California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

Robert Schneider, Chair

FILE

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Secretary for Environmental Protection

Gray Davis
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Mr. Lowell Paulsen
Sugar Pine Home Owners Association
47557 Road 630
Oakhurst, CA 93644

26 November 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5036, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND BY SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, SUGAR PINE HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM, MADERA COUNTY

We reviewed your 4 May 2002 supplemental information to complete your 1 February 2002 Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for the ongoing discharge by the Sugar Pine Home Owners Association (hereafter Sugar Pine HOA or Discharger) of domestic wastewater to an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS). The RWD describes an existing OWTS that features a 7,500-gallon-capacity septic tank and subsurface wastewater disposal via leachfields. The rated capacity of the OWTS is about 7,500 gallons per day (gpd). Your supplemental information included information on OWTS disposal capacity, leachfield maintenance history and plans, and a copy of the 1999 drinking water quality report for the potable water supply serving the Sugar Pine Community. The RWD included Notice of Acceptance form, a filing fee of $400, a State Form 200, and written comments on the tentative Supplemental Monitoring and Reporting Program dated 9 November 2001.

Based on the information provided in the RWD, we have determined that your discharges meet the conditions for approval under Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (hereafter General Order). All the requirements contained within the General Order described as applicable to "All Small Domestic Systems", "Septic Systems," and "Subsurface Disposal Systems" apply to your OWTS. You are hereby assigned General Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5036.

Enclosed are the General Order, Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ, Standard Provisions and Reporting for Waste Discharge Requirements, and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board *Guidelines for Waste Disposal from Land Developments*.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Sugar Pine Community (hereafter community) is located in eastern Madera County, ten miles north of the unincorporated community of Oakhurst on Highway 41, and one mile east of Road 630. The

community's OWTS is in Sections 1 and 2, T6S, R21E, MDB&M. The community is situated at an elevation of 4,300 feet above mean sea level. Its southeast portion is adjacent to Lewis Creek as shown in Attachment A, which is part of this Notice of Applicability. The surface water drainage is to Lewis Creek, which merges with Nelder Creek about eight miles south to become the Fresno River. The minimum distance between the existing leachfield and Lewis Creek is 100 feet.

The Fresno River is in the San Joaquin River basin. *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and San Joaquin River Basin, Fourth Edition),* (hereafter Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve water quality objectives for all waters of the Basin. The Regional Board's policy regarding the design and operation of onsite wastewater treatment systems is described in *Guidelines for Waste Disposal from Land Developments*, which is incorporated in the Basin Plan.

The beneficial uses of the Fresno River are municipal and domestic supply; agricultural supply; water contact and noncontact water recreation; warm and cold fresh water habitat; and wildlife habitat. The beneficial uses of underlying groundwater include municipal and domestic, industrial, and agricultural supply.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The OWTS is owned and operated by the Discharger. The community consists of 50 cabins, of which five cabins are reportedly occupied year round. The remaining cabins are occupied on holidays, weekends, and summer vacations. Wastewater is generated from domestic sources including restrooms and kitchens from all the cabins and laundry facilities from two of the five year-round occupied cabins. According to the RWD, the OWTS consists of a 7,500-gallon septic tank, a distribution box, and six functional leachlines (leachline Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, and 10). The Discharger installed and modified leachline Nos. 1 through 6 in 1960 and installed new leachline Nos. 9 and 10 (total of 200 linear feet) in 1996. The Discharger also plans to pump the septic tank annually by November. About 200 feet north of the leachfield, two forks of the Lewis Creek merge into one stream before flowing adjacent to the upper portion of the leachfield.

During the 2002 Memorial Day weekend, the Discharger monitored the influent flow with a totalizer flowmeter. During the four days that the flow was monitored (i.e., 24 through 28 May 2002), the Discharger recorded 20,536 gallons, which equates to about 5,130 gallons per day (gpd). The Discharger reported 30 cabins were occupied during this period with a total of 92 people (a maximum occupancy of three people per cabin).

