
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 24, 2013

Mr. Doug Culbert
P.O. Box 545
Fortuna, CA 95540

Dear Mr. Culbert:

Subject: Notice of Violation and Transmittal of the March 2013 Compliance Evaluation Inspection Report for the City of Fortuna Wastewater Treatment Facility

File: Fortuna Wastewater Treatment Facility
WDID No.1B83135OHUM, NPDES Permit No. CA0022730

A Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) was conducted on March 13, 2013, at the Fortuna Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) by a USEPA contractor on behalf of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). The CEI report prepared by the USEPA contractor, PG Environmental, is enclosed.

The CEI report identified the following deficiencies:

1. Standard Provision I.D of Attachment D to Order No. R1-2011-0004 requires the Discharger to properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control at all times. Biosolids wasting rates were insufficient to maintain system equilibrium that is necessary for proper sustained operation of the Facility. According to the Facility representative, biosolids are not being removed because the solids handling process cannot be operated at full capacity. Capacity is reduced because the processed solids (composted Class A biosolids) have been allowed to accumulate due to a management decision not to make biosolids available to the public. You indicated that solids processing would begin in the near future. The inspectors did not observe any visible problems with secondary clarifier effluent or discharged effluent.
2. The Discharger made several reporting errors on the December 2012 and January 2013 eSMRs including conducting analyses and not reporting them in the eSMRs and listing the incorrect date for analyses. Accurate reporting is crucial to the Regional Water Board's ability to properly assess Facility compliance between inspections. You stated that additional quality assurance reviews would be conducted prior to submission of eSMRs. The specific reporting errors noted are as follows:
 - a. Table 5 of Attachment E, Monitoring and Reporting Program requires the City to monitor ammonia nitrogen, unionized ammonia, nitrate nitrogen, total phosphorus, copper, dichlorobromomethane, dibromochloromethane

and acute toxicity monthly and BOD weekly at monitoring location M-001 when discharging to Strongs Creek. According to the January 2013 eSMR, the Facility discharged to Strongs Creek during the last week of January 2013. Therefore, the Discharger was required to monitor the above-mentioned pollutants and report the results in the January 2013 eSMR. The Discharger monitored the pollutants, but improperly reported the monitoring location as M-003 (discharge to the percolation ponds).

- b. The City reported one of the January 2013 weekly TSS monitoring results as being monitored on July 5, 2012.
- c. The City monitored and reported the December 2012 monthly dichlorobromomethane for Monitoring Location M-001 on December 6, 2012. The effluent limit for dichlorobromomethane was exceeded on this date; however, the date listed as the violation date was December 6, 2011.

This Notice of Violation serves as notice to correct the violations identified in items 1 and 2, above. By June 1, 2013, you are required to submit a written report identifying how these issues have been resolved.

If you fail to submit the requested report by June 1, 2013, or correct the above violations as required by this Notice of Violation, the Regional Water Board shall take appropriate enforcement actions authorized by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Div. 7 of the Water Code, commencing with section 13000), including the possible assessment of civil liabilities of \$1,000 per day of violation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter prior to July 1, 2013, you may contact Cathleen Goodwin at (707) 576-2687 or at Cathleen.Goodwin@waterboards.ca.gov. After July 1, 2013, you may contact Lisa Bernard at (707) 576-2677 or at Lisa.Bernard@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

David Leland, P.E.
Assistant Executive Officer (Acting)

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cc: Craig Blett, PG Environmental craig.blett@pgenv.com
Max Kuker, PG Environmental, max.kuker@pgenv.com

Enclosure: March 13, 2013 Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) Report for City of Fortuna Wastewater Treatment Facility