

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

COMPLAINT NO. R2-2004-0040  
MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES  
IN THE MATTER OF  
CITY OF BURLINGAME  
SAN MATEO COUNTY

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13385, this Complaint is issued to City of Burlingame (hereinafter called the Discharger) to assess mandatory minimum penalties (MMP), based on a finding of the Discharger's violations of Waste Discharge Requirements contained in Order Nos. 95-208, 98-117 and R2-2002-0027 (NPDES No. CA0037788) for the period between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2003.

The Executive Officer finds the following:

1. On October 18, 1995, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, (the Water Board) adopted Order No. 95-208 for the Discharger, to regulate discharges of waste from the Discharger's facility.
2. On December 16, 1998, the Water Board adopted Order No. 98-117 that amended the waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. 95-208.
3. On February 27, 2002, the Water Board adopted Order No. R2-2002-0027 for the Discharger, to regulate discharges of waste from its facility. Order No. R2-2002-0027 became effective on March 1, 2002. Order No. 95-208 was superceded upon effectiveness of Order No. R2-2002-0027.
4. Water Code Section 13385(h)(1) requires the Water Board to assess an MMP of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each serious violation.
5. Water Code Section 13385(h)(2) defines "serious violation" as any waste discharge of a Group I pollutant that exceeds the effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements by 40 percent of more, or any waste discharge of a Group II pollutant that exceeds the effluent limitation by 20 percent of more.
6. Water Code Section 13385(i)(1) requires the Water Board to assess an MMP of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each violation, not counting the first three violations, if the discharger does any of the following four or more times in any six consecutive months:
  - a. Violates a waste discharge requirement effluent limitation.

- b. Fails to file a report pursuant to Section 13260.
- c. Files an incomplete report pursuant to 13260.
- d. Violates a toxicity effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements where the waste discharge requirements do not contain pollutant-specific effluent limitations for toxic pollutants.

7. Effluent Limitations

Order Nos. 95-208, 98-117 and R2-2002-0027 include the following applicable effluent limitations:

***EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS (Order No. 95-208 as amended by Order No. 98-117)***

*Fecal Coliform Bacteria. The treated wastewater, at some point in the treatment process prior to discharge, shall meet the following limits of bacteriological quality:*

*The five day log mean fecal coliform density shall not exceed 200 MPN/100 mL, and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of the last ten samples shall not exceed 400 MPN/100 mL.*

***EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS (Order No. R2-2002-0027)***

*The effluent shall not exceed the following limit:*

*Cyanide 10 µg/l interim daily maximum*

8. Summary of Effluent Limit Violations

During the period between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2003, the Discharger had 15 violations of its effluent discharge limits. These violations are: ten fecal coliform 10-sample 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value limit violations, three fecal coliform 5-day log mean limit violations, one settleable matter instantaneous limit violation and one cyanide interim daily limit violation. The details of these limit violations are summarized in the attached Table 1, which is incorporated herein by reference. Because two different Water Board Orders and one amendment regulated the effluent discharged from the wastewater treatment plant at different times during the period covered by this Complaint, limit violations were summarized under the applicable Water Board Orders and time periods.

9. Fecal Coliform 10-sample 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value

Two of the ten fecal coliform violations (items 1 and 3 in Table 1) are non-serious violations and count as two of the three chronic violations that are exempt from an MMP. The remaining eight violations (items 6 and 7 through 14 in Table 1) are also exempt from an MMP as the definition of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile limit similar to the acute toxicity 90<sup>th</sup> percentile limit has been applied. This definition, although not stated in the permit, would not consider a daily fecal coliform test showing less than 400 MPN/100 mL a violation of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile fecal coliform limit. Thus, there is no MMP assessed for these violations.

10. Fecal Coliform 5-day Log Mean

One of the three fecal coliform violations (item 2 in Table 1) is a non-serious violation and counts as one of three running chronic violations that are exempt from an MMP. The

remaining two violations (items 5 and 7 in Table 1) are chronic violations number 5 and 7, respectively. Therefore, the total MMP for the fecal coliform 5-day log mean violations is \$6,000.

