

INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER NO.
MARCON, INC., RARE EARTH SUBDIVISION
WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL FACILITY
BUTTE COUNTY

Marcon, Inc. owner and operator of the wastewater treatment facility for this 12 unit residential development on 13.8 acres. A homeowners association is planned to take over operations from Marcon, Inc. The subdivision is in Section 32, T23N, R1E, MDB&M, approximately 5 miles north of the City of Chico and consists of 12 single-family lots. Surface water drainage in the area of the treatment and disposal facilities for the development is to Keefer Slough, which in turn discharges to Rock Creek, Pine Creek, and the Sacramento River. Annual average precipitation at the site is approximately 26 inches.

Sewage treatment and disposal is by means of a community leachfield system with a design flow of 4,500 gallons per day. Each of the homes in the subdivision will have its own septic tank and effluent screen, and each tank will be equipped with a high head effluent pump. The effluent pumping system delivers the septic tank effluent from each home to a proprietary, centralized aerobic fixed film treatment system for reduction of influent BOD and total suspended solids. Total nitrogen and Total Coliform concentrations are also reduced to a degree by the treatment system. Nitrogen reduction is necessary to protect other nearby potable wells from excessive nitrogen contamination. The disposal field, containing 1500 feet of leach line, is on the same lot as the treatment system. There is one piezometer in the center of the disposal fields to check for high groundwater below the fields. There is also room for a replacement leachfield on this same lot, and the entire lot is estimated to have a usable wastewater disposal area of approximately 0.75 acre.

The Basin Plan specifies criteria for septic tanks and leaching systems. The depth of soil, percolation and percolation rates at the disposal site satisfy the minimum criteria for septic tanks and leachfield systems specified in the Basin Plan. Soils at the disposal area demonstrated percolation rates ranging from 3.2 to 12.8 minutes per inch (only the single value of 3.2 minutes per inch was faster than five minutes per inch). Winter groundwater level monitoring indicated no groundwater within 112 inches of grade in the disposal area.

Water at the site will be supplied by individual domestic wells. Wells in the subdivision within 200 feet of the community disposal field will be provided with 50 foot sanitary seals.

The wastewater treatment and disposal system lies within the Red Bluff Hydrologic Unit Sub-area No. 504.20 as depicted on hydrologic maps prepared by the Department of Water Resources in August 1986.

This development lies within the area addressed by the North Chico Specific Plan approved by the Butte County Board of Supervisors March 25, 1995. The Specific Plan calls for this area to generally be served by septic systems for wastewater treatment. However, in case city sewer is eventually extended to the area, this subdivision will install "dry" sewers for connection to that sewer if and when it is available.

A homeowners association will oversee management of the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system. However, at this time Butte County is rewriting its onsite ordinance, and is considering the possibility of a countywide public entity for the management of such systems

This Order contains the standard prohibitions for discharge of wastes to surface waters and surface water drainage courses, by-pass of untreated or partially treated waste, and discharge of hazardous or designated waste. The flow limitation of 4,500 gallons per day was based on the design capacity of the primary leachfield.

ANTIDEGRADATION

The Board has considered anti-degradation pursuant to Resolution No. 68-16 and finds that not enough data exists to determine if this discharge is consistent with those provisions. Specifically, monitoring wells have not been installed adjacent to the groundwater disposal area and several adjacent properties have individual drinking water wells that may be downgradient of the leachfield and disposal area. Therefore, the Monitoring and Reporting Program included within this Order incorporates the installation of monitoring wells to collect data for determining whether the discharge will cause unacceptable groundwater degradation

RSD: sae
4/14/2008