
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 21, 2020

Mr. Joseph C. Pope
Ventura County Waterworks District No. 16
6767 Spring Road
Moorpark, California, 93020
Joseph.Pope@ventura.org

NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

**TENTATIVE AMENDMENT TO EXTEND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
PIRU WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, 2815 EAST TELEGRAPH ROAD,
FILLMORE, CALIFORNIA (FILE NO. 08-164, ORDER NO. R4-2009-0027-A01, CI-5714,
GLOBAL ID WDR100000084)**

Dear Mr. Pope:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) adopted Order No. R4-2009-0027 on February 5, 2009, prescribing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the discharge of treated wastewater from the Piru Wastewater Treatment Plant (Piru WWTP) to two percolation ponds, as well as Monitoring and Reporting Program No. CI-5714. Order No. R4-2009-0027 contained an expiration date of February 5, 2019, or 10 years from the Order's adoption date, and required that the Discharger file a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for consideration of issuance of new or revised WDRs. On November 25, 2015, Ventura County Waterworks District No. 16 submitted an ROWD to the Regional Water Board for renewal of the WDRs. On September 28, 2018, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R4-2009-0027-A01 for a short-term extension of the WDRs to extend the expiration date to February 28, 2021. The short-term extension of the WDRs in 2018 to extend the expiration date to February 28, 2021 was necessary to allow additional time for staff to comprehensively review reports and data to determine if additional requirements were necessary to adequately protect waters of the State.

The Lower Santa Clara River Basin, located in the southwestern portion of Ventura County consists of the Piru, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Mound, and Oxnard Forebay subbasins. These sub-basins are overlain by the cities of Fillmore, Santa Paula, and San Buenaventura and small, unincorporated communities in Ventura County. The groundwater and surface water in these areas are strongly interconnected with flow generally moving from the upper portions of the watershed to the lower portion of the watershed.

Upon review of all existing reports and data, Regional Water Board staff has determined that additional time is needed to resolve total dissolved solids (TDS) and chloride compliance issues for the Piru groundwater basin and the encompassing Lower Santa Clara River Basin. In order to achieve groundwater basin management goals, additional time is needed to continue discussions with Ventura County Waterworks District No. 16 and to explore a regional salt management approach in the Lower Santa Clara River Basin. With the advent of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, adjustment to remote working situations, a shift in priorities to address COVID-19 related relief requests and inquiries, and the recent significant loss of staff, in addition to the complexity of issues and the need to explore a regional salt management approach as an effective long-term solution to the TDS and chloride exceedances from the Piru WWTP, Regional Water Board staff finds that an amendment of Order No. R4-2009-0027-A01 to extend the expiration date of the WDRs is necessary. To provide the necessary additional time, Regional Water Board staff proposes a limited revision to Order No. R4-2009-0027-A01 to extend the expiration date by approximately 36 months, until either February 28, 2024 or upon issuance of new or revised WDRs, whichever occurs first. The tentative amendment for the extension can be found in Provision F.22 of the WDRs (Page 15). Order No. R4-2009-0027-A01 is available on the Regional Water Board's website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/adopted_orders/docs/5714_R4-2009-0027-A01_WDR_amd.pdf). All other requirements, limitations, and provisions of Order No. R4-2009-0027, as amended, will remain the same.

Regional Water Board staff requests comments on the proposed timeframe extension of Order No. R4-2009-0027-A01. In accordance with administrative procedures, the Regional Water Board, at a public hearing to be held on February 11, 2021, will consider the enclosed focused amendment to Order No. R4-2009-0027-A01. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, the public hearing will be conducted via remote presence using video and teleconference participation, unless otherwise announced.

In order to be evaluated by Regional Water Board staff and included in the Regional Water Board's agenda packet, written comments or evidence regarding the tentative extension timeframe must be received at the Regional Water Board's office **by 5:00 PM on January 20, 2021**. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Regional Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or evidence into the record. Therefore, timely submittal of written comments is required to ensure that all comments are accurately and fully included in the administrative record, that Regional Water Board staff is able to provide timely review and time to respond to comments, and that Regional Water Board members have sufficient time to give full consideration to the comments and issues raised.

The tentative Order, amending Order No. R4-2009-0027-A01, is enclosed and also available on the Regional Water Board's website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.html). The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Regional Water Board's website

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_info/agenda/) approximately 10 days prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager, Dr. Ann Chang at (213) 620-6122 (ann.chang@waterboards.ca.gov), or me at (213) 576-6683 (jim.kang@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

James Kang, Ph.D., P.E.

Chief of Groundwater Permitting Unit

Enclosure: Tentative Order, Amending WDRs Order No. R4-2009-0027-A01