11. Settleable Matter

The one settleable matter violation (item 4 in Table 1) is the running 4<sup>th</sup> chronic violation and itself a serious violation. However, this violation has already been addressed previously in Complaint No. 01-013 and no MMP has been assessed in this Complaint.

12. Cyanide is a Group II pollutant

The one cyanide interim daily limit violation (item 15 in Table 1) is a serious violation, as this violation is 20% or greater than the limitation. This violation is subject to a \$3,000 MMP.

13. Water Code Exception

Water Code Section 13385(j) provides some exceptions related to the assessment of an MMP for effluent limit violations. None of the exceptions apply to the violations cited in this Complaint.

14. MMP Assessment

Three of the 15 items listed in Table 1 are subject to an MMP. The total MMP amount is \$9,000.

15. Partial Suspended MMP Amounts

Instead of paying the full penalty amount to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account, the Discharger may spend an amount up to \$9,000 on a supplemental environmental project (SEP) acceptable to the Executive Officer. Any such amount expended to satisfactorily complete an SEP will be permanently suspended.

16. SEP Categories

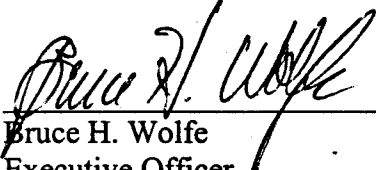
If the Discharger chooses to propose an SEP, the proposed SEP shall be in the following categories:

- a. Pollution prevention;
- b. Pollution reduction;
- c. Environmental clean-up or restoration; and
- d. Environmental education.

**THE CITY OF BURLINGAME IS HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE THAT:**

1. The Executive Officer proposes that the Discharger be assessed an MMP in the total amount of \$9,000.
2. The Water Board will hold a hearing on this Complaint on September 15, 2004, unless the Discharger waives the right to a hearing by signing the last page of this Complaint and checks the appropriate box. By doing so, the Discharger agrees to:

- a. Pay the full MMP of \$9,000 within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective, or
  - b. Propose an SEP in an amount up to \$9,000. Pay the balance of the penalty within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective. The sum of the SEP amount and the amount of the fine to be paid to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account shall equal the full penalty of \$9,000.
3. If the Discharger chooses to propose an SEP, it must submit a preliminary proposal by August 20, 2004 to the Executive Officer for conceptual approval. Any SEP proposal shall also conform to the requirements specified in Section IX of the Water Quality Enforcement Policy, which was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on February 19, 2002 and the attached Standard Criteria and Reporting Requirement for Supplemental Environmental Projects. If the proposed SEP is not acceptable to the Executive Officer, the Discharger has 30 days from receipt of notice of an unacceptable SEP to either submit a new or revised proposal, or make a payment for the suspended penalty of \$9,000. All payments, including money not used for the SEP, must be payable to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account. Regular reports on the SEP implementation shall be provided to the Executive Officer according to a schedule to be determined. The completion report for the SEP shall be submitted to the Executive Officer within 60 days of project completion.
  4. The signed waiver will become effective on the next day after the public comment period for this Complaint is closed, provided that there are no significant public comments on this Complaint during the public comment period. If there are significant public comments, the Executive Officer may withdraw the Complaint and reissue it as appropriate.
  5. If a hearing is held, the Water Board may impose an administrative civil liability in the amount proposed or for a different amount; decline to seek civil liability; or refer the matter to the Attorney General to have a Superior Court consider imposition of penalty.

  
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Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer

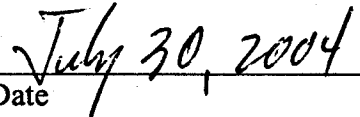
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Table 1 – Violations Summary

Attachment A- Standard Criteria and Reporting Requirement for Supplemental Environmental Projects

**WAIVER**

(The signed waiver will become effective on the next day after the public comment period for this Complaint is closed, provided that there are no significant public comments on this Complaint during the public comment period. If there are significant public comments, the Executive Officer may withdraw the Complaint and reissue it as appropriate.)



