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## San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 14, 2022

Mark April  
California Department of Forestry and  
Fire Protection  
8215 Rainbow Heights Road  
Fallbrook, CA 92028  
Sent by email: [mark.april@fire.ca.gov](mailto:mark.april@fire.ca.gov)

**In reply refer to/attn.:**  
**251490:BBushnell**

**Subject: Draft Notice of Applicability for Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, Rainbow Conservation Camp Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, San Diego County**

Mark April:

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) is to inform the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Discharger) that the Rainbow Conservation Camp (Facility) onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) is anticipated to be enrolled in State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (General Order). The Facility's enrollment in the General Order is effective upon adoption of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board), Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0049, An Order Rescinding Order No. R9-2009-0009, Waste Discharge Requirements for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Rainbow Conservation Camp, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0049). Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0049 will be considered at the regularly scheduled San Diego Water Board meeting on September 14, 2022.

The San Diego Water Board reviewed Order No. R9-2009-0009, Waste Discharge Requirements for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Rainbow Conservation Camp, San Diego County (Order No. R9-2009-0009) and the Discharger's record of compliance with Order No. R9-2009-0009. Order No. R9-2009-0009 is outdated and is not as protective of water quality as the requirements specified in the General Order. The General Order provides a more appropriate and consistent statewide approach to regulating small domestic wastewater treatment systems. While the Discharger may request to be regulated under individual waste discharge requirements, the Facility's enrollment in the General Order allows the San Diego Water

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CELESTE CANTÚ, CHAIR | DAVID GIBSON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Board to effectively and efficiently regulate discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems, while prioritizing the agency's limited resources.

The Facility meets the enrollment eligibility criteria included in the General Order. An electronic copy of the General Order is available online at the following website:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2014/wqo2014\\_0153\\_dwq.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf)

**NOA FINDINGS AND REQUIREMENTS** – The Discharger must comply with all applicable requirements in the General Order and any additional requirement included in this NOA, upon the effective date of enrollment in the General Order.

## 1. FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Facility is located at 8215 Rainbow Heights Road, Fallbrook in San Diego County, within the Vallecitos Hydrologic Subarea of the Santa Margarita Hydrologic Unit. The Facility's OWTS includes a bar screen, flow equalization tank, an anoxic basin, an aerobic basin, a clarifier, and a sludge storage tank. The OWTS disposes treated effluent to a spray field. The Facility has three percolation ponds for alternative wastewater disposal primarily used during wet weather when the spray fields cannot be used. The Facility's OWTS also has a separate septic system for wastewater treatment during times of reduced wastewater flows that cannot sustain the treatment plant's activated sludge system.

The Facility is located within the geographical area established by Resolution No. R9-2005-0036, *A Resolution Adopting an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region (9) to Incorporate Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus in the Rainbow Creek Watershed, San Diego County (Rainbow Creek TMDL)*. Prohibition A.8 of the General Order prohibits the discharge of waste in violation of, or not consistent with the San Diego Water Board's *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan)*.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the General Order is acceptable to regulate the Facility's discharge because this NOA establishes total nitrogen effluent limitations for the discharge of waste to land in accordance with the TMDL.

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<sup>1</sup> Web link to Basin Plan:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/)

## 2. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The General Order regulates discharges from new and existing small domestic wastewater treatment systems. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and consistent with Finding No. 32 of the General Order, the action to enroll the Facility is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 14, section 15301 (ongoing or existing projects), section 15302 (replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems), and section 15303 (new construction or conversion of small structures).

## 3. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger and operator of the Facility must be familiar with the requirements contained in the General Order, this NOA, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in section 5 below.

The Discharger must comply with the prohibitions and specifications contained within the General Order, which are applicable to all wastewater systems. The Discharger also must comply with the following General Order specifications applicable to the Facility's specific treatment and/or disposal system.

- a. Required Technical Reports/Plans. The Discharger must submit the following plans:
  - i. A Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.a. The San Diego Water Board must receive the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan by 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2022.
  - ii. A Sampling and Analysis Plan consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.b. The San Diego Water Board must receive the Sampling and Analysis Plan by 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2022.
  - iii. A Sludge Management Plan consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.c. The San Diego Water Board must receive the Sludge Management Plan by 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2022.

Upon receipt of these plans by the San Diego Water Board, the Discharger must implement the plans.

- b. Prohibitions. The Discharger must comply with all prohibitions listed in section A of the General Order and all applicable requirements in the Basin Plan.

- c. Setback Requirements. The Discharger must ensure new discharges maintain the applicable setbacks specified in Table 3 of the General Order.
- d. Additional Applicable Requirements of the General Order. The Discharger must comply with all the requirements listed in sections B.1 (All Wastewater Systems), B.2 (Septic Systems), B.4 (Activated Sludge System), B.5 (Pond Systems), B.7 (Land Application and/or Recycled Water Systems), and B.8 (Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal) of the General Order.

