
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 16, 2016

Jerry Marcotte
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Dear Mr. Marcotte:

Subject: Review of Caltrans October 19, 2016 Letter - Domestic Wastewater Treatment System – Notice of Applicability of Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ

File: CDOT Collier Rest Area, Siskiyou County; WDID No. 1A13153RSIS

This letter serves as Notice of Applicability (NOA) from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) that the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order) is applicable to the subject wastewater system and that the system is henceforth regulated under the General Order as described below. A Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for the wastewater system is included as an enclosure of this NOA.

Caltrans (Discharger) submitted a report of waste discharge (ROWD) dated December 16, 2014, for the Caltrans Collier Rest Area Domestic Wastewater Treatment System located off of Interstate 5, south of Hornbrook, in Siskiyou County. Supplemental information regarding system design, maintenance, water supply backwash and bacteria and nitrate loading was provided on February 10, 2015, September 24, 2015, March 24, 2016, September 9, 2016, and October 19, 2016. Based on the information presented in the ROWD, the proposed wastewater treatment system and discharge are consistent with the requirements of the General Order.

The General Order contains requirements that apply to all wastewater systems and also requirements that apply only to specific types of treatment and/or disposal systems. Applicable site-specific requirements are discussed in Section 3 of the NOA. The

Discharger is responsible for all applicable requirements in the General Order, this NOA, and the MRP.

A copy of the General Order is enclosed with this NOA. The General Order is also available on the Internet at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wq2014_0153_dwq.pdf

1. Facility and Discharge Description

Facility

The Caltrans Collier Rest Area (Facility) is owned and operated by Caltrans and is located directly off Interstate 5, four miles south of Hornbrook in Siskiyou County. The Facility is not located in an area served by a regional wastewater collection system; therefore, domestic wastewater is collected and treated on-site. The site location is shown on Attachment A, which is attached hereto and is made part of this NOA by reference.

The Facility is located adjacent to the Klamath River and consists of: two comfort station buildings, a water supply treatment building and associated utilities and infrastructure. Drinking water for the Facility comes from the adjacent Klamath River, and is treated onsite at the water supply treatment plant. The water supply treatment plant discharges backwash wastewater to onsite retention basins. The Facility is not currently under permit by the Regional Water Board.

The Facility's domestic wastewater originating from the comfort station restrooms will be treated and disposed of via the domestic wastewater treatment system. The domestic wastewater system will consist of collection system piping, two urine tanks, two lift stations, one septic tank, two anaerobic media tanks, a recirculation tank, a recirculating sand filter, two subsurface wetlands, an effluent storage tank and a subsurface pressure dosed disposal field. Following treatment, the effluent will be disposed of through the subsurface pressure dosed disposal field.

The Facility's water supply treatment plant backwash wastewater is discharged into two onsite retention basins. This notice of applicability of the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (General Order) is applicable to the domestic wastewater system and not the water supply treatment plant backwash wastewater system.

Discharge Description

The domestic wastewater treatment system is designed for a peak daily flow of 14,300 gallons per day (gpd). Peak daily flow conditions take place during holiday weekends with peak interstate vehicle traffic. The average daily wastewater flow is projected to be 4,800 gpd. As described in the ROWD, the projected untreated and treated domestic wastewater

quality from the Facility is consistent with the characterization of wastewater in the General Order.

The overall plan layout of the wastewater collection system is included in the Engineers Report On Proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment System For RE Collier Safety Roadside Rest Area design plans and the Electrical, Mechanical, Water and Wastewater Design sheets for the Facility, prepared by Caltrans, and dated December 16, 2014, and October 24, 2014, respectively. These plans and reports are made part of this NOA by reference.

Primary Treatment and Collection System

Primary domestic waste treatment and collection will be provided using a gravity collection system, two urine diversion tanks and one septic tank, as described below.

Wastewater from each comfort station flows to their respective lift station. The urinal wastewater drains to urinal storage tanks where it is stored before draining back to the lift stations. Duplex grinder pumps in the lift stations discharge the diverted urinal wastewater and the remaining comfort station wastewater into a 20,000-gallon 3-chambered septic tank with an effluent filter. The septic tank is designed to provide a 4-day detention time under average flow conditions for solids removal prior to effluent entering the secondary wastewater system.

