

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

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 16-17, 2022**

Prepared on May 27, 2022

**ITEM NUMBER:** 13

**SUBJECT:** Field Trip - Tour of the Cayucos Sanitary District Water Resource Recovery Facility

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**KEY INFORMATION**

Location: 800 Toro Creek Road, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County  
Type of Discharge: Treated domestic wastewater  
Design Capacity: 0.34 million gallons per day (MGD)  
Treatment: Disinfected tertiary through membrane bioreactor filtration and ultraviolet disinfection  
Disposal: Discharge through ocean outfall located approximately 3000 feet from shore at a depth of approximately 50 feet  
Reclamation: Production of disinfected tertiary water, reuse onsite, and assessing options for reuse offsite, which would be covered by separate permits  
Existing Orders: Order No. R3-2020-0004, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA3000001

**ACTION:** Information and Field Trip

**SUMMARY**

This item consists of a tour of the Cayucos Sanitary District Water Resource Recovery Facility starting at 10:00 a.m., Friday June 17<sup>th</sup>. The facility is located at 800 Toro Creek Road, off State Route 1 north of Morro Bay. The tour is open to the public. All participants will be required to sign a waiver and release of liability form (Attachment 1).

The Cayucos Sanitary District (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the recently constructed Cayucos Sanitary District Water Resource Recovery Facility (Facility). The Facility is a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and was constructed from 2018 through 2021 as part of the Cayucos Sustainable Water Project, a multi-year project to provide Cayucos with efficient, reliable, and adaptable wastewater treatment, while producing a high-quality water supply to benefit the community. The Cayucos Sanitary District is located within the unincorporated coastal community of Cayucos and serves a population of approximately 2,904 people. The Facility has an average annual daily

design flow of 0.34 MGD and discharges tertiary treated wastewater to the Pacific Ocean under Order No. R3-2020-0004, NPDES Permit No. CA3000001.

The Facility is located at a site in the Toro Creek valley approximately 0.75 miles inland from State Route 1 north of Morro Bay. The location of the Facility was selected with consideration given to coastal hazards and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, including sea level rise and flooding risks. The Discharger is also exploring beneficial reuse projects to maximize the amount of treated effluent used for beneficial reuse.

## DISCUSSION

### Background

Prior to the construction and operation of the Facility, the Discharger sent its untreated wastewater to the existing Morro Bay/Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Morro Bay and was regulated by Order No. R3-2017-0050, NPDES Permit No. CA0047881. The Morro Bay/Cayucos WWTP was unable to consistently comply with the final effluent limitations in its permit, so the Central Coast Water Board issued Time Schedule Order (TSO) No. R3-2018-0050, which required full compliance with Order No. R3-2017-0050 by February 28, 2023. In addition, the California Coastal Commission mandated the Morro Bay/Cayucos WWTP be relocated from the existing coastal location subject to coastal hazards and vulnerabilities associated with climate change.

The Discharger, within the schedule required by TSO No. R3-2018-0019, broke ties with the City of Morro Bay and constructed and began operation of the new Facility near Toro Creek. The Discharger ceased sending wastewater to the Morro Bay/Cayucos WWTP in September 2021.

The Facility's treatment process includes headworks screening and grit removal facilities, a membrane bioreactor, and ultraviolet disinfection. The Discharger dewateres wastewater solids in a screw press and hauls the solids offsite for disposal. The Discharger currently reuses a portion of the treated wastewater for onsite uses and discharges the remaining effluent through an ocean outfall formerly associated with the Chevron Estero Marine Shore Terminal. The Facility is designed to treat wastewater to disinfected tertiary recycled water standards, as defined by California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.230.

The Discharger is assessing options for providing recycled water for offsite use. The Central Coast Water Board will authorize any distribution and offsite use of recycled water under a separate permit. In December 2021, the Discharger submitted *Recycled Water Management Plan – Phase 1*, which included a timeline for assessing and implementing beneficial reuse options. The Discharger is required to submit *Recycled Water Management Plan – Phase 2* by June 3, 2025, which will describe in detail how the Discharger will maximize the amount of treated effluent used for beneficial reuse, with the goal of achieving maximum beneficial reuse. Some options that the Discharger

is currently assessing include construction of a conveyance pipeline for recycled water to Whale Rock Reservoir for reservoir augmentation or to the County Service Area 10 Surface Water Treatment Facility for production of direct potable recycled water and agricultural reuse. The *Recycled Water Management Plan – Phase 2* will include a ranking of beneficial reuse options, beneficial reuse feasibility assessment, proposed beneficial reuse(s), a summary of stakeholder involvement, and next steps.

### **Facility Tour**

Cayucos Sanitary District staff will provide an update to the board and a tour of the Facility. The tour will begin outside the Facility located at 800 Toro Creek Road in Morro Bay.

The Discharger has requested that all members of the public sign a brief liability waiver prior to entering the premises (Attachment 1). Liability waivers will be available onsite at the beginning of the tour.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Cayucos Sanitary District owns and operates the recently constructed Cayucos Sanitary District Water Resource Recovery Facility. On Friday, June 17, during its regularly scheduled board meeting, the Central Coast Water Board will tour the Facility to learn more about its treatment process and potential future upgrades. The tour is open to the public and will start at 10:00 a.m.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Cayucos Sanitary District Sustainable Water Project Tour - Waiver and Release of Liability

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