

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Hearing September 7, 2012
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 12:51:33 PM

James M. and Maureen Ardron
17711 Neff Ranch Road
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

August 28, 2012

Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Gentlemen:

I am a resident of Oceano, CA. In December, 2010, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District experienced a sewage spill. The sewage spill impacted my life, and I would like some help some help from the Sanitation District.

At the time of the spill our pregnant daughter, Tamara E. Ardron was living at 373 Juanita Ave, Oceano, CA 93454.

The following describes the type and extent of damage I experienced:

- 1- My Personal possessions were damaged/destroyed... (mine and my family members) James & Maureen Ardron and Tamara E. Ardron
- 2- I missed work to take care of my things. (my family member) Tamara E. Ardron
- 3- I had to find a temporary place to live. (my family member) Tamara E. Ardron
- 4- As the home owner, my residence was damaged. (mine) James and Maureen Ardron
- 5- We have experienced no health problems as a result of the spillage because my daughter was able to leave the residence temporarily Thank heavens.

I have estimated the financial impact to me at:

- 1- \$50,001 - \$100,000.

I request consideration for compensation for damages. As a note, I only received notice of the deadline of 5:00 August 27, 2012 at 4:30 of the same date when a note was left under a rock at the Oceano property. I contacted the Water Quality Control Board and was told that I could submit this letter by email by today, August 28, 2012.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

James, Maureen and Tamara E Ardron
17711 Neff Ranch Road
Yorba Linda, CA 92886
714-986-9735

8/27/2012

Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

August 27, 2012

Gentlemen:

I am a resident of Oceano, California. In December, 2010, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District experienced a sewage spill. The sewage spill impacted my life, and I would like some help from the Sanitation District.

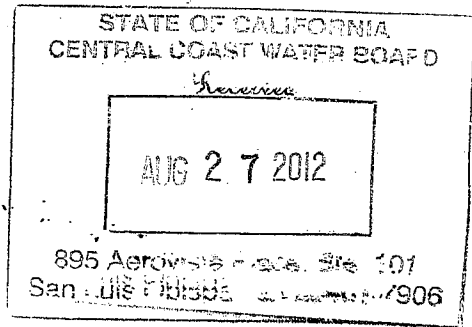
At the time of the spill I was living at: 380 Mc CARTHY Ave OCEANO
(street address and street)

The following briefly describes the type & extend of damage I experienced (circle all that apply):

- 1. My personal possessions were damaged / destroyed (mine) (mine & family members).
- 2. I missed work to take care of my things (me) (me & family members).
- 3. I had to find a temporary place to live (me) (me & family members).
- 4. I experienced health problems as a result of the sewage spill entering my residence (me) (me & family members).
- 5. As the home owner, my residence was damaged.

I have estimated the financial impact to me at (circle one):

- 1. \$10,000 or less.
- 2. \$10,001 - \$20,000.
- 3. \$20,001 - \$50,000.
- 4. \$50,001 - \$100,000.
- 5. Greater than \$100,000.



I request consideration for compensation for damages.

Thank you.

BETTY BUSICK - Betty Busick
(name)

380 Mc CARTHY AVE. OCEANO
(current address)

August 27, 2012

Central Coast Regional Water Board
Attention: Cyndee Jones/John Robertson
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 Central Coast Regional Water Board

John W. Carter
1678 Aloha Place
Oceano, CA 93445

Subject: Interested Party / Non Evidentiary Policy Statement

Cyndee; please see attached documentation. There should be two pdf files. One is for this transmittal letter and the other my comments on the sewage spill.

While I want to be at the hearing, it is unlikely I'll be able to attend. Could you please verify you have received these files and you can open them by responding to my e-mail. If there are any issues you can call my cell at 805-801-9789.

Thanks much...

John Carter

Synopsis

I am a property owner and resident of Oceano, CA. I have lived at 1778 and 1678 Aloha Place in Oceano since 1992 and have never seen such flooding as was observed on December 19, 2010. To highlight, this includes periods during 1994-95, 1997-98 (El Nino period), 2004-05 and 2005-06 when the local area received substantial rainfall over the December – March time periods. During each of these periods when we received considerable rainfall over a short period, the western portions of Security Court and Honolulu streets flooded. The corner of Aloha Place flooded (where the above noted property is located) also flooded during the El Nino period and to a lesser extent in 2005-06 (but never flooded the house). I also note it took anywhere from 2-5 days for the floodwaters to recede depending on how much rainfall continued subsequent to the initial flooding. And, I never had sewage backup into my bathtub or overflow from my toilet as happened on December 19th.

On December 19, 2010 at about 5 PM the entire area located south of the lagoon was flooded including the Facility property. The depth of the water surrounding my property was about two feet that translated to about one foot water in my 1778 residence. While I did take some pictures of the extent of the flood, I was focused on moving furniture from 1778 to my garage at the 1678 property (with the assistance of neighbors). I suspect dealing with the flood, including packing and leaving the area was the focus of others in the area as well.

