

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

ORDER NO. R1-2003-0008
ID NO. 1B80002OHUM

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

MIRANDA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Humboldt County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. Miranda Community Services District (hereinafter Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge for the Miranda Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) dated October 3, 2002. This Order serves as a routine update of Waste Discharge Requirements and replaces Order No. 86-93 adopted by the Regional Water Board on May 1, 1986.
2. The WWTF is located west of the Avenue of the Giants at the end of River Road in Miranda, Humboldt County, California (Attachment "A" and "B"). The facility is located in Hydrologic Unit 111.00, Weott Hydrologic Subarea 111.31, and at Latitude 40° 14' and Longitude 123° 49'.
3. Wastewater collection facilities consist of small-diameter, gravity sewers to collect the effluent from individual septic tanks in the community. A recirculating sand filter, disinfection system, and a percolation pond provide wastewater treatment and disposal for the community. The system has a design capacity of 46,000 gallons per day (GPD) average dry weather flow and discharges year-round to a percolation pond located approximately 100 yards from the South Fork Eel River.
4. The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) contains a water quality objective of 6.5 to 8.5 for Hydrogen Ion (pH) in the South Fork Eel River. Discharger monitoring reports submitted to the Regional Water Board have consistently shown pH data below 6.5, resulting in numerous technical violations of Order No. 86-93. Regional Water Board staff believes that the low pH values are attributed to the poor buffering ability of the high purity local water supply. The chlorination process lowers the pH, and the water does not contain dissolved minerals to produce a natural buffer. Since the effluent discharges to a percolation pond and not to surface water, the soils surrounding the pond should neutralize the effluent acidity. Therefore, the Regional Water Board finds that a pH range of 5.6 to 8.5 is appropriate in the WWTF's effluent.
5. The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) includes water quality objectives, receiving water limitations, beneficial uses, implementation plans for point source and nonpoint source discharges, prohibitions, and statewide plans and policies. As specified in the Basin Plan, the beneficial uses of the South Fork Eel River and its tributaries include:

- a. municipal and domestic supply
 - b. agricultural supply
 - c. industrial service supply
 - d. groundwater recharge
 - e. water contact recreation
 - f. noncontact water recreation
 - g. commercial and sport fishing
 - h. cold freshwater habitat
 - i. wildlife habitat
 - j. migration of aquatic organisms
 - k. spawning, reproduction, and/or early development of fish
 - l. preservation of rare, threatened or endangered species
 - m. aquaculture
6. Beneficial uses of areal groundwaters include:
- a. domestic water supply
 - b. agricultural water supply
 - c. industrial process water supply
 - d. industrial service water supply
7. The South Fork Eel River is listed as an impaired water body for sediment and temperature pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was established in 1999 to address these loadings. The discharge does not discharge to the South Fork Eel River and does not threaten a change in temperature or an increase in the sediment load of the South Fork Eel.
8. An environmental impact report (EIR) was completed for the WWTF in July 1979 in accordance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. The WWTF has not had significant modifications since the issuance of Order No. 86-93. The WWTF is categorically exempt from CEQA as an existing facility pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulation Section 15301.
9. The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations.
10. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.
11. The permitted discharge is consistent with the provisions of State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16, *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California*. The discharge is identical as previously permitted under Order No. 86-93. The continuation of this discharge will, therefore, not cause additional degradation of water quality.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 86-93 is hereby rescinded and the Miranda Community Services District, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code (CWC) and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following conditions:

A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

1. There shall be no discharge of any waste from the Miranda Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility to surface waters or groundwaters.
2. The discharge shall not cause a statistically significant change in ground water quality.
3. The discharge of untreated or partially treated waste from anywhere within the collection, treatment, or disposal facility is prohibited.
4. Creation of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by CWC Section 13050, is prohibited.
5. The discharge of waste to land that is not under the control of the Discharger is prohibited, except as authorized under section C. **SOLIDS DISPOSAL.**

B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. Representative samples of the effluent taken after disinfection shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Monthly Average^a</u>	<u>Daily Maximum^b</u>
BOD (20°C, 5-day)	mg/l	50	80
TSS	mg/l	50	80
Settleable Solids	ml/l	0.1	0.2
Total Coliform Organisms	MPN/100 ml	23 ^c	230
Hydrogen Ion	pH	Not less than 5.6 nor greater than 8.5	

2. The average dry weather flow of waste shall not exceed 46,000 GPD averaged over a calendar month.
3. The Discharger shall maintain at least two feet of freeboard in the percolation pond.

