



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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30 September 2011

Mr. Jim Thomas, Chief  
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## 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 WATER RESOURCES, ROMERO OVERLOOK, WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, MERCED COUNTY***

The Romero Overlook Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) consists of a septic system with two evaporation ponds. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 85-254 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 12 April 2011, Central Valley Water Board staff received a letter from you, 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, information from self-monitoring reports and facility file, and information provided in your request, 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-R5086

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

1. All Section A Prohibitions,

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

2. Section B Requirement Nos. 1.a-1.d, 2.b-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 discharge:

1. Septic Tank Monitoring,
2. Disposal Monitoring, and
3. Reporting.

## **LOCATION**

The Department of Water Resources operates the WWTF 10 miles west of Los Banos in Section 14, T10S, R8E, MDB&M. The natural surface water drainage for the area contributes to the San Luis Reservoir.

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**

The treatment and disposal facilities consist of a 3,600 gallon, two-compartment septic tank and two evaporation ponds. The design flow for these facilities is 3,800 gpd and they accept effluent from a permanent visitor center overlooking the San Luis Reservoir. The visitor center receives approximately 10-20 visitors per weekday and up to 250 visitors per day on weekends. The septic tanks are pumped out 1 to 2 times per year for routine maintenance. A security fence is maintained around the ponds and all manifolds.

The natural surface water near the WWTF is the San Luis Reservoir. The beneficial uses of the San Luis Reservoir are municipal, industrial, and agricultural supply; recreation; fresh water habitat; and wildlife habitat.

The beneficial uses of underlying groundwater identified in the Basin Plan 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 Water Resources 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 Water Resources 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.
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