

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
MAY 17, 2011**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE \$1,994,490 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO FUND THE SAN JERARDO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (PROJECT)

DISCUSSION

The County of Monterey (County) is requesting \$1,994,490 from the CAA to fund the Project. The purpose of the request is to fund wastewater system improvements and repairs to the sanitary sewer collection system within the small disadvantaged community of San Jerardo, California. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Regional Water Board) approved a Resolution (R3-2009-0065) that found the wastewater treatment system upgrades are necessary to address high levels of nitrate and 1,2,3-trichloropropane (TCP), and to implement water quality monitoring in compliance with current regulatory requirements.

BACKGROUND

The San Jerardo Co-Operative (Co-Op) owns and operates the San Jerardo Wastewater Treatment Plant (SJWWTP) for this 64-unit farm-worker housing community. The Co-Op was formed in the 1970's when it purchased an unused farm labor camp and rehabilitated it for farm-worker family housing. The onsite wastewater treatment facility dates to 1979 and has been operated by the Co-Op membership. The Central Coast Regional Water Board has recommended upgrades to the system in order to be in compliance with the [Waste Discharge Requirements \(WDRs\) Permit Order No. R3-2003-0054](#) and the California Water Code.

The Central Coast Water Board has listed the following violations to the SJWWTP on the California Integrated Water Quality System database for:

- Failure to include the inflow/infiltration monitoring section of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP);
- Exceeding their maximum daily flows between 2003 and 2011;
- Excessively high or low pH; and
- Missing effluent analyses for various constituents of concern.

The proposed upgrades and improvements to the SJWWTP should address the inflow/infiltration monitoring section of the MRP, exceeding the maximum daily flows, and the variations in the pH levels.

The wastewater treatment system is a threat to the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The Co-Op's wastewater treatment ponds overlie the East Side Aquifer of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

The East Side Aquifer provides drinking water for the residents of San Jerardo, several single-family residences and two small drinking water systems that depend on the aquifer as the source of their water supply. Accumulated contaminants in the wastewater residue pose a continuing risk to the groundwater quality.

The drinking water for San Jerardo has been under federal court jurisdiction for many years due to violations of federal, state, and local water quality regulations by the private operator. It has been estimated that the violations date back to the 1990s. High concentrations of nitrates and TCP in the drinking water were determined to be a public health risk requiring intervention by the courts and the County of Monterey. Several test results of the water supply well indicated that nitrate and TCP concentrations consistently exceed the California Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and Notification Levels for drinking water. The nitrate levels were approximately twice the MCLs set in the California Code of Regulations Title 22 Section 64431 and TCP levels were more than 13 times higher than the Notification Levels.

SCOPE OF WORK

The County proposes to complete the following goals:

1. To be in compliance with the WDR permit;
2. Reduce nitrate, TCP, and other pollutants released from the wastewater treatment system into the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin; and
3. Increase capacity to manage the wastewater treatment system.

The Project may include, but may not be limited to:

1. Solids Removal: Dispose of solid wastes, dredge to increase capacity near the inlet pipe to create a solids settling and digestion cell, install a lift station and flow metering at the existing upstream manhole to allow flexibility in isolating ponds for further maintenance.
2. Pond Lining: Install clay liners to minimize percolation of partially treated effluent.
3. Pond Stabilization: Stabilize the sides of all ponds with riprap or concrete after leveling and compaction to prevent bank erosion; raise the embankment of Pond 4 to the same level of the other ponds; install shut-off valves between each pond; install or repair system pipeline components as needed.
4. Surface Aeration: Install solar surface aerators in Ponds 1 and 2.
5. Monitoring Well Installation: Install up-gradient and down-gradient groundwater monitoring wells to meet regulatory requirements.
6. Repairs: Complete repairs to the wastewater treatment plant and sanitary sewer collection system that become evident during the upgrade.
7. Rapid Infiltration Basins and/or Leach Field Expansion: Engineer to determine preferred method of capacity expansion based on current requirements and costs; select method to be included in bid documents as funding permits.

The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code Section 13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Board may order monies to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with the authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste in order "to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on the waters of the state."

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve funding of \$1,994,490 from the CAA to the Project?

FISCAL IMPACT

As of December 7, 2010, the uncommitted CAA balance is estimated to be no less than \$9 million according to the most current data.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

No.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should approve funding of \$1,994,490 from the CAA to the Project.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 3 and 4 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, to increase sustainable local water supplies available for meeting existing and future beneficial uses by 1,725,000 acre-feet per year by 2015; and to comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration, and the relationship between water supply and water quality, and describe the connections between water quality, water quantity, and climate change, throughout California's water planning processes.

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2011-

TO ALLOCATE \$1,994,490 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO
FUND THE SAN JERARDO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND
SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (PROJECT)

WHEREAS:

1. The Monterey County Public Works is requesting \$1,994,490 from the CAA to fund the Project;
2. The purpose of the request is to fund wastewater system improvements and repairs to the sanitary sewer collection system within the small disadvantaged community of San Jerardo, California;
3. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Regional Water Board) approved a resolution (R3-2009-0065) that found the wastewater treatment system upgrades are necessary to address high levels of nitrate and 1,2,3-trichloropropane and to implement water quality monitoring in compliance with current regulatory requirements;
4. Accumulated contaminants in the wastewater residue pose a continuing risk to the groundwater quality with the East Side Aquifer of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin;
5. The Central Coast Regional Water Board has recommended upgrades to the system in order to comply with the [Waste Discharge Requirements \(WDRs\) Permit Order No. R3-2003-0054](#) and the California Water Code;
6. The County proposes to upgrade and repair the wastewater treatment and sanitary sewer collection systems to be in compliance with the WDR; and
7. The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code Section 13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Board may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste "to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on the waters of the state."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves funding \$1,994,490 from the CAA to the County of Monterey for the Project; and

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2. Shall revert any unexpended funds to the CAA as of March 31, 2015, unless the Deputy Director or Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance authorizes an extension. The funds will be available until December 31, 2014.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Board held on May 17, 2011.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board