
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Brad B. Underwood, P.E., L.S., Director



330 W 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403-1338

Telephone: (650) 522 -7300

Fax: (650) 522-7301
www.cityofsanmateo.org

August 23, 2016
File: CW-255420
Regulatory Measure: 407580

Dear Mr. Azimzadeh

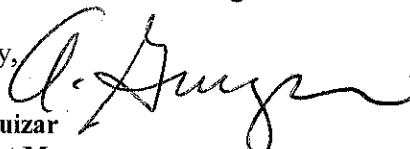
This letter is to inform you we would like to move forward with the Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and are ready to pay the \$12,000 combined penalties when and if appropriate. Please find our signed "ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONAL RESOLUTION AND WAIVER OF RIGHT TO HEARING" form enclosed.

We understand this will remain as a conditional offer and, after it is signed by the Water Board Officer, is subject to a 30day waiting period during which the Board may receive opposition from the Public regarding this agreement and the Board will consider the merits of any opposition. We will await that outcome to know our next actions.

Also, please know that we at the Plant are not only aware of chlorination control issues but are in the process of improving our training, monitoring, and response capabilities as follows:

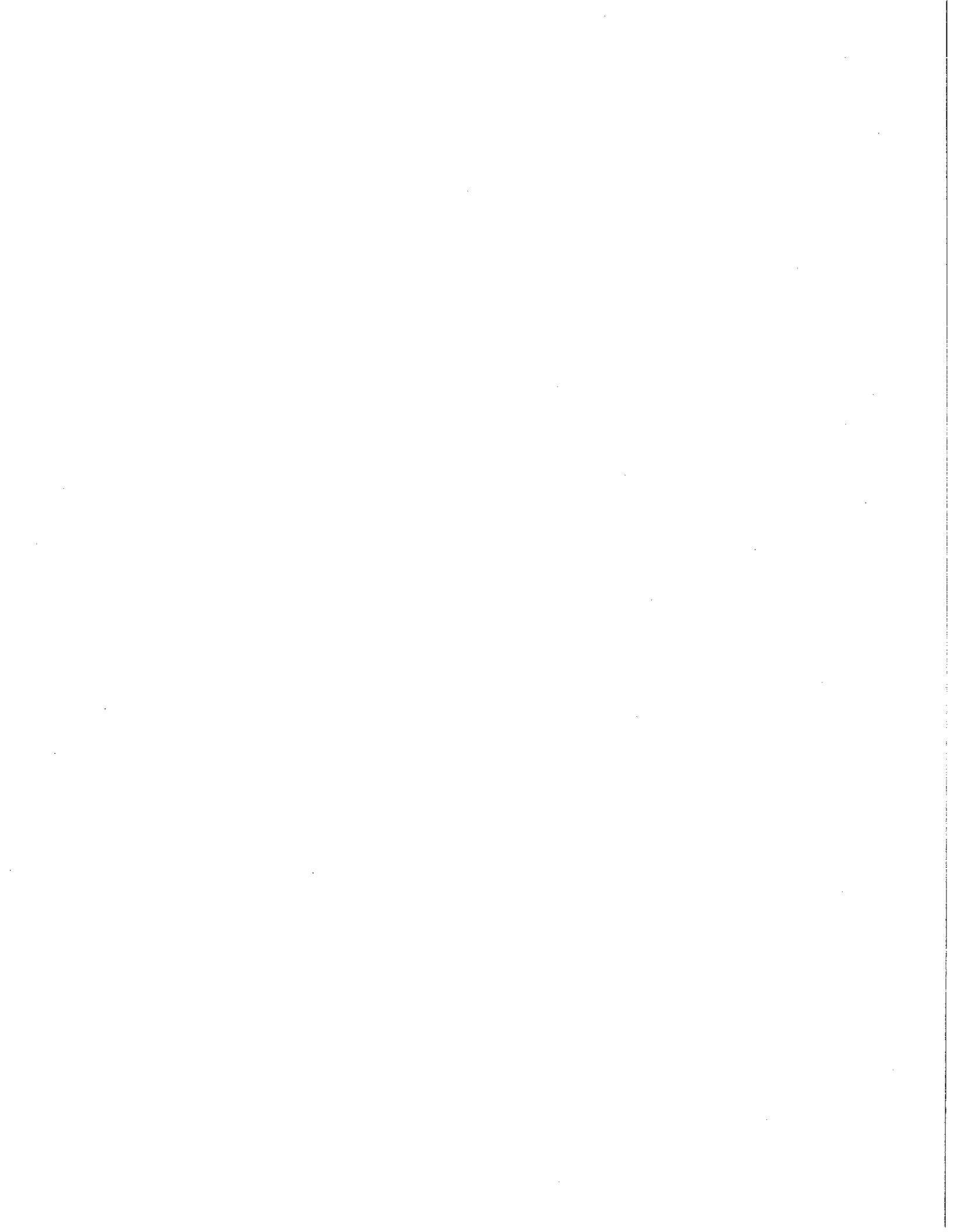
1. Each event typically has a follow-up training on how to avoid any similar events. It resulted in an improved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for turning on Effluent pumps (this event was caused by a tripped breaker and we ensured staff knew how to avoid this) and Staff held tailgate trainings on all shifts to review the new SOP. We also increased staff training and awareness of chlorination dosing means and methods at our facility.
2. We are in the process of making visible to our SCADA controls a continuous chlorine residual monitor. Due to limitations of current set-up, we see the effluent residual only 10 minutes of every hour. Although this 10 minute per hour view at the residual is permitted by our Plant's NPDES requirements for online Cl residual monitoring, it is not the complete picture and we are moving towards continuous monitoring, which is the Industry standard
3. We are also in the process of upgrading our final effluent residual chlorine control system to operate in a compound loop and also incorporate similarly-controlled sodium bisulfite dosing control system. The modernized hypochlorite control system will provide the plant with a greater degree of dosing control and decrease the chance of overdosing. By incorporating and the SBS monitoring and control system will also be able to alarm the final effluent SBS monitor to notify operations if the chance of a Cl residual exceedance may be approaching and give operators ample time to act.
4. Lastly, the Cl residual exceedance from 12/20/13 highlighted a design flaw at the hypochlorite day tanks storage area. The apparent "secondary" containment for the hypochlorite actually discharged to the Chlorine Contact Tanks at a volume our sulfonators could not keep up with and hence ensured a violation not readily visible if not directly observing the problem. The Plant has nearly completed a CIP project to address the shortcomings and ensure this risk is eliminated.