It is now clear the rainfall received on December 18 & 19 was unprecedented; apparently the highest received during any two-day period since the early 70s. And we have now learned the Facility had repeated operational pump failures, endangered the safety of plant personnel and was unable to institute effective correction action for about 12 hours. It was during this period that many properties in the area were flooded and damaged with rainwater and sewage. On the morning of December 20th, by about 10 AM, the standing floodwaters and sewage observed on the evening of December 19th were gone. This suggests to me that had the plant been in an operational capacity and alert to working in an emergency status (potential flooding was well known for several days before it occurred), the sewage spill would have been prevented. I also believe the extent of the flooding would have been considerably less; certainly sewage would not have backed up in many of the homes.

I have reviewed the documentation prepared by the “State” and responses prepared by the “Facility” and their consultants. Using plant-engineering pump data versus subjective and generic modeling seems to provide the simplest and most believable approach to estimating the extent of the sewage spill.

Unfortunately I am in substantial agreement with the findings appearing in the “Technical Report” prepared by the State. This is unfortunate since it has been speculated that rates for operating the Facility will go up measurably should the \$1.4M fine be enforced. Here’s my position: my rates could double for the next 20 years and not come close to what it cost me to repair my home. I cannot afford to do this again and I’m sure others believe the same. I also offer that if the fine ensures corrective actions and future compliance with operating procedures (Facility specific, SWRCB & RWQCB requirements and NPDES permit), it will be an acceptable burden (at least to me, but not to others I’m sure). Obviously this is a high price to pay to ensure the Facility is managed and operated in accordance with applicable mandates. Relative to the fine (whatever may be negotiated), I request that consideration, to the maximum extent possible, be given to applying fine proceeds to benefit the improvement, management, safety, security and operation of the Facility.

The sewage spill in Oceano was avoidable & resulted in significant damage to many homes

- ◊ The State Water Resources Board (“State”) has documented the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Facility (“Facility”) was not in compliance with their NPDES permit & other state & local regulations including their Sanitary Sewer Collection Permit
- ◊ Lack of management focus on Facility operations in daily engineering & preparation for potential flood events resulted in the sewage spill & exacerbated the flooding surrounding the Facility on December 19th
- ◊ Repair of property inundated with floodwaters & sewage has been significant in both cost & time while continuing to work & maintain household income
- ◊ Any resulting fine should include provisions for a large portion of the fine to be used by the Facility to further improve and ensure effective & efficient operation & management

That the Facility went to "great lengths to stop the spill" supports the general theme that Facility management is reactive versus proactive. Had Facility management been focusing on spill prevention it is unlikely they would be expending scarce resources on sewage spill justification.

III Spill Event Background

I find the comment that "treatment plant staff attempting to reach the plant were stopped by law enforcement and warned of a possible levee breach by Arroyo Grande Creek, and of the need to evacuate the treatment plant" hard to believe. I live there and something this serious would have forced a mandatory evacuation of the area; my wife and I were never warned of a levee breach (I'll be checking on this with the County). And I don't understand the point of this comment. While Facility personnel worked to get the pumps operational, others and myself were working to minimize flood and sewage damage in our homes.

Also, I have high confidence the water that flooded the Facility came mostly from the 13th Street and Pacific Coast highway intersection (in contrast to what appears on pg 4 of section III where it is discussed the flood water was coming from the Oceano lagoon (which some did)). I believe the drainage area that crosses 13th Street and Highway 1 was a key factor here and could be again. In 2009 SLO County and CalTrans "fixed" a perpetual flooding problem at this intersection by removing large Eucalyptus trees, their droppings and cleaning out nearby drainage paths to funnel the water across the POVE area to the Oceano Airport property. Why is this important? I explain below.

No one knows with confidence where the water that flooded the plant came from. But it is clear a substantial portion came across the airport property since 13th Street and Highway 1 did not flood. Of course this never happened before remedying the flooding issue at the 13th Street intersection. So, the Facility got some pumps working and by the morning of December 20 the floodwater was gone. How do we know the pumps were responsible for this? Here's why; I have a heavy hatch cover on the side of my 1778 property (crawl space cover) that was missing for several days. I eventually found it at the entrance to the Facility (on the south side of Aloha Place about 75-100 feet from its origin). Others found items such as coolers in the same area. Maybe it was the wind? (no appreciable wind was noted on the evening of December 19th). Well maybe the floodwaters exited the Sand Canyon "Flap Gates". No way; that drainage area has been impoverished for years and is getting worse; nothing magic happen there (of course some water did exit the flap gates but not to the extent that was noted about 10 hours after the Facility became operational). As noted above, it typically takes several days for the floodwater to back down Security Court after local flooding. Accordingly, I argue the effective operation of the Facility is an important factor in mitigating flood events in adjacent areas.. I also believe it will become more important in the future as the ability of lagoon to flush water to the Arroyo Grande flood control channel diminishes (for a variety of reasons documented elsewhere). Will the Facility be asking the County to contribute to the funding of the potential fine?

