

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 A.M., Thursday, August 23, 2012
Santa Rosa

- ITEM: 6
- SUBJECT: Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Blake and Stephanie Alexandre, Alexandre Dairy, Order No. 96-1, W DID No. 1A80196ODN Del Norte County (*Cherie Blatt*)
- BOARD ACTION: Consider adoption of Order No. R1-2012-0080
- BACKGROUND: Blake and Stephanie Alexandre have operated Alexandre Dairy since 1996. Dairy waste was authorized for discharge to crops and pasture by Individual Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-1, adopted by the Regional Water Board on January 25, 1996. This dairy has a maximum of 2,700 cows, milking and dry, and 1,100 other cattle. The dairy cows graze on approximately 2,550 acres. The other cattle also utilize additional acreage offsite.
- On January 19, 2012, at a public hearing in Santa Rosa, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted three general dairy permits including the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waiver) for existing cow dairies, Order R1-2012-0003. All cow dairies in the North Coast Region are required to be enrolled under one of the three permits by completing and submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Regional Board.
- Finding 14 of the Waiver states that staff acceptance of dairy enrollment under that Order can provide a basis for rescinding permit coverage for that dairy under an Individual WDR or Industrial Stormwater permit if the Discharger requests, in writing, termination of that coverage. On April 9, 2012, Blake and Stephanie Alexandre submitted a NOI for coverage of this dairy under Conditional Waiver and requested rescission of the 1996 Individual Order 96-1.
- ISSUES: Similarities between the 1996 Individual WDR and the 2012 Waiver Order include:
- nutrient management planning for a dairy of this size,
 - groundwater testing and reporting

- compliance with California Code of Regulations Title 27 (Waiver Attachment B) for protection of water quality, and
- monitoring and reporting to the Regional Water Board.

The Waiver requires several items not required under the 1996 Order, such as:

- surface water sampling,
- a Water Quality Plan to ensure Best Management Practices (BMPs) are implemented,
- an Annual Report with submittal of photographs of BMPs, and
- nutrient budget calculations and testing.

Due to its size, the Alexandre Dairy is required to be implementing a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) at the time of Waiver enrollment. The Waiver, Appendix 2, contains specific NMP requirements that must be implemented. The Natural Resources Conservation Service staff assisted in the preparation of the 2007 Nutrient Management Plan that Alexandre Dairy is currently implementing. This long-term NMP provides guidelines for annual nutrient management planning.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: Regional Water Board staff has conducted several inspections of Alexandre Dairy, most recently in 2011, which included a water quality assessment report. Alexandre Dairy meets the conditions of the Waiver, and has been enrolled in the Waiver. The requirements contained in Order No. 96-1 are no longer needed for the protection of water quality due to Waiver coverage.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2012-0080 as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. R1-2012-0080
2. Existing Order 96-1