

APPENDIX C: NOTES REGARDING SPILLS AND LEAKS, HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS, AND ONSITE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

This is a summary of investigations into the potential of spill/leaks, homeless, and septic systems being sources of indicator bacteria in the Salinas River Fecal Coliform TMDL project area watershed.

Spills/Leaks

Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency

The facility is located outside the project area. But a portion of the collection system lies in the project area. The City of Salinas and Castroville are in the project area and are serviced by the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA).

MRWPCA reports spills and leaks. In some cases, the municipalities report them for their portion of the collection system as well.

CIWQS Data

Scan for spills and leaks from 2004-2006 (same as data period used in TMDL analysis)

-Nothing reported in CIWQS in the project area.

FILE (2004 –present)

No spills in project area that entered surface waters.

WDR for collection system for MRWPCA

Includes Salinas and Castroville in the project area.

CIWQS

-Nothing reported 2004- present.

FILE

No spills that entered a surface water in 2004-2006.

Note that spills/leaks that occurred in Castroville or Salinas are reported by County of Monterey (Castroville) or City of Salinas, respectively. The spills that are listed below are in the jurisdiction of Castroville or Salinas, not MRWPCA.

1. January 2005: 300 gallons spilled on Alisal Street in Salinas. All recovered; nothing to surface waters. Cause: grease caused blockage.
2. 24May2003: 15 gallons in Castroville. No waterbodies affected.

3. 16May2003: 100 gallons in Castroville. Cause: grease caused blockage. No waterbodies affected
4. 4September 2003: 100 gallons in Castroville. Cause: grease caused blockage. No waterbodies affected.
5. 10August 2003: 150 gallons in Castroville. Cause: grease. No waterbodies affected.
6. 4May2003: 800 gallons at Boronda and Virginia Road. Cause: pump station failure. No waterbody affected.

Waterbodies potentially affected: Tembladero Slough.

Gonzales Wastewater Treatment

CIWQS

-Nothing reported

FILE

1. December 2, 2005: 8640 gallons of gray water spilled from a housing complex to the storm sewer that drained to a storm water pond. There was no discharge to surface water.

Note that the only spill was gray water, and not untreated domestic sewage. Also note that the discharge occurred to land and not a waterbody.

Monterey County CSA: Chualar Wastewater Treatment Plant

CIWQS

-Nothing reported

FILE

No spills reported from January 2004 to present.

Monterey Dunes Colony

CIWQS

-Nothing reported

FILE

-No spills reported from January 2004 to present.

Salinas Industrial

Treats industrial wastes from packing plants in the Salinas area. The effluent does not contain municipal wastewater; only industrial water from vegetable

processors is collected. Therefore, there is not likelihood that these spills will contain significant levels fecal indicator bacteria. Coliform monitoring of the discharge required. The treatment ponds are near Salinas River.

CIWQS Data

Scan for spills and leaks from 2004-2006.

-Nothing reported

FILE

The following spills occurred in the City of Salinas

1. 24August05: 75-100 gallons near Manchester Street. Cause: debris (paper).All recovered.
2. 6February 05: small leak from the pond to Salinas River, unknown volume.
3. 12April2006: 500 gallons from a lift station near mobile home park. Some may have entered Salinas Reclamation Canal.
4. 11April06: 15 gallons from Mobile home park, 1-5 gallons entered Salinas Reclamation Canal.
5. 11December 2005: 40 gallons to storm drain at Noice Drive. Cause: blockage. [Cruse: near Santa Rita or Gabilan Creeks?]
6. 13November 2005: 35 gallons from private lateral to storm drain, then to man-made lake (not an impaired water body).
7. 17October 2005: 5-10 gallons from manhole to Natividad Creek.
8. 23March2005: 150-200 gallons from manhole to stormwater drain at Sycamore Road. Hot spot on list for city to fix. [Cruse: near Reclamation Canal]
9. 21April2005: 150-400 gallons discharged to storm drain. Cause: blockage in pipe.
10. 6February 2005: 6-30 gallons.
11. 15April2004: 90 gallons to storm drain on Marin Ave. [Cruse: near Gabilan Creek].
12. 2January 2004: unknown volume to storm drain. Cause: private lateral near Laurel Drive. Stormwater from this area goes to detention ponds.

Waterbodies potentially affected: Salinas River, Salinas Reclamation Canal, Gabilan Creek, Natividad Creek.

