

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Rico Duazo)  
MEETING DATE: August 13, 2008

ITEM: 5C

SUBJECT: SPIRIT ROCK MEDITATION CENTER, WOODACRE, MARIN COUNTY –  
Reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements

CHRONOLOGY: May 1988 - Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) adopted

DISCUSSION: Spirit Rock Meditation Center is a retreat center offering instruction and opportunities in the practice of insight meditation. The center occupies 6 acres of a 412-acre parcel in the San Geronimo Valley near Woodacre (Appendix B). It is located in a sub-watershed of the Lagunitas watershed, tributary to Tomales Bay.

Wastewater generated at the Center consists of dining hall wastewater from food preparation and service; and sanitary wastewater from employee, resident, and visitor restroom uses. Wastewater receives primary treatment in septic and grease trap tanks, with a portion of the wastewater receiving additional treatment by sand filters. Treated wastewater is discharged to land into the Meadow leach fields and the Central Field leach fields, two dedicated dispersal areas located on the site.

Wastewater treatment facilities were constructed in two phases. Phase I, constructed in 1989, had a treatment capacity of 3,450 gallons per day (gpd) average daily flow and 4,875 gpd peak flow. Phase II, constructed in 1996, increased treatment capacity to 6,060 gpd average daily flow and 9,000 gpd peak flow.

WDRs adopted in 1988 only prescribed requirements for the Phase I treatment facilities. The Tentative Order (Appendix A) updates WDRs to reflect current conditions at the site including the construction of Phase II improvements. The Tentative Order also includes additional effluent and groundwater monitoring to insure proper operation and performance of the wastewater treatment system, and to document compliance with the requirements.

No comments were received on the Tentative Order, and we expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMEN-  
DATION: Adoption of the Tentative Order

File No. 2159.5132

APPENDICES: A - Tentative Order  
B - Location Map