



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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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, SAN LUIS PUMPING-GENERATING PLANT, WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, MERCED COUNTY***

The San Luis Pumping-Generating Plant Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) consists of two stabilization ponds. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 85-231 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-R5087

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 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
5. All Attachment B Standard Provisions and Reporting for Waste Discharge Requirements.

#### Needs Updating

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

1. Disposal Monitoring, and
2. Reporting.

#### LOCATION

The Department of Water Resources operates the WWTF near the San Luis Dam in Section 14, T10S, R8E, MDB&M. The natural surface water drainage for the area contributes to the O'Neill 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 two stabilization ponds. Due to lack of flow only one is in use. The abandoned pond has been isolated and tagged out of service. The pond that is in use has a capacity of 231,000 gallons and accepts domestic waste from a building housing 27 full time employees. The active pond was originally designed to accommodate effluent from the employees as well as 250 visitors a day. The site no longer hosts visitors, therefore, ample room in the pond is provided.

The natural surface water near the WWTF is the O'Neill Reservoir. The beneficial uses of the O'Neill Reservoir are municipal and agricultural supply, recreation, and fresh water 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