Cruse: 12January 08, met with Matthew Keeling, staff person assigned to this facility. Matthew agreed that the Water Board should require effluent monitoring of fecal indicator bacteria. The longevity of the required monitoring will depend on the initial monitoring. Changes to the Monitoring and Reporting Plan will be required through notification by the Executive Office of the Water Board.

California Utilities WWTP

CIWQS

No information

FILE

2/3/2007: spill at 14185 Mountain Quail Road, Salinas. Grease caused blockage. Unknown volume but "intercepted at storm drain to mitigate dischg. Vacuumed storm drain & disinfected."

1/29/2007: spill between 19055 and 19605 Portola Drive, Salinas. "Discharge to stormdrain and Toro Creek." Cause was blocked flow possibly due to vandalism. Total volume was 2500 gallons of which 1000 gallons was recovered.

Both of these spills were a potential threat to Toro Creek, which is a tributary to the Salinas River, and are recent spills.

Watertek Inc. Indian Springs STP

CIWQS

-No information

FILE:

-No violations noted

Watertek Inc. Oak Hills

CIWQS

-No information

8/2/2004: Vandals blocked manhole causing 800-1000 gallon spill but no water bodies affected.

Note giving this entity an allocation due to the age of the only spill and the fact it did not affect a water body.

Las Palmas and Spreckles WWTP

These are all the spills we have reported in CIWQS for Spreckles WWTP and Las Palmas (California American Company). (Email from Sherry Kuykendall 14Dec07)

3 California American Company

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

LAS PALMAS RANCH WWTP 3 271026001

196733 Water Quality -> Sanitary Sewer Overflow/Spill/ N NON15

Violation 06 Jun 2004 Broken pipe caused 18,000-gallon reclaimed irrigation water release to Salinas River bed. No Cl residual. Percolated into riverbed. No further action recommended at this time. (Croze: note that this is irrigation water and not untreated domestic sewage).

3 California American Company
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
LAS PALMAS RANCH WWTP 3 271026001
256674 Water Quality -> Sanitary Sewer Overflow/Spill/ N NON15
Violation 02 Aug 2004 Grease blockage caused 500-800 gallon sewage spill from Green Belt Swill, behind 9712 Trefoil. No waterbodies involved. No further action necessary.

3 California American Company
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
LAS PALMAS RANCH WWTP 3 271026001
232626 Water Quality -> Sanitary Sewer Overflow/Spill/ N NON15
Violation 29 May 2003 800 to 1,000 gallons spill when pump station failure caused sewage back up. Spillage to Salinas River. Appropriate action taken. No further action necessary.

Potential waterbodies affected: Salinas River.

Cruse: 11 January 08, I met with Mathew Keeling of the Water Board, staff person assigned to this facility. Matthew said that the 18,000 gallon spill in 2004 was indeed 3rd treated water and was discharged to a dry river bed; there was no threat to water quality. Matthew is familiar with the facility and is confident that spills are not a chronic problem.

County of Monterey (Boronda, Castroville)

This is the WDR for the collection system.

Future spills occurring in Castroville will be reported by the Castroville Community Services District, who has jurisdiction over sewage collection system in Castroville.

October 8, 2006: Estimated 600 gallons spilled behind the old Post Office antique Store between the store and Whole Enchilada restaurant. Cause was grease blockage. Greenline was called to vacuum and bleach applied to contaminated area. (Castroville) (Cruse: spills in Castroville will need to be addressed).

November 3, 2006. Estimated 100 gallons spilled at Boronda Oaks lift station on Canario Street in Boronda. Cause was electrical problem caused mechanical failure. Spill was vacuumed and disinfected. (Boronda) (Cruse: this is a single spill in Boronda that did not affect a waterbody; not further implementation is needed).

The following was obtained from CIWQS:

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|------------|
| 236156 | 100 gallon overflow from manhole due to grease buildup of main gravity line to lift station. | Violation | 09/04/2003 |
| 238878 | 1,000 gallon overflow from manhole behind lift station and flowed down drainage ditch approximately 200 feet. Both pumps and alarm failed. | Violation | 08/19/2003 |
| 225662 | 800 gallons spill from Bonoda Road into drainage ditch and lettuce field. Spillage due to pump station failure. | Violation | 05/04/2003 |

Castroville Water District (Facility ID: 3 SSO11443)

The Castroville Water District (CWD) is responsible for the sewage collection system in Castroville. Spill reports will be coming from the CWD, not the MRWPCA or County of Monterey.

