



**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

July 3, 2015

Mr. Ulrich Brugger  
The Ojai Retreat Inc.  
160 Besant Road  
Ojai, CA 93023

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
CLAIM NO. 7014 2120 0004 7561 7443

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2012-0032, APPROVING WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY FOR SITING, DESIGN, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, OJAI RETREAT, 160 BESANT ROAD, OJAI, CA 93023 (FILE NO. 05-125, CI-9040, GLOBAL ID WDR100000716)**

Dear Mr. Brugger:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board), is the public agency with primary responsibility for the protection of ground and surface water quality for all beneficial uses of water within major portions of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, including your property.

The subject facility is a non-profit retreat and cultural center with three onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). Septic System #1 consists of a 1,000-gallon septic tank and a 75-foot leach line; Septic System #2 consists of 1,000-gallon and 1,500-gallon septic tanks and shared leach lines totaling 182 linear feet; and Septic System #3 consist of 1,500-gallon and 1,000-gallon septic tanks and shared one 75-foot and three 70-foot leach lines. The estimated total maximum daily volume of wastewater discharged into OWTS is 1,020 gallons per day (gpd). Unless properly designed, operated and maintained, OWTS have a potential for impacting both surface and ground water quality. Consequently, the Regional Board has regulated your OWTS by a permit in order to protect water quality. Your OWTS has been regulated by the Regional Board General Waste Discharge Order No. 01-031 and the associated monitoring and reporting program (MRP) CI No.9040.

On June 19, 2012, State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) adopted Resolution No. 2012-0032, which adopted the "*Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems*" (OWTS Policy). The OWTS Policy became effective on May 13, 2013 and subsequently was incorporated into the Regional Board Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) by Resolution No. R14-007, adopted on May 8, 2014.

Regional Board staff have reviewed the information provided and have determined that the subject facility meets the conditions specified in the OWTS Policy, Tier 0 (section 6.0). Therefore, effective **July 1, 2015** the subject site will be covered by the waiver included in the OWTS Policy.

CHARLES STRINGER, CHAIR | SAMUEL UNGER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Therefore, the current coverage of General WDR Order No. 01-031 and the associated monitoring and reporting program (MRP) CI No. 9040 are terminated. The conditional waiver contained in the OWTS Policy waives the requirements to submit a report of waste discharge, obtain waste discharge requirements, and pay fees.

Enclosed are the requirements for Tier 0 and the *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements* (section 12 of the OWTS Policy). Should changes to the septic disposal system be needed, revised engineering drawings showing the change must be filed with the Regional Board a minimum of thirty days prior to the change. The discharger must receive approval of such change. The complete OWTS Policy is available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/owts/docs/owts\\_policy.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/docs/owts_policy.pdf)

Failure to abide by the conditions of the OWTS Policy, the waiver of waste discharge requirements, and this letter authorizing applicability, could result in enforcement actions as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager, Ms. Ann Chang, at (213) 620-6122 ([Ann.Chang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ann.Chang@waterboards.ca.gov)), or the Chief of Groundwater Permitting Unit, Dr. Eric Wu at (213) 576-6683 ([Eric.Wu@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Wu@waterboards.ca.gov)).

Sincerely,

  
Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Tier 0 – Existing OWTS  
Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements

cc (via email): Ms. Melinda Talent, Environmental Health Division, County of Ventura

## Tier 0 – Existing OWTS

### Tier 0 – Existing OWTS

Existing OWTS that are properly functioning and do not meet the conditions of failing systems or otherwise require corrective action (for example, to prevent groundwater impairment) as specifically described in Tier 4, and are not determined to be contributing to an impairment of surface water as specifically described in Tier 3, are automatically included in Tier 0.

#### 6.0 Coverage for Properly Operating Existing OWTS

- 6.1 Existing OWTS are automatically covered by Tier 0 and the herein included waiver of waste discharge requirements if they meet the following requirements:
  - 6.1.1 have a projected flow of 10,000 gallons-per-day or less;
  - 6.1.2 receive only domestic wastewater from residential or commercial buildings, or high-strength wastewater from commercial food service buildings that does not exceed 900 mg/L BOD and has a properly sized and functioning oil/grease interceptor (a.k.a. grease trap);
  - 6.1.3 continue to comply with any previously imposed permitting conditions;
  - 6.1.4 do not require supplemental treatment under Tier 3;
  - 6.1.5 do not require corrective action under Tier 4; and
  - 6.1.6 do not consist of a cesspool as a means of wastewater disposal.
- 6.2 A Regional Water Board or local agency may deny coverage under this Policy to any OWTS that is:
  - 6.2.1 Not in compliance with Section 6.1;
  - 6.2.2 Not able to adequately protect the water quality of the waters of the State, as determined by the Regional Water Board after considering any input from the local agency. A Regional Water Board may require the submission of a report of waste discharge to receive Region specific waste discharge requirements or waiver of waste discharge requirements so as to be protective.
- 6.3 Existing OWTS currently under waste discharge requirements or individual waiver of waste discharge requirements will remain under those orders until notified in writing by the appropriate Regional Water Board that they are covered under this Policy.

## Waiver – Effective Date – Financial Assistance

### Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements

- 12.0 In accordance with Water Code section 13269, the State Water Board hereby waives the requirements to submit a report of waste discharge, obtain waste discharge requirements, and pay fees for discharges from OWTS covered by this Policy. Owners of OWTS covered by this Policy shall comply with the following conditions:
- 12.0.1 The OWTS shall function as designed with no surfacing effluent.
  - 12.0.2 The OWTS shall not utilize a dispersal system that is in soil saturated with groundwater.
  - 12.0.3 The OWTS shall not be operated while inundated by a storm or flood event.
  - 12.0.4 The OWTS shall not cause or contribute to a condition of nuisance or pollution.
  - 12.0.5 The OWTS shall comply with all applicable local agency codes, ordinances, and requirements.
  - 12.0.6 The OWTS shall comply with and meet any applicable TMDL implementation requirements, special provisions for impaired water bodies, or supplemental treatment requirements imposed by Tier 3.
  - 12.0.7 The OWTS shall comply with any corrective action requirements of Tier 4.
- 12.1 This waiver may be revoked by the State Water Board or the applicable Regional Water Board for any discharge from an OWTS, or from a category of OWTS.

### Effective Date

- 13.0 This Policy becomes effective six months after its approval by the Office of Administrative Law, and all deadlines and compliance dates stated herein start at such time.