

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Issuance of a Complaint
Administrative Civil Liability Compliant No. R1-2010-0011

For

Violation of Waste Discharge Requirements

In the Matter of

Sonoma County Water Agency and
Russian River County Sanitation District
Wastewater Treatment Facility
WDID No. 1B820450SON

Sonoma County

On 2009, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board), Assistant Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2010-0011 (hereinafter "Complaint") to Sonoma County Water Agency, Russian River County Sanitation District (hereinafter "Discharger"). The Complaint proposes penalties in the amount of \$45,000 for alleged violations of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R1-2003-0026 and R1-2009-0003 (NPDES Permit No. CA0024058) during the period from June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2009.

Opportunity for Settlement without a Public Hearing

A public comment period has commenced beginning on the date of this notice and ending on **February 25, 2010**. This matter may be settled without a hearing if no significant comments are received during the comment period and if the Discharger waives the right to a hearing and agrees to pay the full amount of the proposed civil liability. The Assistant Executive Officer will consider any comments received and then either finalize the settlement or take other appropriate action.

Public Hearing Procedures

If the Discharger expresses intent to contest the Complaint by not waiving the hearing, the Regional Water Board will hold a public hearing on this matter on March 24 and 25, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., or as announced in the Regional Water Board's summary agenda to be mailed on or about March 9, 2009. The meeting is scheduled to be held in the Hearing Room at the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, located at Yurok Tribal Headquarters, 190 Klamath Blvd, Klamath, California. At the hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed Civil Liability, or take other enforcement action.

If the Discharger or interested persons would like the Regional Water Board to consider technical reports, testimony, and other evidentiary material concerning this issue, written copies of such documentation must be submitted to the Regional Water Board office at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, 95403, by 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2010. This written material will be made available to the Regional Water Board members and all interested persons.

Written material received after the above date will not be accepted, except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board's Chair (hereinafter "Chair"). Untimely written material will not be accepted or incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice the Discharger or the Regional Water Board staff. The Chair may

choose to modify this rule upon a showing of severe hardship (California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 648.1 and 648.4).

All those who plan to testify at the hearing must submit written statements to the Regional Water Quality Control Board by 5 p.m. on February 25, 2009. The statements should provide the name of the witness, their qualifications (if an expert), and the scope of their intended testimony. Testimony at the above-scheduled hearing may summarize or explain timely submitted or late-accepted written evidence, but shall not add new evidence. The time constraints for oral testimony or comments will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and usually will allow no more than ten minutes each for Regional Water Board staff and the Discharger and three minutes each for other interested persons. A timer may be used and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

Separation of Functions

To ensure the fairness and impartiality of this proceeding, the functions of those who will act in a prosecutorial role by presenting evidence for consideration by the Regional Water Board (hereinafter "Prosecution Team") have been separated from those who will provide advice to Regional Water Board (hereinafter "Advisory Team"). Members of the Prosecution Team are: Luis Rivera, Assistant Executive Officer; David Leland, Supervising Water Resources Control Engineer in charge of the Watershed Protection Division; Diana Henriouille, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer in charge of the Enforcement Unit; Nancy Negley, Sanitary Engineering Associate; and Ann Carroll, Staff Counsel. Any members of the Advisory Team who normally supervise any members of the Prosecution Team are not acting as their supervisors in this proceeding, and vice versa. Members of the Advisory Team are Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer, and Samantha Olson, Staff Counsel. Members of the Prosecution Team may have acted as advisors to the Regional Board in other, unrelated matters, but they are not advising the Regional Board in this proceeding. Members of the Prosecution Team have not had any ex parte communications with the members of the Regional Board or the Advisory Team regarding this proceeding.

Document Review

The Complaint is available for review on the Regional Water Board web site at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/ That Complaint as well as other evidentiary documents and files in the Regional Board's possession may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments are recommended for file review, and can be made by calling (707) 576-2220. For further information, please contact Regional Water Board staff member Nancy Negley at (707) 576-2681 or email at nnegley@waterboards.ca.gov.

Luis G. Rivera
Assistant Executive Officer

January 14, 2010