Waiver of the right to a hearing and agree to make payment in full.

By checking the box, I agree to waive my right to a hearing before the Board with regard to the violations alleged in Complaint No. R2-2004-0040 and to remit the full penalty payment to the Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account, c/o Regional Water Quality Control Board at 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612, within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective as indicated above. I understand that I am giving up my right to be heard, and to argue against the allegations made by the Executive Officer in this Complaint, and against the imposition of, or the amount of, the civil liability proposed.



Waiver of right to a hearing and agree to make payment and undertake an SEP.

By checking the box, I agree to waive my right to a hearing before the Board with regard to the violations alleged in Complaint No. R2-2004-0040, and to complete a supplemental environmental project (SEP) in lieu of the suspended liability up to \$9,000. I also agree to remit payment of the balance of the fine to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective. I understand that the SEP proposal shall conform to the requirements specified in Section IX of the Water Quality Enforcement Policy, which was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on February 19, 2002, and be subject to approval by the Executive Officer. If the SEP proposal, or its revised version, is not acceptable to the Executive Officer, I agree to pay the suspended penalty amount for the SEP within 30 days of the date of the letter from the Executive Officer denying the approval of the proposed/revised SEP. I also understand that I am giving up my right to argue against the allegations made by the Executive Officer in the Complaint, and against the imposition of, or the amount of, the civil liability proposed. I further agree to satisfactorily complete the approved SEP within a time schedule set by the Executive Officer. I understand failure to adequately complete the approved SEP will require immediate payment of the suspended liability to the CAA.

William E. Toci

Name (print)

W. E. Toci

Signature

AUGUST 10, 2004

Date

PLANT MANAGER CITY OF BURLINGAME

Title/Organization

WOTF

ORDER NO. R2-2002-0027, 98-117, 95-208  
 WWDID 2 417005001  
 File No. 2179.7005  
 NPDES PERMIT NO. CA 0037768  
 Previous Enforcement: Complaint Nos. 01-0131  
 01-134 and R2-2003-0024

APPENDIX A

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION  
JANUARY 2004**

**STANDARD CRITERIA AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT  
FOR  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

**A. BASIS AND PURPOSE**

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) accepts and encourages Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) in lieu of a portion of the ACL imposed on Dischargers in the Bay Area.

The Water Board does not select projects for SEP; rather, the Discharger identifies a project it would like to fund and then obtains approval from the Water Board's Executive Officer. The Water Board facilitates the process by maintaining a list of possible projects, which is made available to Dischargers interested in pursuing the SEP option. This list is available on the Water Board web site:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/>

Dischargers are not required to select a project from this list. Dischargers may contact local governments or public interest groups for potential projects in their area, or develop projects of their own.

**B. GENERAL SEP QUALIFICATION CRITERIA**

All SEPs approved by the Water Board must satisfy the following general criteria:

- (a) An SEP shall only consist of measures that go above and beyond all legal obligations of the Discharger (including those from other agencies). For example, sewage pump stations should have appropriate reliability features to minimize the occurrence of sewage spills in that particular collection system. The installation of these reliability features following a pump station spill would not qualify as an SEP.
- (b) The SEP should benefit or study groundwater or surface water quality or quantity, and the beneficial uses of waters of the State. SEPs in the following categories have received approval from the Water Board's Executive Officer:
  - Pollution prevention. These are projects designed to reduce the amount of pollutants being discharged to either sewer systems or to storm drains. Examples include improved industrial processes that reduce production of pollutants or improved spill prevention programs.
  - Pollution reduction. These are projects that reduce the amounts of pollution being discharged to the environment from treatment facilities. An example is a program to recycle treated wastewaters.
  - Environmental restoration. These projects either restore or create natural environments. Typical examples are wetland restoration or planting of stream bank vegetation.



- Environmental education. These projects involve funding environmental education programs in schools (or for teachers) or for the general public.

Further, an SEP should be located near the Discharger, in the same local watershed, unless the project is of region-wide importance.

