
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 17, 2021

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

**Rescission Order No. R1-2021-0018
Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order Number R1-2016-0041 and
Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0043**

for the

COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

**NPDES Permit No. CA0006700
WDID NO. 1B80121OHUM**

Humboldt County

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

1. The College of the Redwoods (Permittee) is a two-year community college that serves four counties in the North Coast Region. Its main campus is located in Eureka, in Humboldt County. The 156.4-acre main campus consists of residence halls, campus dining facilities, classrooms, multiple science labs, maintenance buildings, a community stadium, a greenhouse, and additional infrastructure. Activities at the college generate approximately eighty thousand gallons per day of domestic strength wastewater.
2. On December 27, 2016, Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0043 (2016 CDO) was issued to the Permittee for potential chronic violations of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) for the creation of pollution, contamination, or nuisance as defined by section 13050 of the California Water Code. Additionally, the Permittee could not meet final effluent limitations for copper, nitrate, and ammonia.

GREGORY A. GIUSTI, CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3. The 2016 CDO replaced CDO No. R1-2010-0079 that was adopted for final effluent limitation violations and required the Permittee to implement source control measures reduce or eliminate copper lead and silver from the waste stream, prepare and submit a Feasibility Study and conduct a translator study and/or a water effects ratio study by December 1, 2013. The Permittee requested a 24-month extension on November 27, 2013 due to administrative challenges, including budget cuts and loss of key personnel, which prevented the Permittee from meeting the final compliance date of December 1, 2013. Regional Water Board staff granted the extension request in a letter dated December 22, 2014. On April 20, 2015, the Permittee submitted a preliminary plans and costs for a new onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system.
4. The 2016 CDO required the Permittee to comply with copper, ammonia and nitrate final effluent limitations by the earliest possible date but no later than June 1, 2020. The Permittee chose a septic tank and leach field disposal system to comply with water quality-based effluent limitations required by the 2016 NPDES permit.
5. On June 7, 2018, the Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Board issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) to the Permittee for enrollment under the State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems. The NOA was issued prior to completion of the onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system (New Facility) to provide a permitting path for the new system.
6. The Permittee's New Facility consists of an influent septic tank, a recirculating tank, two recirculating gravel filters, two leach fields and support facilities. The previous package plant Facility has been decommissioned.
7. The New Facility completed construction of the influent septic tank and leach fields in March of 2020. The gravel bed filters, and the recirculating tank are currently in construction and are anticipated to be completed by March 5, 2021 with final site grading, paving, fencing, and cleanup completed by the end of March 2021.
8. The Permittee notified Regional Water Board staff that discharge to surface waters ceased and effluent was being discharged to the leach field on March 30, 2020.
9. Documentation submitted by the Permittee confirms that actions necessary to achieve full operation of the New Facility in compliance with applicable WDRs, including effluent limitations and Basin Plan prohibitions and requirements have been completed as of March 5, 2021.
10. Regional Water Board action to rescind NPDES Order No. R1-2016-0041 and CDO No. R1-2016-0043 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, Section 15061(b)(3).

11. The Regional Water Board held a public hearing on the Rescission Order during its regular Board meeting on **JUNE 17, 2021**.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, except for enforcement purposes, NPDES Order No. R1-2016-0041 and CDO No. R1-2016-0043 for the Permittee are rescinded.

Ordered by _____
Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

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