
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2024-0014

Rescission of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2012-0101 and Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2012-0102.

for the

**OCCIDENTAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
AND SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY,
OCCIDENTAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

**NPDES Permit No. CA0023051
WDID No. 1A83001OSON**

Sonoma County

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

1. The following facts support rescission of Order Nos. R1-2012-0101 and R1-2012-0102, Waste Discharge Requirements and Cease and Desist Order, respectively, for the Occidental County Sanitation District and Sonoma County Water Agency, Occidental Wastewater Treatment Facility, Sonoma County.
 - a. The Occidental County Sanitation District (OCSD) owns the Occidental Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works (POTW). The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) is under contract to operate and maintain the Facility. The OCSD and SCWA are collectively referred to as the Permittee. The Facility has historically discharged secondary treated wastewater under Order No. R1-2012-0101, Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0023051 (Permit), adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on December 6, 2012. The Facility is located at 14445 Occidental Road, Occidental, California.

- b. Order No. R1-2012-0102, Cease and Desist Order, as modified by Order No. R1-2018-0007 (CDO), provides the Permittee additional time to implement a long-term solution to on-going Basin Plan and permit violations. Specifically, the CDO requires the Permittee to cease discharge of waste to Graham's Pond and Dutch Bill Creek between May 15 and September 30 of each year and established interim effluent limitations for BOD₅, TSS, copper, lead, silver, cyanide, dichlorobromomethane (DCBM), chlorodibromomethane (CDBM), bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, total coliform, and ammonia. Additionally, the CDO provides a compliance schedule for the Permittee to achieve compliance with the seasonal discharge prohibition and final effluent limitations by completing a capital improvement project (CIP).
 - c. Documentation submitted by the Permittee confirms that all actions necessary to complete the CIP and other tasks required by the CDO have been completed. Therefore, the Permittee has achieved compliance with applicable WDRs, including effluent limitations and Basin Plan prohibitions and requirements through the elimination of their discharge to Graham's Pond and Dutch Bill Creek. Furthermore, with the elimination of the Facility's discharge to Graham's Pond and Dutch Bill Creek, the Permittee no longer requires waste discharge requirements and a NPDES Permit.
2. On March 7, 2019, the Permittee submitted a request to rescind Order No. R1-2012-0101 after eliminating the Facility's discharges to Graham's Pond and Dutch Bill Creek. The Regional Water Board denied the rescission of the Permit and determined that the Permit must remain in place until all actions required by the CDO have been completed. Upon completion of all required regulatory actions, the Permittee verified that they still wished to have the Permit rescinded in an email dated February 9, 2024.
3. The Regional Water Board has notified the Permittee and all known interested parties of its intent to rescind the Permit and CDO.
4. The Regional Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the proposed rescission of the Permit and CDO in a public meeting on April 4, 2024.
5. Regional Water Board action to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2012-0101 and Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2012-0102, as revised by Modification Order No. R1-2018-0007, are 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 Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2012-0101 and Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2012-0102, as revised by Modification Order No. R1-2018-0007 are rescinded.

I, Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on April 4, 2024.

Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer

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