Secondary Wastewater Treatment System

A secondary wastewater treatment system will be installed to reduce the organic strength and solids content of the domestic wastewater to levels that are protective of groundwater quality prior to disposal to the subsurface pressure dosed disposal field. The treatment system consists of two anaerobic media tanks, a recirculation tank, a recirculating sand filter, two subsurface wetlands, an effluent storage tank and piping, pumps, and controls. The treatment system will be equipped with a pump control panel with remote telemetry that can control and monitor the treatment system and the subsurface disposal field. In case of power failures, a stand-by generator will be installed to provide electricity during electrical power outages.

Wastewater Discharge System

Following secondary level treatment, effluent will be disposed of at a subsurface pressure-dosed disposal field. A flow meter will measure the volume of effluent being discharged to the disposal field.

The subsurface disposal field will be located on the east side of the Facility as far away from the Klamath River as possible. The disposal field is designed to dispose of 4,800 gpd average daily flow and 14,300 gpd peak flow of effluent, with an application rate of 0.83 gallons/square foot/day. The disposal field will consist of 6,000 square feet of leachline trench bottom parceled into four zones. A 100 percent reserve disposal field area has been designated. The disposal field, reserve area, and treatment system components meet the setback requirements in the General Order.

Water Treatment Backwash Discharge System

The water supply backwash is estimated to be 1,500 to 5,000 gallons per month depending on rest area usage and the source water quality. Backwash from the water supply treatment plant discharges into two retention basins which have a volume greater than 4,000 gallons each. A flow meter is required to measure the volume of backwash discharged to the retention basins.

General WDR Order Coverage

Commencing on the date of this NOA, waste discharges from the Facility's domestic wastewater treatment system are regulated under the General Order (Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ).

2. California Environmental Quality Act

On May 27, 2016, Caltrans certified a Finding of No Significant Impact under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the construction of the domestic wastewater system (State Clearing House #201603213). No water quality related mitigation measures were included as a condition of project approval.

3. Site-Specific Requirements

A. General

The General Order contains prohibitions and specifications that apply to all wastewater systems covered under the General Order, and specifications that apply only to specific types of treatment and/or disposal systems. Discharges of wastes other than those described in the ROWD are prohibited.

Wastewater system managers and operators must be familiar with the applicable requirements contained in the General Order, this NOA, and MRP R1-2016-0052.

B. Reports to be Submitted to the Regional Water Board

1. The following technical reports, which form the main components of a comprehensive Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring program, shall be submitted as described below:
 - a) By June 30, 2017, the Discharger shall submit a Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (Response Plan) consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.a. The Response Plan shall, at a minimum, address the following:
 - 1) Operation and Control of Wastewater Treatment
 - 2) Solids and Sludge Handling
 - 3) Collection System Maintenance

- 4) Emergency Response
- 5) Notification Procedures

b) By June 30, 2017, the Discharger shall submit a Sampling and Analysis Plan consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.b.

2. The above reports shall be acceptable to the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer.

C. Septic Tanks

The domestic wastewater system serving the Facility includes a 20,000-gallon septic tank that provides primary treatment of the wastewater. Septic tanks require proper operation, maintenance, and monitoring in order to provide adequate and reliable wastewater treatment. This includes periodic inspection and removal, as needed, of accumulated solids. Requirements for septic tanks are included in General Order section B.2, Septic Systems, and in the enclosed MRP, at section titled "Septic Tank Monitoring and Maintenance." Operational maintenance and monitoring work on the septic system shall be conducted by qualified service providers with appropriate oversight by the Discharger. The Discharger is responsible for ensuring proper operation, maintenance, and monitoring of all septic tanks.