Eric Tynan
 General Manager
 Castroville Water District
 831-633-2560

The CWD is an enrollee in the Statewide General Order:

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
 ORDER NO. 2006-0003-DWQ
 STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
 FOR
 SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

City of Salinas

From CIWQS:
 WDR for collection system.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|------------|
| 625431 | A blockage at 607-617 Sanborn Road caused 50 gal. sewage spill to curb and storm drain | Violation | 07/30/2007 |
| 570384 | Blocked sewer main at 58 Natividad Rd. (Lakeview Apts.) Salinas, caused 750 gal. sewage spill into Apt. units, storm drain into Carr Lake and Reclamation Canal. | Violation | 06/12/2007 |
| 568228 | Back-up on main drain from 58 Natividad Rd. Salinas, caused 1000 gal. sewage spill to Reclamation Canal. | Dismissed | 06/12/2007 |

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|------------------------|--|-----------|------------|
| 568259 | Lift station failure at 1441 Constitution, Salinas, caused 700 gal. sewage spill to ditch at Natividad Hospital. | Violation | 06/11/2007 |
| 570369 | Blockage in City sewer main at 156 Imperial Way / Napa St. Salinas, caused 75-100 gal. sewage spill to curb, gutter and storm drain (approx. 10 to 15 gal). | Violation | 06/07/2007 |
| 507651 | Blockage in Plaza Club Apts. sewer lines caused a 75-100 gal. sewage spill from 195 Harden Parkway to Reclamation Canal 1665/storm drain. | Violation | 04/11/2007 |
| 366917 | Failure of a lift station in a mobile home park caused 500-gallons of sewage to spill from 150 Sherwood Drive to Reclamation Canal 1665. | Violation | 04/12/2006 |
| 366908 | Blockage in sewer main caused less than 15-gallons of sewage to spill from the intersection of Market and Kern to Reclamation Canal 1665. | Dismissed | 04/11/2006 |
| 361133 | Motorhome dumped 20-gallons of waste into gutter which carried spill to storm drain. | Violation | 09/22/2005 |
| 361129 | Debris and/or grease caused 75-100 gallons of sewage to spill from manhole at 1570 Manchester Street and Peaceful Cove. | Violation | 08/24/2005 |
| 361132 | Blockage in private lateral caused an unknown amount of sewage to spill from 1378 N. Davis Road, Westridge Shopping Center, to the storm drain. | Violation | 08/21/2005 |
| 361116 | Vandalism caused a blockage in the city's main line which caused 1,000-1,500 gallons of sewage to spill from Hibino Farms near intersection of Sherwood Drive and E. Bernal Drive. [Cruse: likely Natividad or Gabilan Creek]. | Violation | 06/23/2005 |
| 229343 | Main line grease blockage caused 300-gallon sewage spill from Castro Boulevard (between N. County High School and lift station) to street. | Violation | 01/29/2005 |
| 262167 | Private lateral grease blockage caused 250-300 gallon sewage spill from 800 E. Alisal Street (behind shopping center) to alley and paved surfaces on Felice Street. No waterbodies affected. | Violation | 01/21/2005 |
| 263200 | Blockage caused 50-gallon sewage spill from 13278 Jackson Street to Santa Rita Creek. | Violation | 01/14/2005 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|------------|
| 263236 | Paper and debris blockage caused 200-gallon sewage spill from 100 Alvin Drive to storm drain. | Violation | 01/14/2005 |
| 261809 | Grease blockage caused 50-75 gallon sewage spill from corner of Jackson and Van Buren streets to Santa Rita Creek. | Violation | 01/14/2005 |
| 260703 | Broken private lateral caused 50-gallon sewage spill from 739 Las Casitas to Natividad Creek. | Violation | 12/01/2004 |
| 257202 | Grease buildup and poorly-maintained Northridge Mall sewage pump station caused 100-gallon sewage spill from mall parking lot to storm drain. Spill did not reach water. | Violation | 07/31/2004 |
| 204968 | Mainline blockage caused 100-gallon sewage spill from manhole at 753 Elkington to a storm drain at the corner of Del Monte Avenue and Elkington Street. | Violation | 05/23/2004 |
| 252473 | Grease blockage in sewer main caused 90 gallons of sewage to spill from 1544 Marin Avenue to storm drain. | Violation | 04/15/2004 |
| 246831 | Unknown quantity of sewage spilled to storm drain flowing to Chavez Park detention ponds. | Violation | 01/02/2004 |

Waterbodies potentially affected: Salinas Reclamation Canal, Natividad Creek, Gabilan Creek, Santa Rita Creek

Monterey County CSA Chualar WWTP

CIWQS

-No spills or leaks reported

FILE

No spills/leaks reported from 2004 to present.

