

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 4-5, 2011
Prepared on April 12, 2011

ITEM NUMBER: 15

SUBJECT: Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements, Reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048941 for the Heritage Ranch Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Luis Obispo County, Order No. R3-2011-0007

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KEY INFORMATION

Location: 4870 Heritage Road, Paso Robles, California
Type of Discharge: Treated municipal wastewater
Permitted Flow: 0.4 million gallons per day (mgd; dry weather flow design capacity)
Average Annual Flow: 0.2 MGD
Type of Treatment: Aerated and facultative lagoons/ponds (secondary), chlorination, sand filtration (tertiary) and dechlorination
Disposal Method: Surface water discharge to unnamed ephemeral drainage tributary to the Nacimiento River
Solid Wastes: Contained within treatment ponds
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2006-0012
Reclamation: Pending
This Action: Adopt Order No. R3-2011-0007

SUMMARY

The Heritage Ranch Community Services District (CSD) owns and operates a municipal wastewater treatment plant and discharges the treated wastewater to an unnamed ephemeral drainage channel tributary to the Nacimiento River. The facility provides treatment and disposal of municipal wastewater for the Heritage Ranch Development, southeast of Lake Nacimiento in San Luis Obispo County. In an effort to reduce surface water discharges, the CSD is evaluating two land disposal alternatives and a potential reuse project. The CSD has begun conceptual design of the disposal and reuse facilities and the proposed Order sets the stage for them to pursue these alternatives conditional upon Executive Officer and California Department of Public Health approval of work plans and engineering reports for the pending projects.

CHANGES FROM THE EXISTING ORDER

The proposed Order is structured in accordance with the statewide NPDES permit template. The proposed Order is consistent with the previous Order with the exception of the following substantive changes/modifications:

- The Order conditionally approves and establishes requirements for land disposal and recycled water projects. See Sections II.B, IV.B and C, and VI.C.2.b and c of the Order for additional information.
- Effluent limitations have been removed and effluent monitoring requirements reduced for mercury and 4,4-DDD, and effluent limitations and monitoring have been added for aluminum based on the Reasonable Potential Analysis (RPA) conducted as part of the permit renewal process. See Sections IV.C.3 and IV.D.1 of the Fact Sheet for additional information.
- Effluent limitations and monitoring have been added for fecal coliform based on the beneficial use of Water Contact Recreation (REC1) contained within the Basin Plan. See Section IV.C.6.b.i of the Fact Sheet for additional information.
- Semiannual effluent and receiving water monitoring has been added for sulfate and boron to better determine background receiving water conditions, discharge loading, and resulting downstream conditions with regard to surface water quality objectives for the Nacimiento River.
- Semiannual influent monitoring has been added for total nitrogen to determine the level of nitrogen loading to the facility and removal within the treatment system.
- Semiannual influent monitoring has been added for total dissolved solids, sodium, chloride, sulfate, and boron to evaluate domestic contributions of these parameters, complement effluent monitoring, and aid in the development and implementation of a salt and nutrient management plan.
- Semiannual effluent and receiving water monitoring have been added for total nitrogen and ammonia to complement the existing nitrate monitoring requirements and to determine the level of nitrogen removal within the treatment process and an evaluate receiving water conditions.
- Semiannual receiving water monitoring for unionized ammonia has been added to evaluate compliance with the numeric water quality criteria contained within the Order and Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Region (Basin Plan).
- A Special Provision was added requiring the Discharger to either develop its own salt and nutrient management program or participate in a regional salt and nutrient management plan consistent with the provisions of State Water Board Resolution No. 2009-0011 (Recycled Water Policy).

COMMENTS

Comments were received from the USEPA, NPDES Permit Office, Region IX. Comments and staff responses are contained within Section VIII.B of the Fact Sheet (Attachment F) starting on page F-39.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order R3-2011-0007, as proposed.

ATTACHMENT

For copies, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2011/2011_agendas.shtml

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2011-0007, including the following attachments:
 - Attachment A – Definitions
 - Attachment B – Map
 - Attachment C – Flow Schematic
 - Attachment D – Standard Provisions
 - Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)
 - Attachment F – Fact Sheet

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