And as has been discussed repeatedly, the drainage area represented by the Oceano lagoon and its exit to the Pacific Ocean is and will continue to be a flood issue. These issues emphasize the importance of the effective and efficient management of the Facility; something that should have been in place in 2010.

Also it seems the Facility can expect more flooding this year given we have an El Nino event developing (formally recognized as such by NOAA).

Supporting Expertise and Documentation Provided b RMC & CH2MHILL

I understand the importance of an accurate estimate of the volume of the sewage spill since it correlates with the potential fine. Here's how I interpret the information. The reports prepared by the consultants support the estimate of the Facility; this is reasonable given they agree with the Facility's approach. They also go on to criticize the approach and findings of the State.

The State used site specific engineering pump data and associated I/I flow data during different periods of time. We can argue about the assumptions relative to pump start and stop and start again times, wet day versus dry day, etc. but this approach is believable since it is directly applicable to the Facility.

The Facility used generic hydraulic modeling data based on direct observations. This approach is complex, relies on generic assumptions and does not include any site specific data other than direct observations by mostly flood victims. And those direct observations have an inherently subjective element. The Facility's estimate would be more believable had they incorporated some estimates of variation (generated a mean and standard deviation under different flood conditions) in their estimates and identified those factors most sensitive to the subjective estimates (i.e., assumed flood water elevations, photographs (some of which I supplied, etc.).

By the way; if you like complex models, you'll love the RMC model (which is similar to the Hydraulic Grade Line model used by the Facility). RMC went on to conclude all findings are only estimates; at least RMC put a qualitative range on their estimates (+/- 20%); others did not.

Here's the bottom line; somewhere between the 400K and the 1.300K estimated gallons of sewage spilled is the "truth". No one has speculated on where the 800K gallons of sewage went; I know some of it went in my house and the homes of others in Oceano.

My Involvement in Examination of the Sewage Spill

The operational excellence of the Facility is important to me because I have an appreciation for its critical functions. I spent about 15 years as a marine biologist (MS from Cal Poly in Biological Science) compiling data for regulatory purposes for the San Onofre and Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plants; I even successfully completed a 301(h) application for a sanitation facility in southern California. During the last 25 years I have worked on the business management (MBA from National University) and development side of program development and systems engineering in aerospace. This has included participation in development of conceptual designs, technology development, requirements analysis, risk assessment and management including the overarching discipline of program management (many of which I have led).

During late December 2010, I sent pictures of the flooding surrounding my property to the Wallace Group to facilitate a better understanding of the extent of the flood and associated damages. I continued to communicate with the Wallace Group until February when I enquired about a more detailed description of the flooding. Subsequently I received a call directing me to enquire at the County level. As is understandable, the cone of silence was beginning to drop since litigation was being discussed (I believe).

Others and myself have been following the emerging story of the Facility's sewage spill since we began to learn more of the details in February of 2011. Information was scarce and we contemplated legal action. However by the time we believed we were in a position to take legal action, I learned, from a local attorney, we were too late as the statute of limitations for filing against a government entity was six months.

As is evident in this letter, I am disappointed to learn of the issues associated with Facility management and operation. During the summer of 2011 members of the State investigating the spill contacted others and me in Oceano. We have been sharing information (not collaborating) for about a year in order to understand the flooding and sewage spill with the goal of preventing future sewage spills and/or mitigating possible impacts.

Subsequent to the 2004-2005 flooding, myself and others were concerned about the potential for flooding of the Facility. To this end we inquired as to the readiness of the Facility to operate in flood conditions (third party e-mail correspondence submitted under separate cover). The Facility's manager passed on that future activities were planned to mitigate possible flooding including: '1. Flood Gates around the entrance, 2. A large pump has been installed around the head works, 3. Rebuilding the walls around the pumps and facility, 4. A secondary pump above the flood level.' The plant manager went on to explain 'he was confident that with the measures

Review Report: Sewage Spill in Oceano, CA (December 19-20, 2010)

that they have implemented and will be implementing more than protect the plant during extreme flooding. I do not know if any of these planned upgrades or modifications to the Facility were implemented; I do know this has been an area of concern for my neighbors and me for the past several years.

My Commitment to Oceano

My wife and I believe we are fortunate to live on the central California coast and we absolutely love living in Oceano. We have never had any issues with our location in close proximity to the Facility. In fact I am rather proud of Facility's capacity and capability to process sewage and discharge secondarily treated effluent into the offshore area (in compliance with their NPDES permit). I frequently surf off Oceano beach near the discharge line. I am committed to working with others to continually improve the Oceano locale.

Compiling this review report has been a time consuming effort (but quite important I believe). As a final comment, I note that I have compile other documentation for issues surrounding Oceano and only infrequently been given any feedback (almost all of the time my efforts and those of others are ignored). While I have low confidence any of this will make any difference in the operation and management of the Facility, I also believe the consequences of not heeding the information contained here could be grave.

