

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

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8-9, 2018
Prepared on February 2, 2018

ITEM NUMBER: 14

SUBJECT: Enforcement Report

KEY INFORMATION: Informational Item on Monterey One Water's Discharge of Untreated Wastewater to Monterey Bay on January 19-20, 2018

DISCUSSION:

This is an informational item to describe the events around Monterey One Water's (formerly Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, hereafter referred to as Monterey One) discharge of untreated wastewater to Monterey Bay on January 19-20, 2018. Monterey One is still investigating the discharge, and Central Coast Water Board staff is still evaluating the discharge and Monterey One's technical reports. Therefore, it is premature to discuss any potential enforcement action at this time.

On January 20, 2018, Monterey One Water) experienced a large-scale overflow of untreated domestic/municipal wastewater to Monterey Bay. The overflow occurred because of an equipment failure at the wastewater entry point (i.e., headworks) to the regional wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Marina, Monterey County, which resulted in untreated wastewater flowing directly to the facility's ocean outfall and discharging to Monterey Bay approximately two miles offshore. Monterey One initially estimated the volume of the overflow to be approximately 4.4 million gallons. However, a thorough evaluation of the discharge volume is part of Monterey One's ongoing investigation.

Upon detecting the overflow, Monterey One staff switched the flow of wastewater influent around the failed equipment (headworks screening system) to stop the overflow. In the immediate aftermath, Monterey One notified the public and all key regulatory agencies, including the California Office of Emergency Services, the Central Coast Water Board, the Monterey County Health Department, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In cooperation with these agencies, Monterey One then established eleven ocean and seven beach monitoring sites to evaluate potential human health impacts, and the Monterey County Health Department posted health warnings and closed the associated beaches from Moss Landing to Stillwater Cove. Laboratory analysis of the 22 samples collected over two days indicated only one marginal exceedance of pathogenic indicator bacteria levels on the first day of sampling on January 20. All samples were within applicable limits for all parameters tested by the second day of sampling on January 21, and the Monterey County Health Department lifted the overflow-related beach closures on January 22.

Monterey One's preliminary analysis of the cause of the overflow showed that an electronic failure related to the WWTP headworks screening operations and alarm system prevented its staff's immediate notification of the overflow. To prevent this from recurring, Monterey One replaced the faulty electronic component, revised control system programming, increased the system's retention capacity prior to discharging to the ocean outfall, and installed an infrared

camera at the headworks with dedicated monitoring. In addition, Monterey One plans to add to the headworks real-time monitoring of wastewater levels with integrated notifications, and will accelerate the design and upgrade of headworks control components. Monterey One's non-compliance report dated January 26, 2018, indicated it plans to submit reports to the Central Coast Water Board providing a detailed analysis of the root causes of the overflow, a detailed timeline of Monterey One staff actions and observations during and after the incident, a detailed analysis and final estimate of the volume discharged, a schedule of interim and long-term system modifications and improvements, a summary report of all findings and actions, and a detailed analysis of dilution and dispersion of the overflow after discharge through the ocean outfall.

The Central Coast Water Board regulates the Monterey One Regional WWTP via Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2014-0013. Water Board staff has informed Monterey One that the overflow is a violation of Discharge Prohibition II.D, which prohibits overflows that result in the discharge of untreated wastewater to waters of the U.S. As noted above, Monterey One has committed to providing further technical analysis of the cause and effects of the overflow by February 9 and February 26, 2018. Water Board staff is evaluating the reports as received and intends to propose formal enforcement action in accordance with Order No. R3-2014-0013, the California Water Code, the Clean Water Act, and the State Water Board Enforcement Policy.