

ITEM:

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SUBJECT:

Spanish Flat Water District, Monticello Cemetery District, and Napa County, Spanish Flat Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System, Napa County

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of Approval of Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program

BACKGROUND:

The Spanish Flat wastewater treatment facility is regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 93-236. The WDRs were adopted in 1993, and allow a monthly average discharge of 25,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater. The wastewater is treated to secondary standards prior to storage and disposal in a percolation/evaporation pond. During the summer, wastewater is also occasionally used to spray irrigate a disposal field and/or the Monticello Cemetery.

Older WDRs often contain outdated Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MRPs), requiring such minimal monitoring that staff cannot determine if a discharger is complying with the prohibitions and specifications of its WDRs. It has been staff's practice to review and revise MRPs as necessary. In the case of this Discharger, the 1993 MRP was outdated, and following an inspection in July 2004, staff prepared a draft revised MRP that included (among other items) a time schedule for the installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells. Following review and comment by the Discharger, the revised MRP was signed by the Executive Officer in March 2005.

ISSUES:

The Discharger has not installed the wells and recently requested a Board Hearing to discuss this issue. The Discharger believes that groundwater monitoring should not be required at this site because only domestic waste is discharged and because the cost of wells would create a "negative economic impact" to the homeowners.

Groundwater monitoring is necessary at this site in order to determine whether the Discharger is complying with its Groundwater Limitation (which states that the discharge cannot degrade groundwater). The majority of the waste is disposed of through an unlined percolation/evaporation pond. The pond sits on a ridge above Lake Berryessa, a source of drinking water for the Spanish Flat subdivision, as well as other housing areas and resorts around the lake. Staff estimates that the cost to install three wells around the pond is approximately \$14,000 with quarterly monitoring and reporting costs of approximately \$3,700. The requirement to install groundwater monitoring wells at this site is consistent with other WDRs, enforcement orders, and revised MRPs adopted since 2000, which commonly require groundwater monitoring for those sites that discharge domestic wastewater to land. Groundwater monitoring has shown that at some sites, the discharge of domestic waste has adversely impacted groundwater.

RECOMMENDATION:

Regional Board staff have prepared a third revised MRP providing extended timelines for the installation and monitoring of groundwater wells at this facility, and ask that the Regional Board approve the MRP.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

4/5 May 2006

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting

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