I welcome questions and comments. The observations and opinions discussed here are, to a large degree, my own. I also own any and all errors associated with this review report.

Supplemental Environmental Projects Proposals
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement
August 17, 2012

Please accept the attached project proposal abstract. We are forwarding this package in the event SEP proposals are considered in any settlement relative to the South County Sanitation District discharge violation described in a June 2012 technical report regarding ACL R-3-2012-0030.

Central Coast Salmon Enhancement (CCSE) is a 28 year-old local nonprofit 501(c)3 organization based in the south county of San Luis Obispo and has for the past 13 years been involved in restoration projects focusing on water quality and habitat improvements for the locally threatened Steelhead trout. CCSE has also operated a successful education program for the past 16 years involving public and private schools, public programming and outreach events. We have worked with a variety of sectors of the community including private and public landowners/managers and businesses as we educate about and encourage voluntary implementation measures to improve water quality and habitat through the development of stakeholder driven watershed management plans.

CCSE's citizen led watershed advisory council has vetted the enclosed proposal prior to its presentation to the CCSE Board of Directors for their approval. Staff would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Please contact Sarah Paddack, Executive Director at 805-471-2130 or Steph Wald, Watershed Projects Manager at 805-471-3789.

Water Quality Monitoring Program to Guide Improvements in Ecosystem Health and Land-Use Practices in Pismo and Arroyo Grande Creek Watersheds

The quantity and quality of water flowing in a stream is the key to both the health of its freshwater ecosystem and the health of the community through which it flows. To protect and improve the quantity and quality of water flowing in both Pismo and Arroyo Grande Creeks, we propose to develop, implement, and sustain a robust long-term water quantity and quality monitoring program aimed at improving ecosystem health and improving land-use practices that affect vital watershed functions. Surface flows in both creeks support a wide range of uses including municipal and agricultural water supply, recreation, and critical habitat for the threatened southern steelhead.

Specifically, the goals of our proposed water quality monitoring program include:

- To collect watershed-wide surface water flow, water quality, and ecosystem health data to inform actionable long-term solutions
- To educate and engage local agricultural and watershed stakeholders
- To support agricultural and watershed stakeholders in assessing and implementing preventative and remediative actions

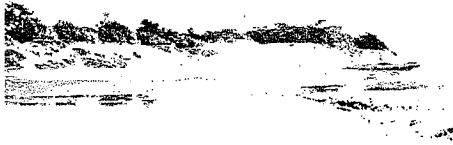


To achieve these goals the proposed program will encompass three specific components:

- Robust water quantity and quality monitoring program that utilizes a strong local volunteer base and provides professional support and quality control
- Outreach, education, and technical assistance to agricultural and other watershed stakeholders
- Assessment of biotic conditions including steelhead surveys and overall biotic health and integrity using benthic macroinvertebrate metrics

Our proposed program will be designed to support the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) vision that 80 percent of aquatic habitat is healthy and 80 percent of lands

within a watershed is managed to maintain proper watershed functions by the year 2025. Furthermore, our program will build upon existing data collection efforts, including data collection conducted by the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) and by agricultural stakeholders led by Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.



Central Coast Salmon Enhancement (CCSE), and our partner the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSL RCD), have been working in the Pismo Creek and Arroyo Grande Watersheds for 10 years. Staff in both organizations have long-standing ties with agricultural and watershed stakeholders, and bring a range of experience and vetted programs to the table. For example, existing RCD programs that would support project goals include the Mobile Irrigation Lab, Livestock and Land, Agricultural Grading Review and Technical Assistance

CCSE staff has extensive experience assessing water quantity, quality, and ecosystem health in numerous watersheds including but not limited to Pismo, Arroyo Grande, Santa Rosa, and San Simeon Creeks. In writing both Pismo Creek Watershed Management Plan (2009) and the

Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Management Plan (2009), CCSE has gained broad recognition in both watersheds as an effective local organization. CCSE is the ideal candidate for running a successful water quality program that leads to concrete preventative and remediative actions in both Arroyo Grande and Pismo Creek Watersheds.

Depending on specific program elements, we estimate that the proposed program will require between \$75,000 to \$100,000 per year. An endowment of \$1,000,000 will ensure that CCSE and our partners can consistently work towards achieving the State's RWQCB goals by the year 2025. Alternatively, funding in the \$500,000 range will fund the program for approximately a 5 year period.



Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

August 27, 2012

Gentlemen:

I am a resident of Oceano, California. In December, 2010, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District experienced a sewage spill. The sewage spill impacted my life, and I would like some help from the Sanitation District.