Respectfully,


Armando Guizar
WWTP Plant Manager

City of San Mateo | Public Works Department

- 2050 Detroit Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403 | (650.522.7386 | 7 650.522.7281 | * aguizar@cityofsanmateo.org
Cell - 573-535-0610



ORDER NO. R2-20
**ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONAL RESOLUTION
AND WAIVER OF RIGHT TO HEARING**
City of San Mateo and City of Foster City Estero Municipal Improvement District
City of San Mateo Wastewater Treatment Plant
2050 Detroit Drive, San Mateo, San Mateo County
(NPDES Permit CA0037541) Regulatory Measure ID 407580

By signing below and returning this Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and Waiver of Right to Hearing (Acceptance and Waiver) to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board), City of San Mateo and City of Foster City Estero Municipal Improvement District, a joint powers authority (Discharger) hereby accepts the conditional offer to settle alleged violations through payment of mandatory minimum penalties (Conditional Offer) and waives the right to a hearing before the Regional Water Board to dispute the alleged violations set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

The Discharger agrees that Exhibit A shall serve as a complaint pursuant to Article 2.5 of the Water Code and that no separate complaint is required for the Regional Water Board to assert jurisdiction over the alleged violations through its Assistant Executive Officer. The Discharger agrees to pay the penalties authorized by Water Code sections 13385 and 13385.1, which shall be deemed payment in full of any civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 13385 that otherwise might be assessed for the violations described in Exhibit A. The Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver waives its right to contest the allegations in Exhibit A and the amount of civil liability for such violations.

The Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver does not address or resolve liability for any violation that is not specifically identified in Exhibit A.

Upon execution by the Discharger, the Acceptance and Waiver shall be returned to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region
NPDES Wastewater Enforcement Section
Attention: Farhad Azimzadeh
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, California 94612

The Discharger understands that federal regulations set forth at title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, section 123.27(d)(2)(iii) require the Regional Water Board to publish notice of and provide at least 30 days for public comment on any proposed resolution of an enforcement action. Accordingly, this Acceptance and Waiver, prior to execution by the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board, will be published as required by law for public comment.

If no comments are received within the notice period which causes the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board to reject the settlement amount, the Executive Officer will execute the Acceptance and Waiver. Resolution of these violations by the Regional Water Board will preclude State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) action for the same violations.

The Discharger understands that if significant comments are received in opposition to the Conditional Offer, the offer may be withdrawn. In that circumstance, the Discharger will be

advised of the withdrawal and an administrative civil liability complaint may be issued and the matter may be set for a hearing before the Regional Water Board or the State Water Board. For such a liability hearing, the Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver executed by the Discharger will be treated as a settlement communication and will not be used as evidence in that hearing.

The Discharger understands that funds collected for violations of effluent limitations and reporting requirements pursuant to section 13385 and 13385.1 shall be deposited in the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account.

The Discharger understands that in lieu of full payment of the assessed mandatory minimum penalty to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account, it may elect to pay a portion towards a supplemental environment project (SEP). There is currently only one SEP option, which is the SEP Fund to supplement the Regional Monitoring Program (RMP). This SEP Fund will supplement RMP studies that would not otherwise be conducted through the Regional Water Board's annually approved RMP cost allocations. The guiding principal of the RMP is to collect data and communicate information about water quality in the San Francisco Estuary in support of management decisions to restore and protect beneficial uses of the region's waters. Information about the RMP is at <http://www.sfei.org/rmp>. Funding for the RMP is managed and administered by the non-profit San Francisco Estuary Institute. No funds will go to the Regional Water Board. The Regional Water Board will consider the Discharger to have fulfilled its obligation for this SEP after its contribution to the SEP Fund has been received by the Institute. To select this option, place a "✓" or "✗" in the box below. By selecting this option, the Discharger agrees to pay the amount indicated below to the SEP Fund. Selection of this SEP Fund option does not change the total amount the Discharger will pay.