The Discharger's 4 June 2001 technical report, certified by a California registered civil engineer, estimates maximum daily discharge flow of 7,500 gallons based on 50 gpd per person and maximum occupancy of three persons per cabin. The required septic tank effective volume is 6,750 gallons, which is less than existing septic tank volume and is acceptable, if the flow and occupancy assumptions are accurate. However, the existing leachfield's disposal capacity is limited to 7,500 gpd based on 470 feet of standard gravel leachlines buried 24 inches deep below surface grade and a trench below leachline with three feet width and four feet depth. The design capacity of leachfield is based on average percolation rate estimated at 6.3 minutes per inch.

The 4 June 2001 technical report describes the results of field investigation performed on 31 August 2000 consisting of (a) percolation tests performed at depths of two and four feet below ground surface, and (b) three backhoe tests (to a maximum depth of nine feet below ground surface) 600 feet north of the existing leachfield where the Discharger may install a replacement leachfield. Site soils are characterized by medium to large rock boulders mixed with loamy sand. No groundwater was encountered during the backhoe tests. The groundwater level in the existing leachfield area is unknown. However, it is likely that groundwater elevations will fluctuate seasonally, and be shallow during wet weather season.

Due to the proximity of the leachfield to the creek, the Discharger proposes to monitor the creek upstream and downstream of the OWTS for waste constituents typical of domestic wastewater (e.g., coliform, ammonia, salinity) to evaluate the extent to which, if any, the discharge is adversely impacting surface water quality. The specifics of the monitoring program were developed with the concurrence of Regional Board staff. The Discharger proposes to conduct this monitoring for a one-year period and report the results to the Regional Board. If, as a result of this monitoring, the data indicate the OWTS is adversely impacting surface water quality, the Discharger proposes to relocate the leachfield to an area farther away from the creek.

The source water to the community is from a 500 feet deep well near the Sugar Pine Christian Camp property one-half mile northeast of the existing leachfield. The nearest precipitation gage for which data are readily available is the Yosemite National Park south entrance weather station operated by the California Department of Water Resources. Average annual rainfall at this station, situated at an elevation of 5,120 feet above mean sea level, is 44.15 inches.

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) regulates the Discharge of domestic wastewater to the OWTS.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Discharge of wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in the RWD is prohibited.

2. The existing OWTS shall be operated as described in the RWD and in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order, including the *Guidelines for Waste Disposal from Land Developments.*

3. The Discharger shall comply with monitoring described in Attachment B, *Supplemental Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ-R5036*, which is attached hereto and made part of NOA by reference.

4. As a means for determining compliance with General Order Requirement No. B.1.c, discharge flow shall not exceed 7,500 gallons per day.

5. As a means for determining compliance with General Order Requirement No. B.2.b, the Discharger shall include in each annual report (due 15 January) a copy of septic cleaning log for the previous calendar year.

6. By **90 days** after completing the one year of OWTS and creek monitoring described in the Project Description and Attachment B, *Supplemental Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ-*

R5036, the Discharger shall submit a technical report summarizing its monitoring results and recommending improvements to the OWTS, if necessary, to eliminate any impacts to the creek. The technical report shall be prepared and certified by a California registered engineer in accordance with Facility-Specific Requirement No. 7.

7. All technical reports required herein that involve evaluation, or other work requiring interpretation and proper application of engineering or geologic sciences, shall be prepared by or under the direction of persons registered to practice in California pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1. To demonstrate compliance with Title 16, California Code of Regulations, sections 415 and 3065, all technical reports must contain a statement of the qualifications of the responsible registered professional(s). As required by these laws, completed technical reports must bear the signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the professional responsible for the work.

8. The Discharger shall submit the required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board) until the NOA is officially terminated.

9. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order and this letter authorizing applicability, including its supplemental monitoring and reporting requirements, could result in enforcement actions as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

The Fresno office has relocated to 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. Our main telephone number of (559) 445-5116 and fax number of (559) 445-5910 will remain the same, as will telephone numbers of staff. Please direct future correspondence to our new address.

