

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 12, 2010

Prepared on March 17, 2010

ITEM NUMBER: 21

SUBJECT: Reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048143, for the City of Santa Barbara El Estero Wastewater Treatment Facility, Santa Barbara County (Order No. R3-2010-0011)

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger:	City of Santa Barbara
Facility Name:	El Estero Wastewater Treatment Facility
Facility Address:	520 East Yanonali Street Santa Barbara, CA 93103 Santa Barbara County
Type of Waste:	Municipal wastewater
Treatment:	Secondary level biological treatment using activated sludge, secondary clarifiers, chlorine disinfection, and dechlorination
Disposal:	Pacific Ocean
Facility Design Flow:	Average flow of 11.0 million gallons per day (MGD)
Facility Permitted Flow:	Average flow of 11.0 MGD
Existing Order:	Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0122, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0048143
Recycling Requirements:	97-44
This Action:	Reissue NPDES Permit

SUMMARY

The proposed Order is presented in the statewide format for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. This standardized format presents the proposed Order with all supporting information appended as associated attachments. This format was developed through a statewide effort between the State Water Board, Regional Water Boards, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to standardize NPDES permitting and compliance evaluation. The facility information and permit evaluation discussion normally contained within the staff report are presented in the Fact Sheet, which is included as Attachment F to the proposed Order.

This staff report briefly summarizes general information regarding proposed changes in the permit, referencing the Fact Sheet for additional detail. The Order, Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Fact Sheet each include a table of contents.

Discharger. The City of Santa Barbara (Discharger) owns and operates a municipal sanitary sewer system that includes wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities. The wastewater facility provides sewer service for the city of Santa Barbara.

Facility and Discharge. The Discharger's treatment facility includes primary clarification, activated sludge, secondary clarification, disinfection using chlorine, and dechlorination. The design capacity of the treatment facility is 11.0 MGD. Treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through an 8,720 foot outfall/diffuser system at a depth of approximately 70 feet. The diffuser provides a minimum initial dilution of approximately 120 to 1 (ocean water to effluent). The facility has the option to discharge desalination brine into the outfall at a rate of 12.5 MGD which results in a minimum initial dilution of 44 to 1 (ocean water to effluent).

PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

The purpose of this proposed Order No. R3-2010-0011 is to update and reissue NPDES Permit No. CA0048143. The existing permit, Order No R3-2004-0122, expired on October 22, 2009.

CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED ORDER

Changes proposed in Order No. R3-2010-0011 from the existing Order No. R3-2004-0122 are summarized below. Typographical errors and minor changes that do not alter the intent of the Order are not discussed. For a complete discussion of the rationale for these changes, refer to the Fact Sheet portion of the permit (Attachment F).

Statewide NPDES Permit Template: Staff used the current statewide NPDES Permit template to develop the proposed Order. Although the permit format has changed, major permit elements and discharge requirements have been retained.

Collection System General Waste Discharge Requirements Finding: The City of Santa Barbara is enrolled in the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems that specifies management practices designed to preclude water quality impact resulting from discharges from the collection system (Fact Sheet Section VII.B.6.b).

Effluent and Receiving Water Limitations: The proposed Order carries over effluent and receiving water limitation from the existing permit. The effluent and receiving water limitations reflect requirements of the Basin Plan, Ocean Plan, and federal Clean Water Act (described in the Fact Sheet Section IV).

Monitoring: The proposed monitoring and reporting program carries over effluent and receiving water monitoring from the existing permit. Monitoring and reporting program is described in the Fact Sheet Section VI.

Changes in Response to Comments: The City of Santa Barbara provided minor editorial comments and corrections that have been incorporated into the proposed Order. In addition, the Discharger submitted the comments that are summarized, with corresponding staff responses, beginning on page F-48 of the Fact Sheet. Based upon the Discharger's comments, additional clarifying language is incorporated into the proposed Order. Discussion of these changes is provided starting on page F-48. No other comments were received on the draft proposed Order.

Recycled Water Policy: The State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Recycled Water Policy (Policy) in February 2009. The Policy calls for development of regional groundwater basin/sub-basin salt/nutrient management plans. The proposed Order requires the City of Santa Barbara to document participation in the development of a regional salt/nutrient management plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order R3-2010-0011 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

The attachments are available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2010/2010_agendas.shtml

Then click on "view agenda" for May 12, 2010; then click on Item 21.

1. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2010-0011, including attachments:
 - A – Definitions
 - B – Site Map
 - C – Flow Schematic
 - D – Standard Provisions
 - E – Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - F – Fact Sheet (including Response to Comments)
2. March 2, 2010, letter from the City of Santa Barbara