

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 7-8, 2017

Prepared on November 3, 2017

ITEM NUMBER: 8

SUBJECT: Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements, Reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit No. CAG993001 for Low Threat Discharges, Order No. R3-2017-0042

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KEY INFORMATION

Discharger: Any person, partnership, firm, corporation, association, trust estate, or any other legal entity
Location: Locations throughout the Central Coast Region
Type of Discharge: Municipal, industrial, or residential water supply operations, commercial wash water, cooling water, evaporative condensate, treated bilge water, construction operations, etc.
Waste Types: Chlorine and chlorination by-products; salts; oil and grease; nitrate; suspended, settleable, and total dissolved solids.
Permitted Flow: Varies for continuous and batch discharges (maximum 0.3 million gallons per day [MGD]).
Type of Treatment: Little or no treatment
Disposal Method: Surface water discharge
Solid Wastes: Not applicable
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2011-0223
Reclamation: Not applicable

This Action: Adopt Order No. R3-2017-0042

SUMMARY

This agenda item considers the reissuance of an existing NPDES permit. The Fact Sheet, Attachment F of the proposed order, includes the legal requirements and technical rationale that serve as the basis for the requirements of the permit. Water Board staff recommends adoption of the proposed order.

DISCUSSION

The Low-Threat Permit covers discharges containing minimal amounts to low amounts of pollutants and pose little or no threat to water quality or the environment. These low-threat discharges include water generated during well installation, development, and testing and performing routine maintenance of uncontaminated water supply wells, pipelines, and tanks. Other low threat discharges include fire-hydrant flushing, commercial cooling tower water, evaporative condensate, seafood processing wash water, treated bilge water from small watercraft, and swimming pool and landscape pool drainage. These wastewaters may be treated and discharged on either continuous or batch bases at generally low flows.

During the preliminary stages of revision, Central Coast Water Board staff consulted National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) staff regarding regulations on discharges into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). Clarifications within the permit were made on behalf of the MBNMS.

Changes from the Existing Order

The proposed order is structured in accordance with the State Water Board's NPDES permit template. The proposed order is consistent with the existing order with the exception of the following changes and modifications:

- The Compound-Specific Effluent Limitations Table was updated with most recent Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).
- Toxicity reduction requirements were added to ensure that in the event a discharge contributes chronic toxicity in the receiving water, the discharger is required to submit a toxicity reduction identification and toxicity reduction evaluation to identify the causative agents of effluent or ambient toxicity, isolate the sources of toxicity, evaluate the effectiveness of toxicity control options, and then confirm the reduction in toxicity. If the discharger cannot eliminate the effluent's toxicity, the discharger must cease discharging.
- Whole effluent toxicity testing requirements were added to the monitoring and reporting program for acute and chronic toxicity as part of the toxic reduction requirements.
- The Standard Provisions include 2013 updates.
- Definitions were added for clarity.
- Re-structured the order to be consistent with other recent Water Board general permits.

Compliance History

Facilities enrolled in the existing permit are generally well run and are in compliance with permit requirements. During the last permit term, two facilities submitted late annual reports (minor violations), none of which is linked to an enforcement action by the Water Board.

COMMENTS

On September 28, 2017, the Central Coast Water Board notified dischargers and other interested parties of the availability of the draft permit for review. The draft permit was also posted on the Central Coast Water Board's tentative order page website on September 28, 2017. The Central Coast Water Board staff also published the public notice in the following newspapers: *Monterey Herald*, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, *San Luis Obispo Tribune*, *Morgan Hill Times*, and *Santa Barbara News-Press* between September 29 and October 11, 2017. Written comments were due at the Central Coast Water Board office or via email by 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2017. No public comments were received during the public comment period.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2017-0042, as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2017-0042, including the following attachments:
 - Attachment A – Definitions
 - Attachment B – Notice of Intent
 - Attachment C – Notice of Termination
 - Attachment D – Standard Provisions
 - Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Attachment F – Fact Sheet

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