

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING MARCH 14-15, 2012

Prepared on February 8, 2012

ITEM NUMBER: 16

SUBJECT: Enforcement Report

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DISCUSSION

Violations Listing

Staff uses the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) to track Water Board data, including violations and enforcement actions. Attachment 1 is a CIWQS list of violations by dischargers between November 1, 2011, and November 30, 2011. CIWQS has a sewer system overflow (SSO) module that provides tracking and reporting of such spills.

Summary of Enforcement Activities

The following information summarizes significant enforcement actions taken by the Water Board during the period between January 1, 2012, and January 31, 2012.

Notices of Violation

Regal Dry Cleaners, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County

Monarch Grove Reclamation Facility, Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County

Water Board staff sent a notice of violations to Monarch Grove on December 19, 2011, regarding the 66 effluent violations that have occurred between February 20, 2006, and July 31, 2011. In response, Fluid Resource Management, the contract plant operator, provided an explanation of facility design, corrective actions, and long-term solutions for the facility. FRM explained that effluent violations related to turbidity, total suspended solids, and pH are related to operational upsets and are typically rare occurrences. Violations related to total coliform are due to mainly human error as the samples are collected from a port within the wastewater treatment facility where bacteria exist on surfaces and could potentially contaminate samples. As such, FRM frequently reviews and trains staff on sampling procedures.

FRM explained that adequate denitrification has been very difficult to achieve. The plant efficiently removes BOD and DO as required by the waste discharge requirements, which contributes to the facility's inability to remove nitrogen on consistent basis. FRM currently operates the facility as it was designed and does not propose to add or remove any component of the treatment process. However, FRM has implemented some operational changes in an effort to increase denitrification to the extent practical without exceeding other effluent limitations. These changes include the following:

- Increasing the sludge blanket on the floor of each clarifier to reduce DO in the final clarifier.
- Recirculating the final effluent to reduce DO and introduce a carbon source back to the bio-filters.
- Operating the treatment system with the use of bio-filter #3 to depress DO.
- Reducing the flow rate through the facility to increase detention time and depress DO.
- Installing multiple diffusers in bio-filter #1 to reduce splashing in the bio-filter and depress DO.

These operational changes and pilot tests had little effect on the removal of nitrate in the effluent. FRM concludes that the facility will not consistently meet the total nitrogen effluent limitation unless additional treatment processes are constructed. However, FRM points out that the final effluent is discharged to an irrigation storage pond, which overflows to second irrigation pond that feeds the Sea Pines Golf Course turf irrigation system. It is the opinion of FRM and Monarch Grove that denitrification and uptake continue in the irrigation ponds prior to turf irrigation and that final effluent samples should be collected downstream of the final pond. Staff will explore this idea with Monarch Grove.

In addition, Monarch Grove intends to connect to the community sewer system as a long-term solution. The HOA has taken steps necessary (i.e., collected deposits from all homeowners, held several meetings with the County to express its intent to connect) to connect to the community system.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for Board information; the Board may provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Violation List
2. List of Abbreviations