

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 9, 2008
Prepared on March 21, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 13

SUBJECT: Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Wastewater Collection Agencies Tributary to the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District, San Luis Obispo County (Order No. R3-2004-0062)

KEY INFORMATION

Permittees: City of Arroyo Grande, City of Grover Beach, Oceano CSD
Locations: Various locations in southern San Luis Obispo County
Discharge Type: Sanitary Sewer Systems tributary to South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District's wastewater facilities
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0062 and General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ)
This Action: Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0062

SUMMARY

In 2004, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R3-2004-0062 to regulate local agencies with collection systems tributary to the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District. Since that time, the enrolled agencies or permittees (City of Arroyo Grande, City of Grover Beach, and Oceano Community Services District) have followed State Water Board direction and enrolled in the new statewide General WDR for Sanitary Sewer Systems (Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ). Order No. R3-2004-0062 should be rescinded to eliminate this redundancy in permitting.

DISCUSSION

The permittees own and operate various wastewater collection systems in southern San Luis Obispo County tributary to the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District treatment facility. The locations of the permittees are depicted on Attachment A of Order No. R3-2004-0062 (included as Attachment 1 to this report). Properly designed, operated, and maintained wastewater collection systems are meant to collect and transport all of the wastewater that flows into them to a publicly owned treatment works. However, occasional unintentional discharges of wastewater from municipal sewers occur in every system. These overflows have a variety of causes, including but not limited to severe weather, improper system operation and maintenance, and vandalism. Untreated sewage overflows can contaminate State waters, causing serious water quality and public health problems. Accordingly, requirements specified in Order No. R3-2004-0062 call for development and implementation of wastewater collection system management plans to effectively prevent such spills.

In 2006, the State Water Board adopted Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (General WDR) to provide consistent statewide regulation of collection systems. Facilities subject to the General WDR include all federal agencies, state agencies, municipalities, counties, districts, and other public entities that own and/or operate sanitary sewer systems greater than one mile in length, which collect and convey untreated or partially treated wastewater to a treatment facility. Accordingly, the permittees are subject to the General WDR, and have enrolled as required.

The requirements specified in the statewide General WDR for Sanitary Sewer Systems are consistent with those specified in Order No. R3-2004-0062. The orders (both R3-2004-0062 and the statewide General WDR) require permittees to develop and implement a Sanitary Sewer Management Plan. The Management Plan is a detailed and comprehensive approach to spill prevention and response. Monitoring and reporting is also required in both orders. When developing the Management Plan, the permittee is required to include goals, organization, legal authority, measures and activities, design and performance provisions, monitoring, plan modifications, overflow emergency response plan, source control program, system evaluation and capacity assurance plan, and annual updates. In an effort to maintain statewide consistency, the State Water Board requests that regional water boards rescind redundant collection system permits after enrollment in the General WDR.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

The permittees submitted their respective management plans in 2005, satisfying Order No. R3-2004-0062 requirements, and before statewide General Order requirements.

During 2007, the City of Arroyo Grande experienced a sewage spill from its collection system to Arroyo Grande Creek. In response to that spill, the Water Board Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R3-2007-0065 and later entered into stipulated agreement for a penalty in the amount of \$65,000.

RECOMMENDATION

To maintain statewide consistency in managing collection systems, and to eliminate redundant regulation, staff recommends rescission of Order No. R3-2004-0062.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Existing Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0062