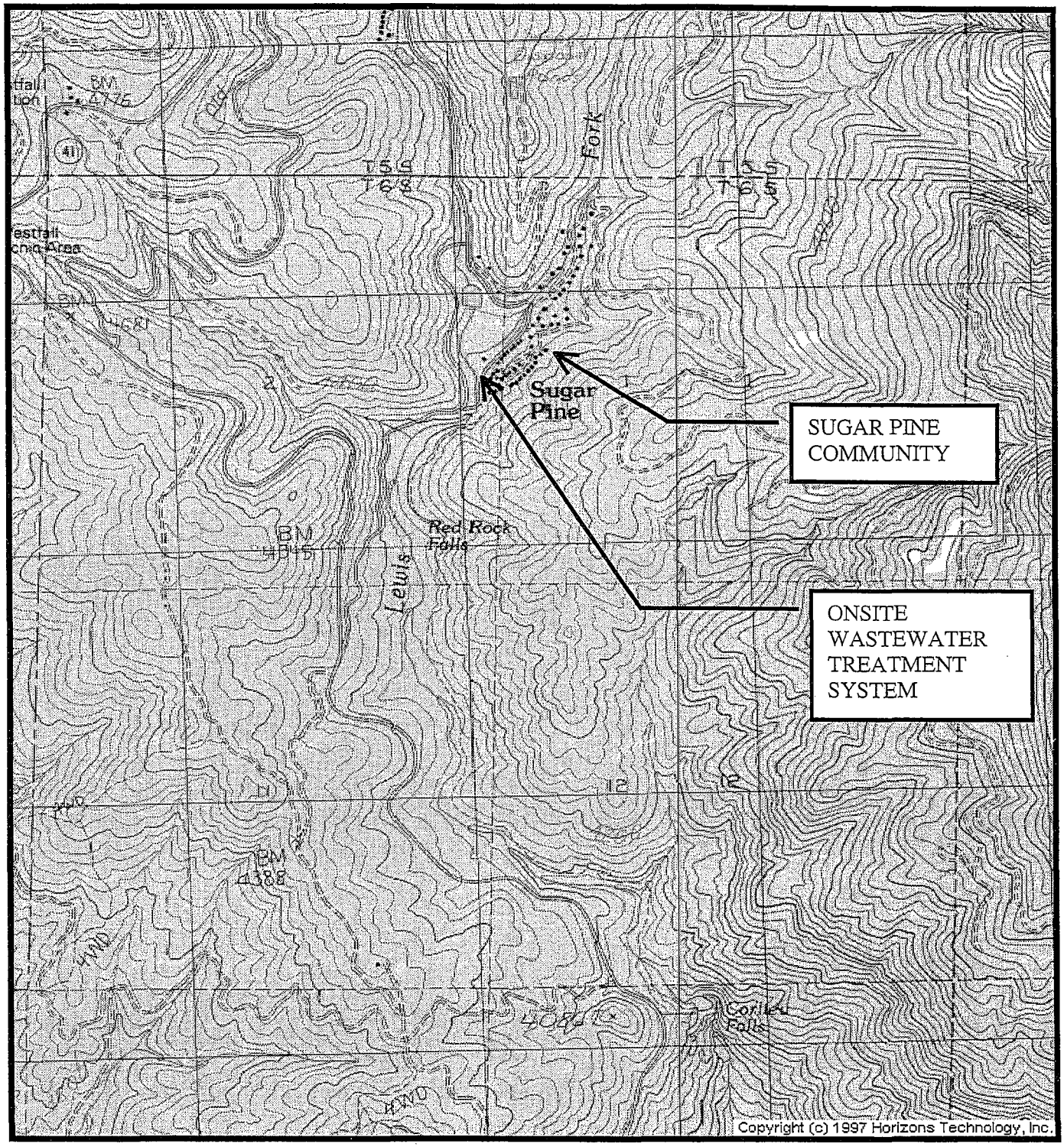
If you have any questions regarding this NOA, please contact Mr. Hossein Aghazeynali at (559) 445-6194.

