



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Geoffrey M. Hales, Chairman**

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 12, 2010

Mr. Peter Lang
Safari West Animal Preserve
3115 Porter Creek Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Lang:

Subject: Notice of Violation Associated with Discharges and Threatened Discharges of Wastes at Safari West Wildlife Preserve; and Issuance of a Section 13267 (b) Order Requiring Submission of Technical Reports

File: Safari West Wildlife Preserve - WDID No. 1B10027CNSO

This letter notifies the Safari West Wildlife Preserve (Facility) of Water Code violations and threatened violations observed during our August 20, 2009 staff inspection, and transmits a Water Code Section 13267 (b) Order. The violations listed below relate to unauthorized discharges or threatened discharges of waste from the Facility to waters of the state. The technical reports required by the enclosed 13267 (b) Order are necessary to enable North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff to determine whether the Facility is complying with the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan), the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code), and the federal Clean Water Act.

Notice of Violation #1 – Inadequate leachfield performance

On August 20, 2009, Regional Water Board staff inspected the Facility in response to a citizen complaint. Staff observed standing domestic wastewater effluent within 5 inches of ground surface in observation wells, an indication of a failing septic system. The inspection memo (Attachment A) photo documents the conditions of the leach field at the time of the inspection.

The observed leach field conditions violate the Basin Plan Policy for the Control of Water Quality with Respect to On-site Waste Treatment and Disposal Practices. The discharge of wastes from onsite domestic wastewater systems is subject to review and approval by the Regional Water Board under the authority of the California Water Code.

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It is our intent to review the design and operation of your onsite systems to ensure that they are protective of ground and surface water quality.

Notice of Violation #2 – Storm Water and Non Storm Water Discharges

During the August 20, 2009 inspection Regional Water Board staff observed both threatened and ongoing discharges of waste contained in runoff to waters of the state. Storm water runoff was allowed to flow across areas of the site where animal wastes are concentrated and stored. The runoff has the potential to pick up nutrients and other contaminants from animal wastes and then deliver these wastes directly to waters of the US. The inspection also identified a flamingo pond that is routinely drained into nearby surface waters. The discharge of flows from the flamingo pond to state waters poses an imminent threat to water quality. The pond water was stagnant, warm, discolored and contained sediment and other waste products. In other areas of the facility, exposed waste piles and hydrocarbon sources, such as leaking trash bins, motor parts, and containment barrels, were left in the open and uncontained, thereby presenting a high risk for contamination of storm water runoff.

Unpermitted discharges of pollutants into surface waters of the state and United States violate the California Water Code and the Clean Water Act. These discharges are potentially subject to administrative civil liability by the Regional Water Board pursuant to Water Code Section 13385.

The Regional Water Board is requiring that Safari West immediately assess site conditions and storm water drainage issues, and implement adequate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to avoid any further unpermitted discharges. As noted above, I am issuing a 13267(b) Order requiring that you provide technical information to allow my staff to further evaluate the violations and potential or actual impacts to beneficial uses, and to assist you in identifying mitigation and other measures that are needed to protect water quality and ensure that similar violations do not recur.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kason Grady at (707) 576-2682 or by email at kgrady@waterboards.ca.gov

Sincerely,

David F. Leland, P.E.
Chief, Watershed Protection Division

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Certified- Return Receipt Requested

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Enclosed:

1. 13267 (b) Order No. R1-2010-0027
 - A. Safari West Inspection Report

cc: Bill Scheffler, Safari West Maintenance Manager, 3115 Porter Creek Road,
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Bob Swift, Sonoma County Environmental Health, 2550 Ventura Avenue,
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Steve Riske, Warden, California Department of Fish and Game,
7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94558