Water Board staff notified PXP of enrollment in the General Waiver Program for the Price Canyon Dewatering Project on February 10, 2012.

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