

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 10-11, 2007
Prepared on April 13, 2007

ITEM NUMBER: 23

SUBJECT: Reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0047961 for the San Simeon Community Services District, San Luis Obispo County, Order No. R3-2007-0024

KEY INFORMATION

Location: 9245 Balboa Avenue, San Simeon, San Luis Obispo County
Type of Discharge: Treated domestic wastewater
Permitted Flow: 0.2 million gallons per day (MGD; dry weather flow design capacity)
Average Flow: 0.02 – 0.07 MGD (range of 2006 monthly average flows)
Type of Treatment: Secondary via activated sludge with disinfection and dechlorination
Disposal Method: Pacific Ocean discharge through a 900-foot long outfall/diffuser system
Solid Wastes: Offsite disposal of biosolids via composting hauler
Existing Orders: NPDES Permit, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0046
This Action: Adopt Waste Discharge Requirements

SUMMARY

San Simeon Community Services District (hereafter referred to as the "Discharger") owns and operates a wastewater collection system, treatment, and disposal facility (hereafter referred to as "Facility"). The day-to-day operation and management of the Facility is conducted by ECO Resources, Inc. under contract with the Discharger. The Discharger provides sewer service to the coastal community of San Simeon and the Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument.

Disinfected and dechlorinated secondary treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through an approximately 900-foot long outfall per a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The outfall diffuser is located within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The existing NPDES permit for the Facility expires on May 31, 2007. The proposed Order updates and replaces the existing NPDES permit.

Order Format

The proposed Order is presented in the new statewide format for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. This standardized format presents the proposed Order with all supporting information appended as associated attachments. Consequently, the facility information and permit evaluation discussion normally contained within the staff report are presented in the Fact Sheet as Attachment F to the proposed Order.

This format was developed as a result of a statewide effort between the State Board,

Regional Boards and USEPA to standardize NPDES permitting and compliance evaluation.

PROPOSED ORDER

Significant changes

Aside from the new format, the proposed Order only contains one major modification from the previous permit. Water quality based effluent limitations for all of the Ocean Plan Table B pollutants, with the exception of whole effluent acute and chronic toxicity and total chlorine residual were eliminated. The Ocean Plan was amended in 2005 to include a procedure for determining "reasonable potential" by characterization of effluent monitoring data. A reasonable potential analysis using effluent data and the updated Ocean Plan procedure did not result in "reasonable potential" for any of the Table B pollutants. A conclusion of "reasonable potential" for whole effluent, acute and chronic toxicity, and total chlorine residual is based on the nature of the treatment and discharge instead of characterization of effluent monitoring data. Annual monitoring for the Table B constituents was scaled back to once every two years for the ten Table B metals and once during the permit term for the remaining organic and inorganic constituents.

The following additional modifications are also proposed for the reissued permit:

Total coliform effluent limitations and monitoring requirements were modified to be more consistent with the Ocean Plan. The numeric total coliform bacteria effluent limitation values were retained with statistical modifications to be more consistent with the evaluation of the Ocean Plan water quality objectives for bacterial characteristics (i.e., the daily and instantaneous maximums of 230 MPN/100mL and 2,400 MPN/100mL were changed to 30-day geometric mean and single sample maximums, respectively).

Regularly scheduled weekly (summer) and monthly (winter) surf zone monitoring for total coliform bacteria was replaced with triggered monitoring. Section VIII.B of the proposed

Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E) requires weekly surf zone monitoring for total coliform, fecal coliform, and enterococcus if effluent total coliform exceeds 2,400 MPN/100mL two or more times in a 30-day period. The 2,400 MPN/100mL trigger is the single sample maximum total coliform effluent limitation established in section IV.A.1.d of the Order. The surf zone monitoring requirements are consistent with the Implementation Provisions for Bacterial Characteristic for Water Contact Monitoring found in section III.D of the California Ocean Plan. Cessation of surf zone monitoring is contingent upon Executive Office approval.

In addition, the identification of "The Local Sewering Entity of Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument," named as a co-Discharger in the existing Order, was removed from the propose Order. Although the Historical Monument portion of the sanitary sewer collection system owned and operated by the California Department Parks and Recreation contributes approximately 17% to 56% of the total monthly average treatment facility influent flow (December 2005 to December 2006), State Parks and Recreation has no association with the San Simeon Community Service District aside from being a permitted user. The establishment of Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ) precludes the need to name the Historical Monument as a co-Discharger to regulate and enforce collection system management and overflow reporting. The Central Coast Water Board issued a letter to the California Department of Parks and Recreation regarding its enrollment under the State Water Board General Sanitary Sewer System General Order on March 26, 2007. It should be noted that all of the reported collection system overflows noted in the Compliance Summary of the attached Fact Sheet occurred within the Historic Monument portions of the collection system. The most notable overflows resulted from the repeated failure of the approximately 3-mile substandard and aging force main between the Historical Monument and San Simeon. A force main replacement project has been

funded, designed and is currently pending contractor bid acceptance and encroachment permitting by Cal Trans.

Changes from Public Comment Draft

The following additional changes were made to the proposed permit after the public comment period that are not addressed above or within the comments section of the Fact Sheet (Attachment F of the proposed Order):

Minor modification were made to the language found within the Solids/Biosolids Monitoring requirements found in section IX.A of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E of the Proposed Order) and a requirement was added for annual sampling of biosolids for arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, zinc, and total nitrogen.

A bulleted list of items omitted from section X.B.5.d of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E of the Proposed Order) outlining the required components of the annual self monitoring report was added back into the proposed Order.

Central Coast Water Board Standard Provisions were added to the proposed Order as Attachment D-1.

COMMENTS

Public comments and staff responses are addressed in section VIII.B of the Fact Sheet (Attachment F)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order R3-2007-0024 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2007-0024 and the following associated attachments:

Attachment A – Definitions
 Attachment B – Topographic Map
 Attachment C – Wastewater Flow Schematic
 Attachment D – Federal Standard Provisions
 Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2007-0024
 Attachment F – Fact Sheet
 Attachment G – Self Monitoring Report Cover Letter

2. March 22, 2007, San Simeon Community Services District letter re: Tentative Draft Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2007-0024, NPDES Permit No. CA0005274
3. March 22, 2007, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary [United States Department of Commerce; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; National Ocean Service] letter re: Comments on San Simeon Community Service District, San Luis Obispo County , under NPDES Permit No. CA0005272
4. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0046, NPDES Permit No. CA0047961