
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Order No. R1-2020-0004
Rescission of Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2015-0008
for the
LOLETA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
NPDES NO. CA0023671
WDID NO. 1B80081OHUM
Humboldt County**

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

1. The Loleta Community Services District (CSD) (Permittee) owns the Loleta CSD Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works (POTW). The Facility is designed to provide secondary wastewater treatment for an average dry weather flow (ADWF) of 0.081 million gallons per day (mgd) and an average wet weather flow (AWWF) of 0.143 mgd. The Facility consists of a gravity collection system, an aeration basin, clarifier, chlorine contact chamber, and chlorine and sulfur dioxide flow-proportioning equipment. Effluent is currently discharged year-round at Discharge Point 001 to a wetland tributary of the Eel River.
2. On May 8, 2014, the Regional Water Board adopted WDR Order No. R1-2014-0013, NPDES Permit No. CA0023671 (2014 NPDES Permit) for the Permittee.
3. Concurrently with this Cease and Desist Order rescission, the Regional Water Board will consider adoption of a renewed NPDES Permit, Order No. R1-2020-0002 and issuance of Time Schedule Order No. R1-2020-0003.
4. On March 3, 2015, the Regional Water Board adopted Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R1-2015-0008, which established interim effluent limitations, and specific actions and milestones that lead to future compliance with the final effluent limitations in the 2014 NPDES Permit. Specifically, the CDO required the Permittee to implement specific actions to prevent chronic violations of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) and the 2014 NPDES Permit seasonal discharge prohibition which prohibits effluent discharges to the Eel

VALERIE L. QUINTO, CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

River and its tributaries from May 15 through September 30 each year. Additionally, the CDO required the Permittee to implement specific actions to prevent violations of the 2014 NPDES Permit Discharge Prohibitions for Average Dry Weather Flow and Average Wet Weather Flow and violations of the final effluent limitations for copper, carbon tetrachloride, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane and nitrate.

5. Task A in the CDO required that the Permittee, by no later than September 15, 2015, develop and implement a pollution minimization program and source control measures to identify and control pollutant sources identified in Finding 3 above. The Permittee submitted a Pollutant Minimization Program and Source Control Workplan on September 2, 2016 to satisfy Task A.
6. Task B in the CDO required that the Permittee, by no later than January 31, 2016, submit a Facilities Plan Report that characterizes and evaluates: existing Facility performance; existing conditions at Discharge Point 001 (Eel River); opportunities for treatment and/or disposal consolidation with nearby waste treatment and/or collection systems; alternative disposal system options; and wastewater treatment system alternatives to address effluent quality and treatment capacity. The report was used to identify the Permittee's Preferred Alternative(s) for implementation under Task C. The Permittee requested an extension on Tasks B and C in a letter dated November 10, 2015. An extension letter was granted on December 14, 2015 and extended the due date for Task B to July 31, 2016 and Task C to January 31, 2017. The Permittee submitted the Facilities Plan on July 29, 2016, and an updated Facilities Plan on September 16, 2016 to satisfy Task B.
7. Task C of the CDO required that the Permittee, by no later than June 30, 2016, submit a preliminary Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) based on the identified Preferred Alternative(s). The ROWD had to include: proposed discharge location(s); liquid and solids treatment technologies proposed for the Facility; anticipated effluent quality to be achieved by the proposed treatment technologies; and evaluation of the Preferred Alternative(s) ability to comply with the Discharge Prohibitions and Final Effluent Limitations with each discharge point and each constituent of concern. The Permittee submitted the preliminary ROWD to satisfy Task C on January 30, 2017.
8. Tasks D through H of the CDO required the Permittee to submit a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey, necessary documentation to complete the California Environmental Quality Act process, a report indicating progress and anticipated completion dates for additional agency permits, for actions to acquire land to complete the Preferred Alternative(s), and for securing funding for the Preferred Alternative. The Permittee was also required to submit documentation that land necessary for the Preferred Alternative has been acquired with a long-term lease. Documentation submitted by the Permittee confirms that Tasks D through H were completed on time.
9. The Permittee submitted a letter on April 5, 2018, requesting an extension for completion of the final two tasks, Tasks I and J, listed in the CDO. Task I required the Permittee to submit the final plans and specification for the Preferred

Alternative. Task J required the Permittee to complete construction of the Preferred Alternative. The letter stated that the Permittee experienced setbacks in securing a long-term lease for the summertime location for recycled water use. This caused a delay in completing design plans and specifications and completing construction of the Preferred Alternative.

To account for the delays, the Permittee requested an extension for submitting final plans and specifications (Task I) for the Preferred Alternative from April 1, 2018 to January 1, 2020 and an extension for completing construction of the Preferred Alternative from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2021. Regional Water Board staff concurs with both extension requests.

10. The Regional Water Board is issuing Time Schedule Order No. R1-2020-0003 (TSO) to establish a compliance schedule. The TSO will effectively replace the CDO, carrying forward the requirements to complete Task I and J and granting extensions requested by the Permittee. The TSO also includes interim Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations for copper, carbon tetrachloride, dichlorobromomethane, chlorodibromomethane, nitrate and Total Dissolved Solids as required by the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (State Implementation Policy or SIP).
11. Regional Water Board action to rescind Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2014-0013 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 15301.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2014-0013 is rescinded.

Ordered by _____

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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