#### 4. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

The Discharger must not allow effluent concentrations to exceed the limits listed in Table 1, while using the septic system:

**Table 1. Septic Tank Effluent Limitations**

Constituent	Unit <sup>1</sup>	Limitation
Total Nitrogen as Nitrogen <sup>4</sup>	mg/L	50% reduction <sup>2</sup>
Monthly Average of Daily Flowrate	gpd	6,500 <sup>3</sup>

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day and mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) The value represents the minimum percent reduction compared to the untreated, influent wastewater concentration. Reduction must be calculated on an annual basis. The reduction shall not result in an effluent limitation lower than 10 mg/L total nitrogen.
- 3) The Discharger shall utilize the treatment plant when the average daily effluent flowrate exceeds or is expected to exceed 6,500 gpd for one month.
- 4) Total nitrogen limitation is in accordance with the Basin Plan's TMDL for Rainbow Creek.

The Discharger must not allow effluent concentrations to exceed the limits listed in Table 2, while using the treatment plant:

**Table 2. Treatment Plant Effluent Limitations**

Constituent	Unit <sup>1</sup>	Limitation
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	mg/L	30 (monthly average) 45 (7-day average)
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	30 (monthly average) 45 (7-day average)
Total Nitrogen as Nitrogen <sup>2</sup>	mg/L	10
Monthly Average of Daily Flowrate	gpd	12,500

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day and mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) Total nitrogen limitation is in accordance with the Basin Plan's TMDL for Rainbow Creek.

## 5. MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The Discharger must comply with the monitoring requirements below, which are based on the MRP of the General Order.

### a. Reporting Frequency

The Discharger must submit quarterly and annual monitoring reports as described in sections A and B of Attachment C of the General Order. The Discharger's first quarterly report is the July – September 2022 Quarterly Report, which must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2022. The Discharger's first annual report is the 2022 Annual Report, which must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board by March 1, 2023.

### b. Influent Monitoring

The Discharger must collect a liquid grab sample at the beginning of the treatment system and the samples must be analyzed and results reported as described in Table 3.

**Table 3. Septic Tank Influent Monitoring**

Constituent	Unit <sup>1</sup>	Sample Type	Sampling Frequency <sup>2</sup>	Reporting Frequency
Total Nitrogen as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) Quarterly is defined as a period of three consecutive calendar months beginning on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

### c. Effluent Monitoring

The Discharger must collect a liquid grab sample from the septic tank. The Discharger must collect septic tank effluent samples as close to the outlet pipe as practical. The Discharger must analyze the samples, and report the results as described in Table 4 when the septic tank is in operation and Table 5 when the wastewater treatment plant is operating:

**Table 4. Septic Tank Effluent Monitoring**

Constituent	Units <sup>1</sup>	Sample Type	Sample Frequency <sup>2,3</sup>	Reporting Frequency <sup>2,3</sup>
Flowrate	gpd	Metered <sup>3</sup>	Continuous	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day and mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) Annually is defined as a period of 12 consecutive calendar months beginning January 1.

- 3) The Discharger may meter or estimate the effluent flowrate based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method.

**Table 5. Treatment Plant Monitoring**

Constituent	Unit <sup>1</sup>	Sample Type	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
TSS	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
BOD	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen as Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Flowrate	gpd	Metered	Continuous	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day and mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) The Discharger may meter or estimate the effluent flowrate based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method.

d. Septic Tank Monitoring

The Discharger must monitor the septic tank as described in Table 6:

**Table 6. Septic Tank Monitoring**

Parameter	Units	Measurement Type	Inspection/Reporting Frequency
Sludge depth and scum thickness in each compartment of each tank	Feet	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually

Septic tanks shall be pumped when any one of the following conditions exists:

- i. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment.
- ii. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.

- iii. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

If the Discharger pumps out a septic tank during the year, the Discharger must submit the pumping report with the annual report. At a minimum, the pumping report shall include the date, nature of service, service company name, and service company license number.

e. Land Application Area (LAA) Monitoring

The Discharger must monitor LAAs when wastewater and/or supplemental irrigation water is applied. If wastewater or supplemental irrigation is not applied during a reporting period, the monitoring report must so state. LAA monitoring must be conducted as described in Table 7:

**Table 7. LAA Monitoring**

Parameter	Unit	Inspection Type	Inspection Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Supplemental Irrigation Flowrate	gpd	Meter <sup>1</sup>	Monthly	Quarterly
Wastewater Flowrate	gpd	Meter <sup>1</sup>	Monthly	Quarterly
Local Rainfall	Inches	Weather Station <sup>2</sup>	Monthly	Quarterly
Acreage Applied <sup>3</sup>	Acres	Calculated	Monthly	Quarterly
Application Rate <sup>4</sup>	Gallons/acre/month	Calculated	Monthly	Quarterly
Soil Erosion Evidence	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Contaminant Berm Condition	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Soil Saturation/Ponding	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Nuisance Odors/Vectors	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Discharge Off Site	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) Meter requires reading a pump run-time meter or using another approved method.
- 2) Weather station may be site-specific station or nearby government weather reporting station.

