

## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 24, 2012

Mr. David Brown  
Descanso Gardens Guild Inc.  
1418 Descanso Drive  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011

**APPROVAL OF UPGRADE PLANS - DESCANSO GARDENS, 1418 DESCANSO DRIVE, LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, CA 91011 (FILE NO. 10-097, ORDER NO. 01-031, SERIES NO. 143, CI NO. 9718)**

Dear Mr. Brown:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) is the public agency with primary responsibility for the protection of ground and surface water quality for all beneficial uses with major portions of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, including Descanso Gardens (Permittee) located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011. On April 19, 2012, Descanso Gardens was enrolled in Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. 01-031, and Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. CI-9718.

The Permittee currently discharges a maximum of 2,000 gallons per day (GPD) of secondary treated effluent from an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) adjacent to the Boddy House, a single family home converted into an art gallery. An additional flow of domestic waste originates in the Exhibition Hall, classroom and restaurant building near the park entrance. The material change, as per the requirements in the Standard Provisions which are part of (WDR) Order No. 01-031, is to expand the Permittee's system size and volume to treat this additional flow. No change in the sewage quality is anticipated.

The Permittee informed staff on April 2, 2012 that the facility required an upgrade and provided a work plan describing the changes needed. The additional flow to be treated varies from 600 to 3,000 GPD, with higher flows on the weekends. The Permittee proposes the installation of two new lines to a new septic tank, a grease trap, two advantex pods, an equalization tank, a disinfection unit with ultraviolet, chlorine contact, and ozone injection, and five seepage pits. An end of pipe sampling port will be installed to confirm that the groundwater objectives for total nitrogen of 10 mg/L are met before discharge into the disposal system.

The work plan mentioned above is approved with the following conditions:

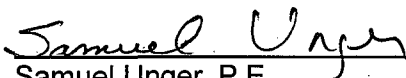
1. The effluent quality shall meet all standards prescribed in the WDR Order No. 01-010.
2. The Permittee is required to initiate the implementation of approved work plans according to the schedule you requested, no later than **May 24, 2012** and the upgrade shall be completed and the system must be in full operation by **July 24, 2012**. The Permittee shall notify Regional Board staff upon initiation and completion of

implementation. Failure to meet the deadlines and requirements specified above may lead staff to recommend the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order associated with a new permit requiring installation of a new system.

3. Upon commence of the proposed upgrades, the Permittee shall provide a reasonable assurance on the effectiveness of the new system. Should the new system fail to function and/or treat the discharge to meet WDRs, it is the Permittee's responsibility to mitigate the dysfunction of the system, and bring the discharge back to full compliance.
4. During the construction to upgrade the system, the existing permit, WDR Order No. 01-031, remains in effect, and the Permittee is NOT exempt from any requirements, effluent limits, and receiving water limits specified in the permit. A revised monitoring and reporting program to include expansion will be issued upon completion of upgrade.
5. The Permittee shall comply with the Electronic Submittal of Information (ESI) requirements by submitting all reports required under the MRP, including groundwater monitoring data, discharge location data, and monitoring reports (pdf format) to the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database under Global ID WDR100000461. An ESI training video is available at:  
<https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/ldr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=44145287&rKey=7dad4352c990334b>. Please see the Paperless Office Notice for GeoTracker Users, dated December 12, 2011 for further details at:  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/resources/Paperless/Paperless%20Office%20for%20GT%20Users.pdf>.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Project Manager, Ms. Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 620-2264, or the Unit Chief, Dr. Eric Wu at (213) 576-6683.

Sincerely,

  
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Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Executive Officer

cc: Mr. Patrick Njedian, California Department of Public Health  
Mr. Ramil Parial, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Mr. Brian Sullivan and Mr. Gerson Rivera, Descanso Gardens