D. Subsurface Disposal System Requirements

The domestic wastewater system includes dispersal of treated effluent to subsurface soil via a 6,000 square foot subsurface disposal system. The Discharger is required to include a constructed primary disposal system with capacity for 100 percent of design flows, and a 100 percent capacity designated reserve area. The reserve area is for future use, in case the existing disposal system is found to be inadequate. The reserve area is required to remain available until needed. The Discharger has designated a 100 percent capacity reserve disposal area.

By June 30, 2017 the Discharger shall submit "As-Built" Plans for the constructed subsurface disposal system and associated groundwater monitoring wells.

E. APMP Geographic Area Eligibility

The geographic area of an Advanced Protection Management Program (APMP) is established (in order of hierarchy) by an approved TMDL, an approved local agency defined APMP, or 600 feet from a waterbody listed in Attachment 2 of the OWTS Policy. In general, wastewater systems located within the geographic area of an APMP are not eligible for coverage under this General Order unless the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer determines the discharge is acceptable based on site-specific conditions, the level of wastewater treatment, and/or total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation requirements.

The facility is not within the area of an APMP. In the event that the domestic wastewater system becomes subject to requirements of an APMP, the system will be evaluated for continued eligible coverage under the General Order.

4. Monitoring and Reporting Program

The Discharger shall comply with enclosed MRP R1-2016-0052, for the Caltrans Collier Rest Area Domestic Wastewater Treatment System, which is made part of this NOA by reference.

The MRP includes requirements for the monitoring and maintenance of the urine tanks, septic tank, monitoring of the disposal field, and quarterly groundwater monitoring.

Quarterly self-monitoring reports and an annual summary report are to be submitted to the Regional Water Board in accordance with the Table 7 of the MRP. The MRP should be consulted for all specific requirements.

5. Enforcement

Caltrans shall manage and discharge the waste subject to the terms and conditions of the General Order and this NOA and shall maintain exclusive control over the discharges. As such, Caltrans is responsible for compliance with the General Order and this NOA.

Failure to comply with the requirements in the General Order, this NOA, or the MRP could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

California Water Code section 13267 states, in part:

“In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.”

California Water Code section 13268 states, in part:

“(a) Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of section 13267, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of section 13399.2, or falsifying

any information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b).

(b)(1) Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with article 2.5 (commencing with section 13323) of chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs.”

The reports required in item 3.B are necessary to ensure that the Discharger complies with the NOA and General Order. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall submit the reports described herein.

Please review this NOA carefully to ensure that it completely and accurately reflects the discharge. If the discharge violates the terms or conditions listed, the Regional Water Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. Prior to allowing changes to the wastewater strength or generation rate, or if the method of waste discharge changes from that described in the ROWD, you must contact the Regional Water Board to determine if submittal of a ROWD is required.

6. Annual Fees

The waste discharge authorized by this NOA is subject to payment of annual fees under the State Water Board’s annual fee schedule for regulated discharges. Annual fees are based in part on ratings for threat to water quality and complexity. The subject Facility is currently rated 3-B. The annual fee for this rating in accordance with the current (FY 2016-2017) Fee Schedule is \$4,699; however, based on the flow rate, the discharge qualifies for the 50-percent fee discount. The annual fee for the discharge is currently \$2349.50.

The Fee Schedule is subject to change, and the fee for this Facility may change accordingly. Annual fees are due and payable as invoiced annually to the Discharger by the State Water Board.

7. Regional Water Board Contact Information

Regulation of the subject domestic wastewater treatment system under the General Order is managed by the Regional Water Board’s Land Disposal and Groundwater Permitting Unit. The case is currently assigned to Regional Water Board geologist Roy O’Connor. Questions or concerns about this NOA, the attached MRP, or related matters should be directed to Roy O’Connor at (707) 576-2670 or Roy.O'Connor@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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Attachments: Attachment A, Site Location Map
Attachment B, Wastewater Treatment System Schematic

Enclosures: Water Quality Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ
Monitoring and Reporting Program R1-2016-0052

cc: Timothy O'Brien, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento,
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Bill Navarre, Siskiyou County Health Department, Yreka,
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Attachment A - Site Location Map



Attachment B - Wastewater Treatment System Schematic

