



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Katherine Hart, Chair

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15 June 2011

Mr. Stan Craig, Assistant Southern Region Chief  
State of California Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
1234 E Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710-7899

## NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

***WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-10-DWQ, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND BY SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION, MOUNT BULLION CONSERVATION CAMP, WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, MARIPOSA COUNTY***

The Mount Bullion Conservation Camp Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) currently consists of a septic tank leach field system. There is also an additional emergency system consisting of a septic tank, ponds, and spray fields. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 96-214 currently regulates the discharge. The WDRs are obsolete, inconsistent with current plans and policies of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), and need to be updated.

On 27 April 2011, Central Valley Water Board staff received your letter requesting coverage of the discharge 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).

Based on the findings of the original WDRs, recent information from self-monitoring reports and communication with you, the discharge meets the conditions of the General Order. The discharge is hereby covered under *Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems*. The facility is assigned Notice of Applicability (NOA) No. 97-10-DWQ-R5071.

The following requirements contained within the General Order apply to the discharge to the septic system:

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

1. All Section A Prohibitions,
2. Section B Requirement Nos. 1.a-1.d, 2.a-2.c, and 5.a-5.b;
3. All Section C Ground Water and Surface Water Limitations;
4. Section D Provision Nos. 1.a-1.v, 2.a-2.b, and 4; and
5. All Attachment B Standard Provisions and Reporting for Waste Discharge Requirements.

The following requirements contained within the General Order apply to emergency discharges to the pond and spray fields:

1. All Section A Prohibitions,
2. Section B Requirement Nos. 1.a-1.d, 2.a-2.c, and 6.a-6.d;
3. All Section C Ground Water and Surface Water Limitations;
4. Section D Provision Nos. 1.a-1.v and 2.a-2.b; and
5. All Attachment B Standard Provisions and Reporting for Waste Discharge Requirements.

The following sections of Attachment A, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. 97-10-DWQ, apply to the septic system:

1. Septic Tank Monitoring, and
2. Reporting.

The following sections of Attachment A, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. 97-10-DWQ, apply to emergency discharges to the pond and spray fields:

1. Septic Tank Monitoring,
2. Pond/Basin Monitoring, and
3. Reporting.

## **LOCATION**

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection operates the WWTF located in Section 36, T4S, R17E, Section 1, T5S, R17E and Section 6, T5S, R18E of MDB&M. The site is adjacent to Cya Road in Mariposa and is within the North Fork Merced Hydrologic Area.

The WWTF is in the San Joaquin River Basin. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, 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.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Currently the facility generates an average of 15,000 gallons per day of domestic waste from a maximum of 110 inmates and about 20 CDCR and Cal Fire staff assigned to the conservation camp. The full-time facility is active year round and while the inmate population is usually stable, a higher flow occurs during the winter months due to inmate crews and staff staying on location as well as infiltration and inflow into the collection and disposal system.

The WWTF is comprised of a fiberglass septic tank, a fiberglass lift station with duplex pumps, and 3200 linear feet of leach trenches with 36" wide Infiltrator media, covering roughly two acres. For backup or emergency capacity, the WWTF also includes a 6,000 gallon concrete septic tank, a 2.6 acre-foot detention pond, and two spray fields.

There is an unnamed creek that runs through the middle of the camp and is adjacent to the WWTF. The beneficial uses for the groundwaters of the State are: municipal and domestic supply, industrial service supply, industrial process supply, and agricultural supply.

## **FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the above requirements, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection must comply with the following:

1. Discharge of wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described above is prohibited.
2. The WWTF shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in the General Order.
3. The waste discharge shall not enter surface waters or surface water drainage courses.
4. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 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.

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and Fire Protection

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

If you have any questions regarding this NOA, please contact Dale Harvey at (559) 445-6190.

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