Gonzales WWTP

CIWQS

-No spills or leaks reported

FILE

2December 2005: 8,640 gallons of grey water spilled to a stormwater pond from a housing complex.

Monterey Dunes Colony

CIWQS

-No spills or leaks reported

FILE

No spills/leaks reported from 2004 to present.

Homeless Encampments

No numeric data to report. Cannot determine loading from this source.

Interviews with city and county personnel.

2January2007: Personal Communication with Denise Estrada, Public Works for the city of Salinas

Homeless encampments typically occur on Natividad and Gabilan Creeks. Residents are typically Mexican and Indian laborers working in the Salinas area who don't have another place to live.

The encampments are sometimes semi-sophisticated, with designated areas for bathroom activities, chicken coops, separate rooms, etc., built similar to their homes in their homeland.

Dispersing the residents of the encampment normally leads to another encampment being built in the area. Dispersal involves the Health Department, Police, and city staff.

21March2007: Personal Communication with Sgt. Luther of Monterey County Sheriff Dept.

Homeless encampments typically on county property typically near Pajaro River at extreme north end of county line; at Salinas Road and San Juan Road. (this is not in the project area watershed). Has witnessed homeless urinating in the creeks. Fecal matter on the ground is common at this encampment.

Has seen a homeless encampment at the Salinas River at Hwy-68 crossing. This encampment is not extensive.

Said he would accompany water board staff through homeless encampments if we desire.

Onsite Disposal Systems

There is an old MOU between the Water Board and the County of Monterey regarding onsite disposal systems. The MOU is no longer in effect because it referred to and relied upon a Basin Plan waiver, which was revoked years ago.

27March2007: Spoke with Nicki Silva of Monterey County Health Dept. Personal communication. 831-755-4584

Questions/Answers

Q: Do you inspect existing septic systems?

A: Generally not, unless there is a complaint or permit for an addition to a home.

Q: How old is the Bolsa Knowles area? (housing development just outside city of Salinas and all on septic)

A: We think its about 50 years old. This area has a lot of people with animals. I've heard of people dumping horse manure in the creek [Santa Rita Creek].

Q: Is there an ordinance regulating sewage disposal?

A: Yes, see Monterey County website; Monterey County Code, Title 15 (Public Services), Chapter 15.20 "Sewage Disposal"
(municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/montereyco)

29March2007: personal communication with Susan Rimando, Monterey County Health, Dept of Environmental Health.

Q: In your creek walks, have you witnessed what might be discharges from failing septic systems?

A: The pipes we found were followed back to the homes, all were stormwater, none septic. There are not too many shallow septic systems. There are some failures now and then, but the problem is animals. In the 2005 creek walk, we sent 6-violations to individuals. Six photos were taken, and there is no official report. There will be another creek walk on April 19th 2007 of the Santa Rita Creek area. We will incorporate the 2005 results in the 2007 report.

9July2007: personal communication with Ralph Sahagun of Tom's Septic Services. 831-663-4083.

Mr. Sahagun has over 20 years of experience with septic installation, repair, and service. He says there are some problem areas.

- Castroville: some problem areas due to clay soils.
- Visa del Rio off River Road is a problem area due to clay soils and high ground water, but the housing area is not adjacent to the Salinas River.
- Aromos: mostly good due to sandy soils but some problem areas in valleys due to clay soils (this area is not in the Project area).
- Bolsa Knowles: this area is adjacent to the City of Salinas and Santa Rita Creek. The homes are on septic. They were built in the 1950s and 1960s. Mr. Sahagun said he has been fixing some septic problems in the Bolsa Knowles area, and most of them are “fixable” problems, whereas some areas (not necessarily Bolsa Knowles) there is no solution due to soils and groundwater; Bolsa Knowles area is not such an area.
- Prunedale, South Road: Mr. Sahagun mentioned that this is a problem area; it’s almost impossible to get a consistently working system.

I asked Mr. Sahagan if he ever sees failing septic systems discharging to a surface water, he replied that he has seen this sometimes.