

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 20-21, 2008

Prepared on February 27, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 13

SUBJECT: Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0078 for Local Sewage Collection Agencies Tributary to Monterey Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Monterey County

KEY INFORMATION

Location: Monterey Peninsula
Waste Type: Raw municipal sewage
Type of Discharge: Municipal sewage collection system overflows/spills
Regional Facility: Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Permittees: Cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Del Rey Oaks, Sand City, Marina, and Salinas, the Seaside Sanitation District, the Castroville Community Services District, Monterey County Department of Public Works (for Moss Landing and Boronda Community Service Districts), and Fort Ord
Existing Order: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0078
This Action: Rescind Order No. R3-2002-0078

DISCUSSION

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA), which currently serves a population of approximately 252,000, was created in 1972. MRWPCA consists of and provides regional wastewater treatment, disposal and reclamation facilities for the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Del Rey Oaks, Sand City, Marina, and Salinas, the Seaside Sanitation District, the Castroville, Moss Landing and Boronda Community Service Districts, and Fort Ord. Each of these member entities (Permittees) retains ownership and operating/maintenance responsibility for wastewater collection and transport systems up to the point of connection with interceptors owned and operated by MRWPCA. Monterey County Department of Public Works manages the collection system for the Moss Landing and Boronda Community Service Districts.

Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0078 (Order) was created for regulatory oversight of the portions of the collection system tributary to the MRWPCA treatment facility under the ownership and management of separate entities given a legal nexus to the appropriate entities for these portions of the collection system was not possible via the existing Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES permit) for MRWPCA. The Order requires the Permittees to develop and implement a Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) establishing standards for ongoing operations and maintenance with an emphasis on preventative activities and management strategies to reduce and mitigate sewer system overflows (SSOs), overflow response, and source control. The Order also prohibits SSOs and requires SSO reporting.

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ) on May 2, 2006. The Statewide General Permit is applicable to all "federal and state agencies, municipalities, counties, districts, and other public entities that own or operate sanitary sewer systems greater than one mile in length that collect and/or convey untreated or partially treated wastewater to a publicly owned treatment facility in the State of California." The Statewide General Permit is virtually identical to the regional Order proposed for rescission given they were both developed using the same permit template generated by Region 5, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The only major difference is the extended timeline for completing various portions of the SSMP per the Statewide General Permit – this is a moot point given the Permittees have already completed and implemented all SSMP components per the regional Order.

The purpose of both permits is to promote the proper and efficient management, operation, and maintenance of sanitary sewer systems and to minimize the occurrences and impacts of SSOs. Rescission of the regional Order and subsequent enrollment under the Statewide General Permit will provide virtually seamless SSO coverage and streamline spill reporting and tracking via the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) SSO module.

All of the permittees are required to enroll under the Statewide General Permit by May 20, 2008, pending the approval of the proposed rescission of the regional Order. All permittees were notified of the proposed Order rescission and directed to enroll under the Statewide General Permit on January 25, 2008. As of February 13, 2008, MRWPCA, Castroville Community Services District, Seaside Sanitation District, and Marina Coast Water District (Central Marina and Ord Community sanitary sewer systems) have already enrolled under the Statewide General Permit.

COMMENTS

Public notification of the propose rescission was provided to the Permittees and associated interested parties. Comments were only received from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) via electronic correspondence dated February 1, 2008 (Attachment 2).

MBNMS is requesting direct reporting of any spills likely to enter ocean waters directly to the MBNMS office. In response to this request, Water Board staff has indicated to MBNMS staff in oral communication that we could not formally require such a reporting requirement under the Statewide General Permit, but that we would help facilitate their request by passing it on to the State Water Resources Control Board and make a recommendation in this staff report that the permittees act in accordance with this request.

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0078 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0078
2. February 1, 2008, electronic message from Deirdre Hall, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary