



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 19, 2020

Mr. David Rowlands, City Manager
City of Fillmore
250 Central Avenue
Fillmore, CA 93015
drowlands@fillmoreca.gov

Via Email Only

TENTATIVE AMENDMENT TO EXTEND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR FILLMORE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND FILLMORE WASTEWATER RECYCLING PLANT – CITY OF FILLMORE, CALIFORNIA (FILE NO. 54-105, ORDER NO. R4-2017-0186, CI-1076, GLOBAL ID WDR100001584)

Dear Mr. Rowlands:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) adopted Order No. R4-2006-0049 on May 11, 2006, prescribing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the discharge of treated wastewater from the Fillmore Wastewater Treatment Plant and Fillmore Wastewater Recycling Plant (FWRP) to two percolation ponds, as well as Monitoring and Reporting Program No. CI-1076. On August 11, 2015, the City of Fillmore (City) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge to the Regional Water Board for renewal of the WDRs. Order No. R4-2006-0049 expired on May 11, 2016. On October 5, 2017, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R4-2017-0186 for a short-term renewal of WDRs to extend the expiration date to October 7, 2018. On September 13, 2018, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R4-2017-0186-A01 amending the WDRs to extend the expiration date to October 31, 2020. The short term renewal of the WDRs in 2017 and the amendment in 2018 to extend the expiration date to October 31, 2020 were necessary to allow additional time for staff to comprehensively review reports and data to determine if additional requirements were necessary to adequately protect waters of the State.

The Lower Santa Clara River Basin, located in the southwestern portion of Ventura County consists of the Piru, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Mound and Oxnard Forebay subbasins. These sub-basins are overlain by the cities of Fillmore, Santa Paula, and San Buenaventura (Ventura) and small, unincorporated communities in Ventura County. The groundwater and surface water in the area are strongly interconnected with flow generally moving from the upper portions of the watershed to the lower portion of the watershed.

IRMA MUÑOZ, CHAIR | RENEE PURDY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Upon review of all existing reports and data, Regional Water Board staff have determined that additional time is needed to resolve chloride and boron compliance issues for the Fillmore groundwater basin and the encompassing Lower Santa Clara River Basin. In order to achieve groundwater basin management goals, additional time is needed to continue discussions with the City of Fillmore and to explore a regional salt management approach in the Lower Santa Clara River Basin. With the advent of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic (COVID-19), adjustment to remote working situations, a shift in priorities to address COVID-19 related relief requests and inquiries, and the recent significant loss of staff, in addition to the complexity of issues and the need to explore a regional salt management approach as an effective long term solution to the chloride and boron exceedances from the FWRP, staff finds that a second amendment of Order No. R4-2017-0186 to extend the expiration of the WDRs is necessary. To provide the necessary additional time, Regional Water Board staff proposes a limited revision to Order No. R4-2017-0186 to extend the expiration date by approximately 36 months, until either October 31, 2023 or upon issuance of new or revised WDRs, whichever occurs first. The tentative amendment for the extension can be found in Provision H.23 of the WDRs (Page 23). Order No. R4-2017-0186-A01 is available at the [Regional Water Board's website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/adopted_orders/docs/1076_R4-2017-0186-A01_WDR_amd.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/adopted_orders/docs/1076_R4-2017-0186-A01_WDR_amd.pdf). All other requirements, limitations, and provisions of Order No. R4-2017-0186, as amended, will remain the same.

Regional Water Board staff requests comments on the proposed timeframe extension of Order No. R4-2017-0186-A01. In accordance with administrative procedures, the Regional Water Board, at a public hearing to be held on **October 8, 2020**, will consider the enclosed focused amendment to Order No. R4-2017-0186-A01. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, the public hearing will be conducted via remote presence using video and teleconference participation, unless otherwise announced.

In order to be evaluated by Regional Water Board staff and included in the Regional Water Board's agenda packet, written comments or evidence regarding the tentative extension timeframe must be received at the Regional Water Board's office by 5:00 PM on **September 18, 2020**. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Regional Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or evidence into the record. Timely submittal of written comments is required to ensure that all comments are accurately and fully included in the administrative record, that Regional Water Board staff is able to provide timely review and time to respond to comments, and that Regional Water Board members have sufficient time to give full consideration to the comments and issues raised.

The tentative Order, amending Order No. R4-2017-0186-A01, is enclosed and also available at the [Regional Water Board's website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.html/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.html/)

The agenda for the meeting will be posted at the [Regional Water Board's website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_info/agenda/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_info/agenda/) approximately 10 days prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager, Dr. Woonhoe Kim, at Woonhoe.Kim@waterboards.ca.gov or at (213) 620-2264, or me at Milasol.Gaslan@waterboards.ca.gov or at (213) 576-6776.

Sincerely,

Milasol Gaslan, P.E., Chief
Groundwater Permitting and Land Disposal Section

Enclosure:

Tentative Order, Amending WDRs Order No. R4-2017-0186-A01

cc (via email): Mr. David Burkhart, City of Fillmore, davidb@ci.fillmore.ca.us
Ms. Roxanne Hughes, City of Fillmore, roxanneh@ci.fillmore.ca.us
Mr. Matt Petersen, American Water, matthew.petersen@veolia.com
Mr. Glen Hille, AECOM, glen.hille@aecom.com
Mr. Sean Debley, County of Ventura Environmental Health Division,
sean.debley@ventura.org