C. SOLIDS DISPOSAL

1. Collected screenings, sludges, and other solids removed from liquid wastes shall be disposed of at a legal point of disposal, and in accordance with the State Water Board promulgated provisions of Title 27, Division 2, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
2. Use and disposal of sewage sludge shall comply with existing federal and state laws and regulations, including permitting requirements and technical standards contained in 40 CFR 503.

^a The arithmetic mean of all samples collected in a calendar month.

^b The maximum sample of all samples collected in a calendar day.

^c median

D. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Availability

A copy of this Order shall be maintained at the discharge facility and be available at all times to operating personnel.

2. Severability

Provisions of these Waste Discharge Requirements are severable. If any provision of these requirements is found invalid, the remainder of these requirements shall not be affected.

3. Operation and Maintenance

The Discharger shall maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible any facility or control system installed by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the Waste Discharge Requirements.

4. Operation Manual

A copy of the facility operations and maintenance manual, including a maintenance timeline, shall be kept at the facility and available to operation personnel and Regional Water Board staff at all times. Additionally, the facility will be operated and maintained in accordance with the prepared manual.

5. Auxiliary Electrical Power

The facility shall be equipped with an auxiliary power system to operate all necessary treatment functions during a loss of electrical power.

6. Change in Discharge

Any change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge or other material changes to the facility, as described in the Report of Waste Discharge, is prohibited.

7. Vested Rights

This Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, nor protect the Discharger from liability under federal, state, or local laws, nor create a vested right for the Discharger to continue the waste discharge.

8. Monitoring

The Discharger shall comply with the Contingency Planning and Notification Requirements Order No. 74-151 and the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2003-0008 and any modifications to these documents as specified by the Executive Officer. Such documents are attached to this Order and incorporated herein. Chemical and bacteriological analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the Department of Health Services (DHS). Analyses for pH, chlorine residual, and settleable matter performed by a noncertified on-site laboratory will be accepted provided a quality

assurance/quality control program is instituted by the laboratory, and a manual containing the steps followed in this program is kept in the laboratory and made available for inspection by staff of the Regional Water Board. The quality assurance/quality control program shall conform to DHS guidelines.

9. Signatory Requirements

- a. All Report of Waste Discharge applications submitted to the Regional Water Board shall be signed by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
- b. Reports required by this Order and other information requested by the Regional Water Board shall be signed by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official or by a duly authorized representative provided:
 - i. the authorization is made in writing by a person described in paragraph (a) of this provision;
 - ii. the authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company; and
 - iii. the written authorization is submitted to the Regional Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications signed by the authorized representative.
- c. Any person signing a document under paragraph (a) or (b) of this provision shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted, is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

10. Inspections

The Discharger shall permit authorized staff of the Regional Water Board to:

- a. enter premises in which an effluent source is located or in which any required records are kept;
- b. access to copy any records required to be kept under terms and conditions of this Order;
- c. inspect monitoring equipment or records; and
- d. sample any discharge.

11. Noncompliance

In the event the Discharger is unable to comply with any of the conditions of this Order due to:

- a. breakdown of waste treatment equipment;
- b. accidents caused by human error or negligence; or
- c. other causes such as acts of nature;

the Discharger shall notify the Executive Officer by telephone as soon as it or its agents have knowledge of the incident and confirm this notification in writing within two weeks of the telephone notification. The written notification shall include pertinent information explaining reasons for the noncompliance and shall indicate the steps taken to correct the problem and the dates thereof, and the steps being taken to prevent the problem from recurring.

12. Revision of Requirements

The Regional Water Board will review this Order periodically and may revise requirements when necessary.

Certification

I, Susan A. Warner, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on February 27, 2003.

Susan A. Warner
Executive Officer