



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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16 June 2009

Mr. Steven Redeker  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
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## **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA): WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5020 SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT, RANCHO SECO RECREATIONAL AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

On 6 June 2008, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (hereafter "Discharger") submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for an existing domestic wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) at Rancho Seco Recreational Area. Additional information was received from the Discharger on 24 September, and 29 October 2008.

Based on the information provided in the Report of Waste Discharge and amendments thereto, the proposed discharge of treated domestic wastewater at Rancho Seco Recreational Area satisfies the general and specific conditions of State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ. Therefore, this letter serves as formal notice that Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ is applicable to the site and discharge described below. You are hereby assigned General Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5020 for this facility.

A copy of the General Order is enclosed. You can also find the General Order on the State Water Board's website at

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/wqo97.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/wqo97.shtml)

You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire General Order. The facility must be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order and with the information submitted in the RWD.

### **REGULATORY BACKGROUND**

WDRs Order No. R5-2007-0016 (NPDES Permit No. CA0004758), adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on 15 March 2007, prescribes requirements for the discharge wastewater from the Discharger's Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station and the Rancho Seco Recreational Area WWTF.

The power plant has been decommissioned and the Discharger is converting the power plant WWTF to a land discharge system. It is expected that WDRs Order No. R5-2007-0016 will be rescinded by the Central Valley Water Board upon verification that all surface water discharges have ceased. Only Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ will apply to the discharge described herein.

*California Environmental Protection Agency*

## **DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION**

The Rancho Seco Recreational Area is at 14440 Twin Cities Road in Herald, in Section 33, T6N, R8E, MDB&M (Assessor's Parcel Number APN 140-0050-024). The WWTF location is shown on Attachment A, which forms part of this Notice by reference.

The Rancho Seco Recreational Area is owned and operated by the Discharger as a camping and day use recreational area for fishing and water contact recreation. Domestic wastewater originates from a general store sink, public restrooms and showers, a maintenance shop, public laundry facilities, a fish cleaning station, a recreational vehicle (RV) dump station, and three caretaker residences.

Park usage varies seasonally, with highest attendance between late May and early September. Wastewater from the facilities is conveyed via a small sewer system to an unlined oxidation pond for treatment and disposal. Influent flows are approximately 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) as an annual average, and are expected to increase to up to 3,500 gpd in the future. The capacity of the pond is approximately 140,000 cubic feet (approximately one million gallons). The WWTF will be operated, maintained, and monitored by a certified wastewater treatment plant operator.

The RWD included a water balance that supports any average daily flow of 3,500 as long as sludge levels in the pond do not impinge on storage capacity. The Discharger should monitor sludge depths regularly and plan for periodic sludge removal as needed. The Discharger will add a spray fountain to increase evaporation.

Based on a single sample analyzed in October 2008, effluent in the pond contains approximately 49 ug/L of formaldehyde, which is likely from RV holding tank sanitizer. The Discharger proposes to implement the following best management practices to minimize the threat to water quality from RV holding tank additives:

1. The Discharger will keep the RV dumping station locked when it is unmanned.
2. The Discharger will post a sign prohibiting the discharge of holding tank wastes that contain products made with formaldehyde, phenols, and/or zinc.
3. The Discharger will create and distribute educational material for park patrons regarding the threat posed by these chemicals and alternative products to control holding tank odors.

This program must be fully implemented by **30 August 2009**.

First groundwater is at least 150 feet below ground level at the wastewater treatment facility. Based on the low flows, the discharge poses little threat to groundwater quality if the facility is operated and maintained as described herein. Therefore, groundwater monitoring is not required at this time.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

The Discharger shall comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements prescribed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2009-0826, which replaces Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ for this facility.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Discharger shall comply with the Prohibitions, Requirements, Groundwater and Surface Water Limitations, and Provisions of Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ. Specifically, Requirements B.4 and B.6 apply to the oxidation pond, but Requirements B.2, B.3, and B.5 are not applicable. Likewise, Provision D.3 applies, but Provisions D.2 and D.4 do not.

Please review this Notice of Applicability carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the proposed project and dewatering discharge. If the discharge violates the terms or conditions above, the Central Valley Water Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. If the method of waste disposal changes from that described in the RWD, you must submit a new RWD.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District will generate the waste subject to the terms and conditions of Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ and will maintain exclusive control over the discharge. As such, Sacramento Municipal Utility District is primarily responsible for compliance with Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ.

Failure to comply with the requirements in the Order could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharge of wastes other than those described in the RWD is prohibited.

The required annual fee specified in the annual billing from the State Water Board shall be paid until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing if the discharge regulated by this Order ceases so that we may terminate coverage and avoid unnecessary billing.

All monitoring reports, submittals, discharge notifications, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement should be directed to Guy Childs at (916) 464-4648 or [gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov). Questions regarding the permit should be directed to Anne Olson at (916) 464-4740 or [aolson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:aolson@waterboards.ca.gov).

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosures – Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ  
Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2009-0826