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Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

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<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

June 24, 2010

In reply refer to:  
**adai:255679**

Ms. Alice Benson  
Wastewater Operations Manager  
Ramona Municipal Water District  
105 Earlham Street  
Ramona, CA 92065-1599

Dear Ms. Benson:

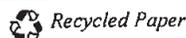
**SUBJECT: SANTA MARIA WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY(WRF)**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) has reviewed the September-December 2009 and January-April 2010 monthly monitoring reports, the third and fourth quarter 2009 and first quarter 2010 monitoring reports, and the 2009 annual monitoring report submitted by the Ramona Municipal Water District (District) in accordance with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2000-177.

The San Diego Water Board identified the following violations of the Discharge Specifications contained in Order No. 2000-177:

1. The daily maximum of Discharge Specification B.4 for sulfate, established at 250 milligrams per liter (mg/L), was exceeded on January 6, February 3, and March 3, 2010 with reported values of 254 mg/L, 264 mg/L, and 257mg/L, respectively.
2. The 12-month average of Discharge Specification B.4 for sulfate, established at 200 mg/L, was exceeded in September 2009, December 2009, and March 2010 with reported values of 236.1, 226.2, and 230.1 mg/L, respectively.
3. The 12-month average of Discharge Specification B.4 for manganese, established at 0.05 mg/L, was exceeded in March 2010 with a reported value of 0.075 mg/L.
4. The 12-month average of Discharge Specification B.4 for total dissolved solids, established at 800 mg/L, was exceeded in September 2009, December 2009, and March 2010 with reported values of 880, 845, and 851 mg/L, respectively.

*California Environmental Protection Agency*



06/01/10

Ms. Alice Benson  
Santa Maria WRF

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June 24, 2010

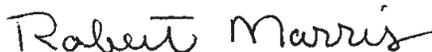
5. The annual report did not include the annual statement certifying that no runoff or surfacing of effluent from the Rangeland Road disposal field site to Santa Maria Creek has occurred, as required by Discharge Specification D.3.

The next monitoring report to be submitted is the May 2010 monthly monitoring report due by June 30, 2010.

The San Diego Water Board acknowledges that the District is planning an upgrade to the Santa Maria WRF that should address exceedances of sulfate and total dissolved solids discharge specifications. Please be aware these violations subject the District to possible further enforcement action by the San Diego Water Board, including administrative enforcement orders requiring the District to cease and desist from violations, or to clean up waste and abate existing or threatened conditions of pollution or nuisance; administrative assessment of civil liability in amounts of up to \$5,000 per day per violation; 1 referral to the State Attorney General for injunctive relief; and referral to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

In the subject line of any response, please include the requested "In reply refer to:" information located in the heading of this letter. For questions pertaining to the subject matter, please contact Amanda Dai at (858) 627-3977 or [adai@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:adai@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Robert Morris, P.E.  
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer  
Groundwater Branch

Regulatory Measure # 374545  
CIWQS Violation # 1) 873183, 873184, 873185; 2) 873191, 873192, 873193; 3) 873194; 4) 873195, 873196, 873197; 5) 873199