#### C. APPROVAL PROCESS

The following information shall be submitted to the Executive Officer for approval of an SEP:

1. Name of the organization and contact person, with phone number.
2. Name and location of the project, including watershed (creek, river, bay) where it is located.
3. A detailed description of the proposed project, including proposed activities, time schedules, success criteria, other parties involved, monitoring program where applicable, and any other pertinent information.
4. General cost of the project.
5. Outline milestones and expected completion date.

Generally SEP proposals are submitted along with waivers of hearings. In such a case the approval of a proposal will not become effective until the waiver goes into effect, i.e. at the close of the public comment period. There will not be a public hearing on the SEP proposal unless new and significant information becomes available after the close of the public comment period that could not have been presented during the comment period.

If the Discharger needs additional time to prepare an SEP it may waive its right to a hearing within 30 days of the issuance of a Complaint (and retain its right to a hearing to contest the Complaint at a later date), and request additional time to prepare an SEP proposal. Any such time extension needs to be approved by Water Board staff.

#### D. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

On January 15 and July 15 of each year, progress reports shall be filed for the SEPs with expected completion date beyond 240 days after the issuance of the corresponding complaint.

#### E. FINAL NOTIFICATION

No later than 60 days after completion of the approved SEP, a final notification shall be filed. The final notification shall include the following information:

- Outline completed tasks and goals;
- Summary of all expenses with proof of payment; and
- Overall evaluation of the SEP.

#### F. THIRD PARTY PROJECT OVERSIGHT

For SEPs of more than \$10,000 the Water Board requires there to be third party oversight of the project. The Water Board has made arrangements with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to provide this oversight, or a Discharger may choose an alternative third party acceptable to the Executive Officer. If ABAG is chosen, six per cent of the SEP funds shall be directed to ABAG for oversight services (the remaining 94% of funds go directly to the SEP). If an alternative third party is chosen, the amount of funds directed to the SEP, as opposed to oversight, shall not be less than 94% of the total SEP funding. For projects greater than \$10,000 the Discharger shall indicate when submitting the information required under C. above whether ABAG or an alternative third party oversight entity will be used.



COPY

August 10, 2004

Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region

Subject: Complaint No. R2-2004-0040

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

I am in receipt of your letter dated August 3, 2004 concerning our three (3) violations of City of Burlingame's NPDES permit during the period between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2003, for a total mandatory minimum penalty of \$9,000.

We respectfully request the option that will allow us to perform a Supplemental Environmental Project in the form of "Sewer Science" program for your review.

1. The restocking of our "Sewer Science Program" in the Burlingame High School. We recently completed our second year training session with great results and are in the planning stage for next year. We estimate that we will need to restock our consumables. We request ~\$1,000 for the restocking of the following consumables:

- 1000 pipette tips
- pH test strips
- Latex Gloves
- Tubing
- Chem Wipes
- Chemicals – activator solutions
- Anti bacterial hand soap with pump
- Emergency eye wash bottle refills
- 300 count COD manganese vials

2. The "Sewer Science" student workbook is in need of modification and reprinting. We are requesting \$3,000 for the printing of an updated student workbook that is used for and during the sewer science instructions.

3. Last year we presented 10 students with scholarships that totaled \$5,000 at the Burlingame High School Awards Night. We therefore request \$5,000 towards the scholarship fund to be presented to another group of

outstanding students that would help them with their college education. These scholarships would again be presented at the Burlingame High School Awards Night in May 2005.

The total amount for restocking of consumables, re-printing of the student workbook, and scholarships for the 2004-05 school year is estimated at ~\$9,000.

Please notify us as to your acceptance of this SEP. I am available to answer any questions you may have concerning this Supplemental Environmental Project at the following phone number - 650-342-3727.

Sincerely,



William E. Toci  
Plant Manager  
Veolia Water North America Operating Services  
City of Burlingame WWTF

Cc: George Bagdon  
Paul Proctor

Attachments: City of Burlingame Sewer Science Student Workbook  
Consumables and Equipment list