- 3) Acreage applied denotes the acreage to which wastewater is applied.  
 4) Application rate may also be reported as inch/acre/month.

f. Percolation Pond Monitoring

The Discharger must monitor the percolation ponds when wastewater is applied as specified in Table 8:

**Table 8. Pond Monitoring**

Constituent	Unit	Sample Type	Sample Frequency <sup>2</sup>	Reporting Frequency <sup>3</sup>
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Freeboard	0.01 Feet	Measurement	Monthly	Quarterly
Odors	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Berm Condition	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly

g. Solids Disposal Monitoring

The Discharger shall report the handling and disposal of all solids (e.g., screenings, grit, sludge, biosolids, etc.) generated at the wastewater system. Records shall include the name/contact information for the hauling company, the type and amount of waste transported, the date removed from the wastewater system, the disposal facility name and address, and copies of analytical data required by the entity accepting the waste. These records shall be submitted as part of the annual monitoring report.

h. Groundwater Monitoring

Monitoring of the groundwater shall be collected from the proposed monitoring well network as described in Table 9:

**Table 9. Groundwater Monitoring**

Constituent	Unit	Sample Type	Sample Frequency <sup>2</sup>	Reporting Frequency <sup>3</sup>
Groundwater Elevation <sup>1</sup>	0.01 Feet	Calculated	Quarterly	Annual
Depth to Groundwater	0.01 Feet	Measurement	Quarterly	Annual
Gradient Direction	Degrees	Calculated	Quarterly	Annual
TDS	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Annual
Nitrate as Nitrate	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Annual



**Table Notes:**

- 1) Groundwater elevation shall be based on depth to water using a surveyed measuring point elevation on the well and a surveyed reference elevation.
- 2) Annual is defined as a period of 12 consecutive calendar months beginning in January and ending in December.
- 3) Report must include map showing well locations, approximate depth to groundwater, and identify whether the wells are used for supply or strictly monitoring.

**6. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP**

When control or ownership changes of the Facility or wastewater disposal areas, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner and operator of the existence of this General Order by letter, a copy of which must be immediately forwarded to the Executive Officer for the San Diego Water Board.

**7. ENFORCEMENT**

The Discharger must review and ensure this NOA completely and accurately reflects the Facility's discharge. If the Discharger violates the terms or conditions listed in this NOA or the General Order, the San Diego Water Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. Prior to allowing changes to the wastewater strength, generation rate, or method of waste disposal, the Discharger must contact the San Diego Water Board to determine if submittal of a Report of Waste Discharge is required.

The Discharger is responsible for compliance with the General Order and this NOA. Failure to comply with the requirements in the General Order and this NOA could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharges of wastes other than treated domestic wastewater are prohibited.

**8. ANNUAL FEES AND SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION**

The discharge has a threat to water quality and complexity rating of 3-C. The annual fee corresponding to a threat to water quality and complexity of 3-C can be found using the current fee schedule.<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to CCR title 23, section 2200(a), footnote 2, dischargers covered by waste discharge requirements for municipal and domestic discharges with permitted flows of less than 50,000 gallons per day in categories 2-B, 2-C, 3-B, and 3-C will receive a 50 percent fee discount. The fee is due and payable on an annual basis until enrollment in the General Order is terminated by the San Diego Water Board. If the wastewater discharge ceases, the Discharger

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<sup>2</sup> Web link to Fee Schedule:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water\\_quality](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality)

must provide written notice to enable the San Diego Water Board to terminate enrollment and billing.

Please review the conditions specified in this NOA and applicable sections of the General Order and notify the San Diego Water Board if for any reason the Discharger is not able to comply with any of the conditions specified.

Please submit all future monitoring reports and documents required by this NOA and the General Order to the San Diego Water Board by e-mail. E-mail submittals must include a signed cover/transmittal letter with the facility name, facility contact information, and reference code **251490:BBushnell**. Monitoring reports, documents, and other email submittals must be sent to [sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov). Routine email correspondence may be sent directly to individual San Diego Water Board staff members.

Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger should be transferred to a compact disc (CD) or universal serial bus (USB) drive and mailed to the San Diego Water Board. Board staff may request that specific individual items such as appendices to large/complex technical reports and/or large drawings, grading plans, or maps continue to be provided in paper format. If you have specific questions about email submittal procedures, please contact our Mission Support Services Unit at 619-516-1990, or via email at [sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov).

Please contact Brandon Bushnell at 619-521-8044 or via email at [Brandon.Bushnell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Bushnell@waterboards.ca.gov) if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

David W. Gibson  
Executive Officer

cc (via email): Seferino Holguin, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, [Seferino.Holguin@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Seferino.Holguin@fire.ca.gov)

DWG:rnm:as:bn:bb

Tech Staff Info & Use

Regulatory Measure IDs: 447272 (NOA) 398403 (WQ 2014-0153-DWQ)

Order No.: WQ 2014-0153-DWQ

Place ID: 251490

Party ID: 6948