

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region**

Board Meeting – 8/9/10 June 2011

**Response to Written Comments on
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements for**

**Von Bargaen Ranch Septage Disposal Facility
Glenn County**

6 May 2011

At a public hearing scheduled for 8/9/10 June 2011, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of tentative Waste Discharge Requirements for the Von Bargaen Ranch Septage Disposal Facility. This document contains responses to written comments received from interested parties in response to the Tentative Order. Written comments from interested parties were required to be received by the Central Valley Water Board by 5 March 2011 in order to receive full consideration. Comments were received prior to the deadline from:

1. Anonymous (received 22 April 2011)
2. Nor-Cal Environmental Solutions Inc. (received 4 May 2011)

Written comments from the above interested parties are summarized below, followed by the response of Central Valley Water Board staff.

Anonymous

Anonymous – COMMENT #1:

“This dump site is clean and professionally run, last year when this dump site was closed the price for pumping a septic tank went from \$300 to \$450 dollars over [night]. Residents of Glen[n] County can not afford this price increase with only one dump site this creates a monopoly for the septic company that owns the remaining dump site.”

RESPONSE:

Central Valley Water Board inspected the Von Bargaen Ranch Septage Disposal Site on 16 September 2010, 27 February 2009, and 26 June 1991. Each Central Valley Water Board staff inspection report notes that the facility was in good operating condition, but the inspections also noted that continued operations will require Waste Discharge Requirements. Pursuant to Section 13263 of the California Water Code, the Central Valley Water Board must prescribe

requirements which restrict the amount and type of pollutants that may be discharged, and are tailored to protect the beneficial uses of the waters of the State. Beneficial uses of waters of the State are defined in our Basin Plan. The Central Valley Water Board has adopted Waste Discharge Requirements for three other similar facilities in Tehama County.

Central Valley Water Board staffs do not limit or control the number of septage receiving sites or the costs of disposing of septage.

Nor-Cal Environmental Solutions Inc. (Nor-Cal)

Nor-Cal – Comment #1

Nor-Cal has a serious conflict with the adoption of the Von Bargen Artois dump site, and is surprised to hear of the tentative WDRs after constructing a new septic receiving facility capable of handling all septic waste, including chemical portable toilets, holding vaults from public rest stops and public camp grounds, and yellow grease waste from restaurants, all which has been dumped at the Von Bergen’s Artois dump site in the past.

RESPONSE

Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements for the facility include a discharge prohibition which states, “The discharge of municipal solid waste, restaurant and grease trap wastes, car wash pumpings, and other commercial or industrial wastes is prohibited.” Central Valley Water Board staff is unaware of any prior disposal of wastes other than domestic septage at the subject site.

Nor-Cal – COMMENT #2:

“My company Nor-Cal Environmental Solutions, Inc. DBA Nor-Cal Septic & Trench Work has been dumping at this unregulated site since 1995 until February 2010. Never has anyone tested the pH of any sewage dumped on the open land at this point.”

RESPONSE:

Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements include discharge prohibitions, discharge specifications, and monitoring and reporting requirements. The tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program requires that a representative sample of septage to be applied to land shall be analyzed according to a specific schedule, which includes a semiannual analysis of pH. In addition, the pH of

septage to be applied shall be measured in each truck delivering septage during an 8-hour work day once per quarter.