At the time of the spill I was living at:

352 JUANITA OCEANO
(street address and street)

The following briefly describes the type & extend of damage I experienced (circle all that apply):

1. My personal possessions were damaged / destroyed (mine) (mine & family members).
2. I missed work to take care of my things (me) (me & family members).
3. I had to find a ^{PERMANENT} temporary place to live (me) (me & family members).
4. I experienced health problems as a result of the sewage spill entering my residence (me) (me & family members).
5. ~~As the home owner, my residence was damaged.~~

I have estimated the financial impact to me at (circle one):

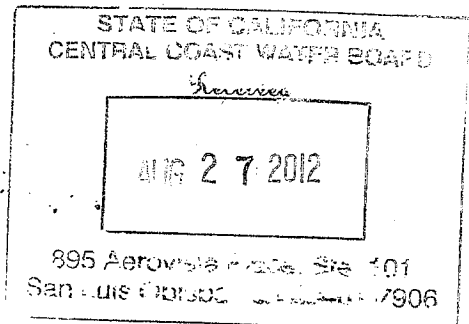
1. \$10,000 or less.
2. \$10,001 - \$20,000.
3. \$20,001 - \$50,000.
4. \$50,001 - \$100,000.
5. Greater than \$100,000.

I request consideration for compensation for damages.

Thank you.

Ed Rack
(name)

352 1/2 JUANITA
OCEANO 93445
(current address)



From: [Fischer, Jim@Waterboards](mailto:Fischer_Jim@Waterboards)
To: [Packard, Harvey@Waterboards](mailto:Packard_Harvey@Waterboards)
Cc: [Macedo, Julie@Waterboards](mailto:Macedo_Julie@Waterboards)
Subject: FW: Contact for submittal of information regarding SSLOCSD Sewage Spill Case
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 4:14:37 PM

Harvey – this came in yesterday.

Jim

From: Chuck Ellison [mailto:ChuckE@frm-ops.com]
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2012 8:52 AM
To: Fischer, Jim@Waterboards
Cc: Jones, Cyndee@Waterboards; Robertson, John@Waterboards
Subject: RE: Contact for submittal of information regarding SSLOCSD Sewage Spill Case

Mr.. Fischer,

In accordance with your request, I am recapping our telephone conversation regarding the events which I was involved in on December 19, 2010, as well as my background at the SSLOCSD.

I began full-time employment with the SSLOCSD in September of 1975 as a maintenance assistant. I left the employ of the District in September 1999, having spent the last 9 years as the Plant Superintendent.

The following happened over 25 years ago. I am relating only what I can remember with some clarity;

In approx. 1984, or 1985 during the summer I believe, we had to make emergency repairs to one of the Sewage Pumps located in the Pump Room due to a mechanical seal blow-out. The seal was leaking faster than the sump pump located in the pump room could evacuate the water. The District had in-stock, a complete rebuild kit for the pump. Staff came in early the next morning (1-2 AM?), drained the wet well, and removed the pump from the piping after shutting off the suction and discharge valves. I believe that once the pipework was exposed (by pump removal) we used some sort of secondary plug in the end of the pipe as a means of backup to the valve.

Upon securing the plug and the room, staff then used this shutdown opportunity to clean the detritus out of the wet well pit. At approx. 4-6AM, we found that there was approx. 1 foot of water in the room and it was rising fast. It was clear that the suction gate valve was not closed completely despite the use of a 36" pipe wrench used to close it tight, and that the secondary plug had not held. We immediately turned off all sewage pumps to prevent the pumps from shorting out when the water reached the motors (at that time the motors were 2 speed open drip proof motors (ODP).

Staff also shut the main sewage gate to the plant, thereby preventing additional sewage from flowing into the wet well and eventually the pump room through the partially open valve.

Several contractors/suppliers were contacted and arrangements were made to by-pass the headworks completely by pumping from GB-2 to the Control Box. Staff monitored the level in the main gate box, upstream of the headworks and I believe that sometime mid to late morning we began to spill out of the manhole at the end of the driveway, in the Security Court residential area, and at the 90 degree manhole at the end of Norswing Ave.. I do not recall for how long we "spilled". District staff cleaned the spill areas with bleach etc. once the bypass was in place and operating.

The sewage pump motors were taken to a rewind shop in Santa Maria and once they were rebuilt they were re-installed and the bypass removed. WQCB staff made several site visits during the emergency (Ron Sherer and others).

Sometime after this spill, Mr. Wallace became the District Administrator.

A complete report with all details is contained within the logbook located at the SSLOCSD plant for the year this occurred.

As part of the Phase 1 Plant Expansion Project (1990-1992), which was engineered by Kennedy Jenks with a member of their staff being onsite as the Resident Engineer (Rey Chan, PE) a new and complete MCC Building was built and all new conduits and wiring were installed throughout the plant. It was later noted that the deeper conduit pull boxes suffered from water intrusion as a result of the high water table in the vicinity of the plant. District staff became proficient in pulling new wire over the years, and it was not uncommon for staff to pull several hundred to a thousand feet of new wire at a time as the wire deteriorated over time. During a subsequent project, a stormwater lift station was installed near the MCC Building to pump the accumulated water out of the large pull-boxes next to the MCC Building.

At a later date, the Grading and Drainage Project was undertaken at the plant to mitigate the effects of rain events at the plant by re-grading the entire facility so that water flowed away from the pull boxes. This seemed to help.