Select appropriate box (and fill in blanks if appropriate):



I choose to pay a portion of the assessed liability to the RMP SEP Fund.

\$ 12,000 Maximum allowable portion that can be paid to the SEP Fund.

\$ _____ Leave blank unless the Discharger chooses to pay less than the maximum allowable to the SEP Fund; in this case, then indicate the amount to be paid to the SEP Fund.

\$ _____ Indicate the amount to be paid to the State which is **\$0.00** unless the Discharger has chosen to pay less than the maximum allowable to the SEP Fund. If the Discharger has chosen to pay less than the maximum allowable to the SEP Fund, then enter the amount to be paid to the State, which shall be the balance of the total assessed mandatory minimum penalty and the amount the Discharger chooses to pay to the SEP Fund.

\$ 12,000 Total assessed mandatory minimum penalty. This amount must equal the sum of the above, either lines 1 plus 3, or lines 2 plus 3.



I choose to pay the total assessed mandatory minimum liability in full to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account.

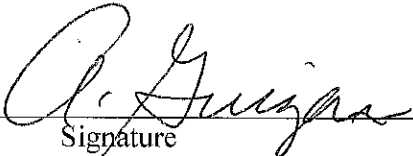
The Discharger understands that once the Acceptance and Waiver is executed by the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board, payment no later than 30 days after the date of the Executive Officer's signature is a condition of this Acceptance and Waiver. If the Discharger does not select the SEP Fund option above, the Discharger shall pay the total assessed civil liability in full to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account. If the Discharger selects the SEP Fund option, then the Discharger shall pay the portion not paid towards the SEP Fund to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account and pay the balance to the San Francisco Estuary Institute for the SEP Fund. The Regional Water Board will send an invoice for any payment that is due for the SEP Fund. Payment to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account must be submitted in accordance with an invoice for payment from the State Water Board.

I hereby affirm that I am duly authorized to act on behalf of and to bind the Discharger in the making and giving of this Acceptance and Waiver.

City of San Mateo and City of Foster City Estero Municipal Improvement District, a joint powers authority

By: Armando Guizar
Printed or typed name

Plant Manager
Title


Signature

8/23/16
Date

Note: Please return the signed Acceptance and Waiver with Exhibit A, together.

IT IS SO ORDERED PURSUANT TO WATER CODE SECTION 13385

By: _____
Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region

Date

EXHIBIT A
Notice of Violation

Discharger: City of San Mateo and City of Foster City Estero Municipal Improvement District,
 a joint powers authority
 City of San Mateo Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 2050 Detroit Drive, San
 Mateo, San Mateo County, NPDES Permit CA0037541

The following table lists alleged violations for which the Discharger is subject to civil liabilities pursuant to Water Code sections 13385 and 13385.1. The table lists the mandatory minimum penalty (MMP) that applies.

No	CIWQS Violation ID No.	Date of Occurrence	Effluent Limitation or Violation Description (Unit)	Effluent Limit or Monitoring Report Due Date	Reported Value or Number of Days Overdue	Percent a Group I or Group II Pollutant is over Effluent Limitation	Type of Exceedance	CWC Section 13385(h) and/or (i) Required MMP
1	942779	12/23/2012	Chlorine, Total Residual Instantaneous Maximum (mg/L)	0.0	1.25	> 20% (See Note 1)	C1, S	\$3,000
2	962616	12/20/2013	Chlorine, Total Residual Instantaneous Maximum (mg/L)	0.0	6.45	> 20% (See Note 1)	C1, S	\$3,000
3	971064	05/24/2014	Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Weekly Average (mg/L)	30	47.8	59%	C2, S	\$3,000
4	971065	05/24/2014	CBOD Weekly Average (mg/L)	25	30.6	22%	C1	
5	985504	12/31/2014	Nickel, Total Monthly Average	30	30.5	2%	C1	
6	988620	02/28/2015	Fecal Coliform 11 Sample 90th Percentile limit (MPN/100 mL)	400	500	-	C1	
7	997219	08/21/2015	Chlorine, Total Residual Instantaneous Maximum (mg/L)	0.0	0.9	> 20% (See Note 1)	C1, S	\$3,000
Total								\$12,000

Legend for Table:

CIWQS = California Integrated Water Quality System database used by the Water Boards to manage violation and enforcement activities.

Violation ID = Identification number assigned to a permit exceedance in CIWQS.

C = Count – The number that follows represents the number of exceedances in the past 180 days, including this violation. A count greater than three (> C3) means that a penalty under Water Code section 13385(i) applies.

S = Serious, which means that a penalty under Water Code section 13385(h) applies when an effluent limitation is exceeded 40 percent or more for a Group I pollutant or 20 percent or more for a Group II pollutant.

Note 1: Chlorine is a Group II pollutant and the percent above the limit of 0.0 mg/L is more than 20 but not quantifiable.

Place: 255420
 WDID: 2 417035001