

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

ORDER NO. R1-2003-0048

RECISION OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. 98-103

FOR

CITY OF YREKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF)

Siskiyou County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds that:

1. The City of Yreka (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates facilities for treatment and disposal of municipal wastewater from the City of Yreka. These facilities consist of screening, activated sludge secondary treatment, clarification, aerobic sludge digestion, and disinfection by chlorination. The treatment facility is located at SW ¼ of Section 14, T45N, R7W, MDB&M (Attachment A). Treated wastewater is transferred through a pressure pipe to a primary 31-acre disposal field located approximately 800 feet north of the treatment facility. Effluent is disposed subsurface using a drip system.
2. Current Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are contained in Order No. 96-69, adopted by the Regional Water Board on September 26, 1996.
3. During 1997 and 1998, staff inspections and monitoring report reviews revealed that lower percolation ponds remained ponded throughout the year due to wastewater overloading and high groundwater in the disposal area. The lower ponds discharged into a cutoff trench, thence into Yreka Creek during wet weather conditions. Direct discharge of nutrient-rich effluent was not regulated by WDRs prescribed by the Regional Water Board and violated provisions of the North Coast Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan).
4. Staff inspections of the County of Siskiyou -Yreka solid waste disposal site revealed that it had received dewatered sludge from the City's WWTF that exceeded moisture content limits prescribed in the solid waste disposal regulations.

5. Cease and Desist Order No. 98-103, adopted by the Regional Water Board on September 24, 1998, was issued to the Discharger. Order 98-103 required elimination of discharges not regulated by WDRs and elimination of violations of Basin Plan water quality objectives. A restriction on new connections to the treatment facility was included in the Order. The restriction was to allow an additional 20,000 gallons per day inflow above existing levels in order to alleviate economic impacts to the City of Yreka and recognize recent improvements to the treatment facility.
6. On August 27, 1999, the Discharger proposed development of a long-term sludge disposal site. A 420-acre rotation crop site was selected for long-term sludge disposal. On April 27, 2000, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2000-32, WDRs for the City of Yreka Biosolids Disposal Facility.
7. The Discharger submitted an inflow reduction report on September 27, 1999, pursuant to Order 98-103. The Executive Officer granted an increased inflow into the WWTF of an additional 44,260 gpd.
8. On June 26, 2002, the City of Yreka submitted a Description of Project Proposal (Small Community Grant application attachment) to construct new effluent disposal improvements and upgrades to treatment processes. Facility improvements involved repair/renovation of existing equipment, minor changes to operating procedures, and use of a 31-acre field for subsurface disposal of treated effluent.
9. Wastewater treatment and disposal facility upgrades were completed during the 2002 summer/fall season. Treatment component upgrades included converting an existing digester to an aeration basin, adding a new digester, improving compaction and screening of influent solids, adding pumps for effluent transfer, and covering sludge drying beds. Use of the subsurface disposal area commenced in January 2003.
10. Effluent levels in the disposal ponds have been reduced noticeably since the subsurface disposal field was integrated into the system. Use of the alternate effluent disposal area (a wetland) has been suspended. Overland flows into the cutoff trench and seepage from the west bank of Yreka Creek have ceased. The Discharger has complied with Cease and Desist Order 98-103.
11. Regional Water Board action to rescind a cease and desist order is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15321.

12. On May 15, 2003, following due notice to the discharger and all other affected persons, the Regional Water Board conducted a public hearing and evidence was received regarding this Cease and Desist Order.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Cease and Desist Order No. 98-103 for City of Yreka Wastewater Treatment Facility is rescinded.

Ordered by _____
Susan A. Warner
Executive Officer
May 15, 2003

MAV:js/YrekaCDO recision