On the morning of December 10, 2010, Jeff called me at approx. 11:15AM to say his headworks was down. He asked if I could come to the plant immediately and if I could contact Michael Ellison (my son) who is very good at troubleshooting VFDs and electrical pump controls, as his diesel pump would not operate properly. We both arrived together at about 11:30AM or so to find that the end of the driveway was under 6 - 8" of water and that the GB-2 manhole was lifted off the ring and spilling. We met Jeff at the headworks structure and noted that there was sewage flowing out of the access gate to the headworks at a depth of 4-6" and that the flume side of the headworks structure was completely full and that water was flowing out of its flood gate as well.

Jeff asked that Michael immediately troubleshoot the diesel pump and get it running while he and I walked down the driveway so I could explain to him how we had bypassed the headworks based on the events in the mid-eighties. After explaining what I felt was the best method of bypassing the headworks, we returned to the headworks where Michael had gotten the pump running. It was at this point that Jeff stated that he was not comfortable using the existing wire in the pull boxes/conduits which were under water once the motors were returned to operating condition. He asked what my recommendations were and I suggested that if we could find the appropriate wire size locally that 4 new runs of wire could be pulled to the pump room temporarily (one for each pump). We then went into the MCC room to visually look at each pump's wire size etc. He then authorized FRM to begin to find and install temporary conduit and wire. Jeff also asked if I had any crew members who could assist the District with removing the pumps and transport them to a local motor rewind shop to be either "dipped and baked" or "rewound" as necessary once they were MegOhm tested.

FRM dispatched Troy Ellison (my son) to the plant to assist Michael while another FRM staff member collected the wire and conduit for the temporary conductor runs. During this time, the diesel pump kept stopping and Michael would have to restart the unit. At approx. 2:30 - 3PM, I left the plant to attend to other business. I noted that at the end of the driveway, the depth of water was approx. 1 foot deep and that the neighborhood near the wooden traffic bridge was about 1 foot deep as well.

For further details of events after I left the plant, you would need to talk with Troy and/or Michael who remained onsite for many hours after my departure.

Their phone numbers are;

Troy - 805.458.6149

Michael - 805.441.5318

Any questions, please call me at 805.441.3316



Chuck Ellison
FLUID RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
OPERATIONS • MAINTENANCE • MECHANICAL
Office: (805) 597 -7100 Fax: (805) 597-7171
981 Highland Way, Grover Beach, CA 93433
www.frm-ops.com

From: Fischer, Jim@Waterboards [<mailto:Jim.Fischer@waterboards.ca.gov>]
Sent: Sunday, August 26, 2012 1:17 PM
To: Chuck Ellison
Subject: Contact for submittal of information regarding SSLOCSD Sewage Spill Case

Chuck – thanks again for talking with Leo Sarmiento and I today about your experiences and as promised, here is the contact information for submittal of your information pertaining to this case (deadline will be tomorrow, Monday, 8/27/12 @ 5pm to allow sufficient time for our board members and others to read your comments):

Central Coast Regional Water Board
Attention: Cyndee Jones/John Robertson
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Comments may also be submitted via email to:
Cyndee Jones
cjones@waterboards.ca.gov

or

John Robertson
JRobertson@waterboards.ca.gov



Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

August 27, 2012

Gentlemen:

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357 JUANITA AVE

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- 5. As the home owner, my residence was damaged.

I have estimated the financial impact to me at (circle one):

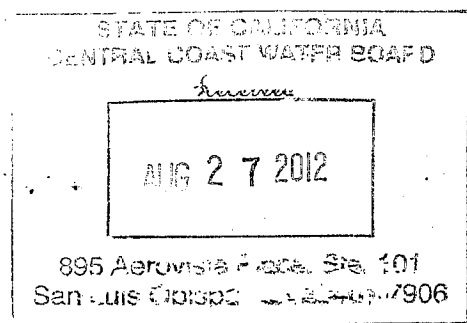
- 1. \$10,000 or less.
- 2. \$10,001 - \$20,000.
- 3. \$20,001 - \$50,000.
- 4. \$50,001 - \$100,000.
- 5. Greater than \$100,000.

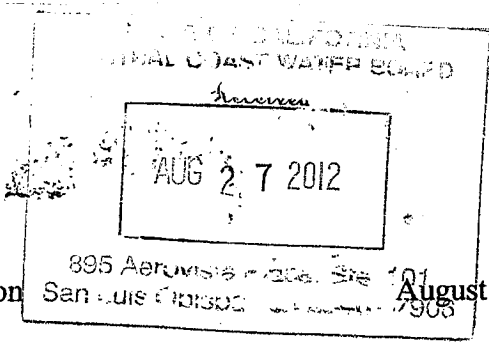
I request consideration for compensation for damages.

Thank you.

