California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER No. R1-2000-13
ID No. 1B80045OMEN

for

CITY OF POINT ARENA

Mendocino County

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

1. The City of Point Arena owns and operates a municipal wastewater collection system and treatment facility in the Point Arena Creek drainage of the Garcia River hydrologic area of the Mendocino Coast hydrologic unit of the North Coastal Basin. Point Arena Creek discharges to the Pacific Ocean.

2. The Regional Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-15 for the wastewater treatment facility on March 28, 1996.

3. On February 21, 2000 the City of Point Arena's sanitary sewer overflowed at or near 20 Iverson Avenue, Point Arena. The City of Point Arena negligently discharged an undetermined volume of untreated sewage, estimated at between 8,000 and 10,000 gallons, to Point Arena Creek through a storm water runoff conveyance. The City of Point Arena is hereinafter referred to as the discharger.

4. Existing and potential beneficial uses of Point Arena Creek include:

    a. Municipal and domestic water supply
    b. Agricultural water supply
    c. Industrial service water supply
    d. Groundwater recharge
    e. Water contact recreation
    f. Non-contact 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
    l. Aquaculture

5. The following discharge prohibitions of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-15 were violated:

A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

3. The discharge of untreated waste from anywhere within the collection, treatment, or disposal facilities is prohibited.

4. The discharge of waste to Point Arena Creek or its tributaries is prohibited.

6. The following section of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) was violated:

POINT SOURCE MEASURES

WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

The Regional Water Board declares that point source waste discharges, except as stipulated by the Thermal Plan, the Ocean Plan, and the action plans and policies contained in the Point Source Measures section of this Water Quality Control Plan, are prohibited in the following locations in the Region:

North Coastal Basin

6. On all other coastal streams and natural drainageways that flow directly to the ocean all new discharges will be prohibited. Existing discharges to these waters will be eliminated at the earliest practicable date.

7. The discharger violated the above prohibitions of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-15 and the Basin Plan. The discharger has caused or permitted waste to be discharged into waters of the state and created a condition of pollution and nuisance. The discharge and threatened discharge is deleterious to beneficial uses of water and is creating and threatens to create a condition of pollution which threatens to continue unless the discharge and threatened discharge is permanently abated.

8. This enforcement action is being taken for the protection of the environment and, therefore, is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13267(b) and 13304, the discharger shall cleanup and abate the discharge and threatened discharge of waste by complying with the following tasks:

A. Immediately stop the discharge of untreated sewage to Point Arena Creek.

B. Cleanup and Abate the effects of the sanitary sewer overflow discharge. On or before March 31, 2000 submit a detailed report including:

1. estimated volume of overflow discharge;
2. duration of overflow discharge;
3. effects of the overflow discharge on Point Arena Creek;
4. how and when the overflow discharge was stopped;
5. results of samples collected following the overflow discharge;
6. description of previous sanitary sewer overflows.

C. Prevent future sanitary sewer overflow discharges. On or before July 1, 2000 submit a report describing work planned to eliminate similar sewage overflows in the future.

D. If, for any reason, the discharger is unable to perform any activity in compliance with this Order, the discharger may request, in writing, a time extension. The extension request must be submitted at least 7 days in advance of the due date and shall include justification. The Executive Officer may grant a written extension for cause, in which case this Order shall be revised accordingly.

Ordered by _____

Lee A. Michlin
Executive Officer

March 1, 2000