Loren J Harlow

for THOMAS R. PINKOS
Executive Officer

Enclosures - Attachments:
A - Location Map
B - Supplemental Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ-R5036
General Order:
Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ
Standard Provisions and Reporting for Waste Discharge Requirements
Guidelines for Waste Disposal from Land Developments

cc w/attachments only: Mr. Armando Flores, Environmental Specialist, Environmental Health Department, Madera



ATTACHMENT A
Location Map
WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5036
SUGAR PINE COMMUNITY
ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM
MADERA COUNTY
Sections 1 and 2, T6S, R21E, MDB&M

ATTACHMENT B

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

SUPPLEMENTAL MONITORING AND REPORTING
PROGRAM NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5036
FOR
SUGAR PINE HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION
ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM
MADERA COUNTY

This Supplemental Monitoring and Reporting Program (SMRP) is issued pursuant to California Water Code section 13267. The Sugar Pine Home Owners Association (hereafter Discharger) shall not implement any changes to this SMRP unless and until the Executive Officer issues a revised SMRP. Sample locations are described below. Changes to sample location(s) shall be established with concurrence of Regional Board staff.

Leachfield Monitoring

The Discharger shall inspect the leachfield weekly when in operation. In conducting the inspection, a log shall be kept of the condition of the leachfield. Distribution boxes shall be inspected monthly for early detection of needed maintenance. Special attention shall be given to the presence or absence of surfacing effluent. A summary of the entries made in the log during each month shall be submitted along with the monitoring report the following month.

Creek Monitoring

The Discharger shall sample from the Lewis Creek for one year for the following parameters at the designated locations for the existing leachfield:

Station	Description
R-1	100 feet upstream from the uppermost portion of the existing leachfield
R-2	100 feet downstream from the lowest portion of the existing leachfield

Constituent	Units	Type of Sample	Sampling Frequency[1]
Flow	cfs[2]	Estimated[3]	Monthly[4]
Conductance @ 25°C	µmhos/cm	Grab	Monthly
E. coli	MPN[3]/100 mL	Grab	Monthly
Nitrate (NO_3-N)	mg/L	Grab	Monthly
Ammonia (as N)	mg/L	Grab	Monthly
pH	pH units	Grab	Monthly[5]
Temperature	°C	Grab	Monthly[5]

Footnotes on following page

ATTACHMENT B
SUPPLEMENTAL MONITORING AND REPORTING
PROGRAM NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5036
SUGAR PINE HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION
ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM
MADERA COUNTY

1 Following one year of creek monitoring, the Discharger may submit a written request to the Executive Officer to reduce the monitoring frequency from monthly to quarterly.

2 Cubic feet per second, estimated from creek stage in the vicinity of the leachfield. The Discharger shall submit in the first monthly monitoring report submitted pursuant to this Supplemental Monitoring and Reporting Program a written description of how flow is estimated from creek stage.

3 Most probable number

4 Coincident with E. coli and ammonia monitoring

5 Coincident with ammonia monitoring

Reporting

The Discharger shall report monitoring data and information as required in this SMRP and in General Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ. Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by the **1st day of second month following sampling**. All monitoring reports shall comply with the signatory requirements in Standard Provisions, Monitoring and Reporting Requirement 2.

In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, the constituents, and the concentrations are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner that illustrates clearly whether the Discharger complies with waste discharge requirements. If the Discharger monitors any pollutant at the locations designated herein more frequently than is required by this SMRP, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the discharge monitoring report.

The Discharger shall submit monitoring reports to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

The Discharger shall implement the above SMRP on the first day of the month following the issuance of the Notice of Applicability.

Ordered by: Loren J. Harlow
for THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer
11-26-2002
(Date)

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ΨA:11/21/2002