Robert S and Cecilia F Costa
(name)

357 JUANITA AVE - OCEANO
(current address)





Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

August 27, 2012

Gentlemen:

I am a resident of Oceano, California. In December, 2010, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District experienced a sewage spill. The sewage spill impacted my life, and I would like some help from the Sanitation District.

At the time of the spill I was living at:

564 Honolulu Oceano
(street address and street)

The following briefly describes the type & extend of damage I experienced (circle all that apply):

- 1. My personal possessions were damaged / destroyed (mine) (mine & family members).
- 2. I missed work to take care of my things (me) (me & family members).
- 3. I had to find a temporary place to live (me) (me & family members): motel 6 1 week
- 4. I experienced health problems as a result of the sewage spill entering my residence (me) (me & family members). NO
- 5. As the home owner, my residence was damaged.

I have estimated the financial impact to me at (circle one):

- 1. \$10,000 or less.
- 2. \$10,001 - \$20,000.
- 3. \$20,001 - \$50,000.
- 4. \$50,001 - \$100,000.
- 5. Greater than \$100,000.

I request consideration for compensation for damages.

Thank you.

Paul Grant Smith
(name)

564 Honolulu
Oceano CA 93445 surfcomp1@yahoo.com
(current address)

To Oceano Residents

August, 2012

In December, 2010, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District (SSLOCSD) experienced a sewage spill that impacted 40-50 private residences in the Oceano area. This spill was a violation of the Sanitation District's permit. In addition, the spill was inadequately reported to the State Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Many residents impacted by the sewage spill never filed a claim against the sanitation district for damages. The time to file a claim may have passed, however, one more chance may be available.

Recent events and discussions between the District and the Board regarding this sewage spill are leading to a public hearing Friday, September 7, 2012. Residents who were impacted by the sewage spill are encouraged to:

1. Attend or send a representative to the public hearing on September 7th.
2. Send a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board describing your loss or impact from the sewage spill. Letters must be received at the Water Board before 5:00 pm, Monday afternoon, August 27, 2012.

Public Hearing:

Friday, September 7, 2012
Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

This office is in one of the wing-shaped buildings in front of the San Luis Obispo Airport.

The meeting will start at 8:15 am. Check the Board's web site a week before for the agenda and time of this hearing. www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast



Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

August 27, 2012

Gentlemen:

I am a resident of Oceano, California. In December, 2010, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District experienced a sewage spill. The sewage spill impacted my life, and I would like some help from the Sanitation District.

At the time of the spill I was living at:

352 Juanita, OCEANO
(street address and street)

The following briefly describes the type & extend of damage I experienced (circle all that apply):

1. My personal possessions were damaged / destroyed (mine) (mine & family members).
2. I missed work to take care of my things (me) (me & family members).
3. I had to find a temporary place to live (me) (me & family members).
4. I experienced health problems as a result of the sewage spill entering my residence (me) (me & family members).
5. As the home owner, my residence was damaged.

I have estimated the financial impact to me at (circle one):

1. \$10,000 or less.
2. \$10,001 - \$20,000.
3. \$20,001 - \$50,000.
4. \$50,001 - \$100,000.
5. Greater than \$100,000.

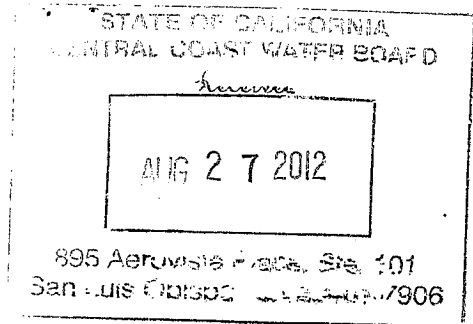
I request consideration for compensation for damages.

Thank you.

Regina Rocha
(name)

352 Juanita

OCEANO 93445
(current address)



From: [Maureen Ardron](#)
To: [WB-RB3-centralcoast](#)
Cc: [Tamara Bravo](#)
Subject: South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Hearing September 7, 2012
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 12:51:33 PM

James M. and Maureen Ardron
17711 Neff Ranch Road
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

August 28, 2012

Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Gentlemen:

I am a resident of Oceano, CA. In December, 2010, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District experienced a sewage spill. The sewage spill impacted my life, and I would like some help some help from the Sanitation District.

At the time of the spill our pregnant daughter, Tamara E. Ardron was living at 373 Juanita Ave, Oceano, CA 93454.

The following describes the type and extent of damage I experienced:

- 1- My Personal possessions were damaged/destroyed... (mine and my family members) James & Maureen Ardron and Tamara E. Ardron
- 2- I missed work to take care of my things. (my family member) Tamara E. Ardron
- 3- I had to find a temporary place to live. (my family member) Tamara E. Ardron
- 4- As the home owner, my residence was damaged. (mine) James and Maureen Ardron
- 5- We have experienced no health problems as a result of the spillage because my daughter was able to leave the residence temporarily Thank heavens.

I have estimated the financial impact to me at:

- 1- \$50,001 - \$100,000.

I request consideration for compensation for damages. As a note, I only received notice of the deadline of 5:00 August 27, 2012 at 4:30 of the same date when a note was left under a rock at the Oceano property. I contacted the Water Quality Control Board and was told that I could submit this letter by email by today, August 28, 2012.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

James, Maureen and Tamara E Ardron
17711 Neff Ranch Road
Yorba Linda, CA 92886
714-986-9735

Jones, Cyndee@Waterboards

From: Terry Sweetland <surf362@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2012 1:06 PM
To: Packard, Harvey@Waterboards
Subject: Oceano

Hell Mr. Packard; I just finished talking to you on the phone.

I was looking into the history of the flood and I came across some facts which don't add up.

Cal Coast News (internet) 24 Dec. 2010 South County Sewage spill. At the end of the second paragraph "Staff at the plant used the sewage flow rate at the time of the failure and determined that during the shutdown, about a HOUR AND A HALF, approximately one million gallons of raw sewage was spilled"

That assumes that if that rate was for the day we would have a flow rate of 16 .MGPD.

In the Staff Report, South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District date Jan. 05, 2011

page 2 bottom of 3rd. paragraph.

"Typically the plant sees a 0.25-0.50 MGD increase in influent flow during a normal rain event while during a very heavy rain event the plant could see a 2.0 MGD increase in flow from a normal flow of 2-3 MGD to a total flow of 5.0 MGD.

This rain event was not even a 7 year rain event.

The numbers don't add up.

We have been told that Mrs. G. Guiton cald the SLO DWP 5 days before and warned them about the possible flooding, her husband always opened the gates himself but that was taken away from him and the lagoon is under the authority of at least 5 agencies and none of them will take charge.

We believe that theDWP is at fault and that they should take full responsibility for the spill.

As to this date nothing has been done that will protect us from a repeat of this disaster.

I know the last bit may not be in your purview but I would like you just to keep it in mind.

Thanks

*Terry Sweetland
Oceano*

8/27/12

Central Coast Regional Water Board

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101

San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401

Dear Cyndee Jones and John Robertson,

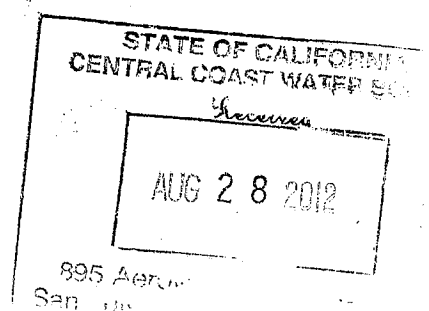
We own two parcels, in Oceano, as follows: 1570 Lakeside #A & B + 567 Honolulu (one parcel) and 1570 Lakeside #C & D + 571 Honolulu (second parcel). It has a four unit apartment building and two free standing houses. We were significantly affected by the sewage spill on 12/19/10.

Raw sewage backed up thru the toilets and bathtubs in both houses. I know this because both tenants told me and they saw the sewage bubble up and over flow from the toilets. I witness sewage in the tubs, around the toilets, on the floors thru out both houses where the water had retreated. Additionally, there was excrement left in the garage floor of the apartment house, in the yards of both houses, all over the asphalt in front of 1570 Lakeside and the driveways for 567 & 571 Honolulu, again where the water had retreated. I would not quantify the amount of excrement as huge but it was visible. WHAT A MESS!

The two Honolulu houses were not habitable. Our renter in 567 Honolulu had just under gone a kidney transplant. He was in a very fragile condition! The young couple in 571 Honolulu was on a very restricted budget. Both families lost most of their possessions due to the flood and contamination. We refunded their rent from 12/19 to 12/31 to help them with emergency shelter.

We lost rent for 567 & 571 Honolulu = 9,000.00. Refunded rent at beginning of flood 750.00. We do have flood insurance but have a 5,000.00 deductible on the apartment house - 5000.00, 567 & 571 Honolulu 5,000.00 ea = 15,000.00. Our asphalt is badly damaged which insurance does not cover repair and replace is estimated at 10,000.00 to 12,000.00. Outside paint on both houses looked o.k. at the time with the adjustor, but has since bubbled (around the entire outside) and needs repainting approx. cost 750.00 ea. house - 1,500.00.

We were all affected by this event in personal ways. My wonderful 78yr old husband was in very bad shape while awaiting a complete neck fusion 2/5/12. I tried to protect him from how very serious this financial damage was for us. Because of our huge deductible - I did as much as humanly possible, for a 65 yr. old to do. A flood is a flood - never a good thing - but when you have to address raw sewage it is not what we expect in California - a third rate country probably, but not here. It plays with your mind - I just wanted to run around with a bleach



bottle. Thankfully, my husband had a very successful operation-that is the most important thing!

To close- the young couple moved back- but has yet to be able to replace their belongings. Our financial lose is a minimum of 38,250.00 not covered by insurance.

Most sincerely,

David and Delilah "Penny" Villalba

204 Oceanview Ave., Grover Beach, CA 93433

805 474-8658