

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R3-2009-0043
WDID No. 3 440105001**

FOR

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
BUENA VISTA MIGRANT LABOR CAMP/TIERRA ALTA APARTMENTS
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

The Central Coast Water Board (hereafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

SITE OWNER AND LOCATION

1. On May 18, 2009, Ken Cole, Executive Director, filed a Report of Waste Discharge in accordance with California Water Code (CWC) section 13260. The report was filed on behalf of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz's Buena Vista Farm Labor Camp/Tierra Alta Apartments (Camp) for authorization to continue discharging treated domestic wastewater within the San Lorenzo River sub-basin of the Watsonville Hydrologic Area.
2. The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz (hereafter Discharger), 2931 Mission Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, owns and operates a wastewater treatment and disposal system at 113 Tierra Alta Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076.

The system is in Sections 1 and 12, T12S, R1E, MD B&M, as shown on Attachment A to this Order. The site is within the Pájaro Valley and adjoins the County of Santa Cruz Buena Vista Sanitary Landfill's southern border.

PURPOSE OF ORDER

3. The purpose of this Order is to specify waste discharge requirements for the discharge to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the State. This Order includes updated waste discharge requirements.

SITE/FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Discharge Type

4. The facility is designed to treat and dispose of domestic wastewater from residential dwellings at the Camp.

Design and Current Capacity

5. The treatment plant is a recirculating sand filter that discharges to five percolation/evaporation ponds and to subsurface leachfields, as shown on Attachment A.

Item No. 12
August 31, 2009 Meeting
Update of WDRs for Buena Vista
Migrant Labor Camp
Attachment 1

6. The system treats and disposes of 56,000 gallons per day (gpd) as a monthly average daily dry weather flow. The Discharger sends approximately half of the treated wastewater to the ponds and half to the leachfields.

Geology/Hydrogeology

7. The Pájaro Valley in the vicinity of the Camp is underlain essentially flat-lying unconsolidated to weakly consolidated sedimentary deposits. Directly underlying the Camp are the Terrace Deposits of Watsonville, an accumulation of fluvial silt, silty clay, sand, and gravel more than 200 feet thick. These deposits are complexly interbedded and cross-bedded, with limited or uncertain lateral continuity of individual layers. Gravel tends to be abundant within the bottom 60 to 130 feet. The terrace deposits are in overall hydraulic continuity with the upper underlying Aromas Formation.
8. The Aromas Formation, which underlies the Terrace Deposits of Watsonville, is a heterogeneous sequence of sand, silt, clay, and gravel up to about 700 feet thick. An upper aquifer zone in the Aromas Formation is unconfined beneath the terrace deposits. The Aromas Formation is the principal aquifer in the Pájaro Valley.

Surface and Groundwater

9. Agricultural pumping from the Aromas Formation influences the elevation of the groundwater surface and flow direction in the vicinity of the Camp. During the season when groundwater is not extracted, the water table elevation averages 5 feet above mean sea level or around 100 feet below the ground surface at the Camp. Groundwater flows to the southeast at a gradient of 0.001 foot/foot. During the pumping season, the water table drops. Perched groundwater occurs locally in the terrace deposits.
10. The Camp lies at the confluence of Gallighan and Harkins Sloughs, both tributary to Watsonville Slough, which joins the Pájaro River near the Pacific Ocean. Through its estuary, the Pájaro River discharges to the Pacific Ocean.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MRP)

11. The MRP requires water supply and effluent monitoring.
12. Monitoring results demonstrate effluent salt concentrations do not impair, nor threaten to impair, the beneficial uses of the underlying groundwater or nearby surface waters.

BASIN PLAN

13. The Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan), was adopted by the Regional Water Board on November 17, 1989, and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on August 16, 1990. The Regional Water Board approved amendments of the Plan on February 11, 1994 and September 8, 1994. The Basin Plan incorporates statewide plans and policies by reference and contains a strategy for protecting beneficial uses of State waters.
14. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of Gallighan, Harkins and Watsonville Sloughs that could be affected by the discharge include:
 - a. Ground water recharge;

- b. Water contact recreation;
- c. Non-contact water recreation;
- d. Wildlife habitat;
- e. Warm freshwater habitat;
- f. Fish spawning;
- g. Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance (not Gallighan Slough);
- h. Estuarine habitat;
- i. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species;
- j. Fresh Water Replenishment; and
- k. Commercial and Sport Fishing.

15. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of the Pájaro River that could be affected by the discharge include:

- a. Domestic and municipal supply;
- b. Agricultural supply;
- c. Industrial service supply;
- d. Ground water recharge;
- e. Water contact recreation;
- f. Non-contact water recreation;
- g. Wildlife habitat;
- h. Cold and warm freshwater habitat;
- i. Fish migration;
- j. Fish spawning;
- k. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species;
- l. Fresh Water Replenishment; and
- m. Commercial and Sport Fishing.

16. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of the Pájaro River Estuary that could be affected by the discharge include:

- a. Water contact recreation;
- b. Non-contact water recreation;
- c. Wildlife habitat;
- d. Cold and warm freshwater habitat;
- e. Fish migration;
- f. Fish spawning;
- g. Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance;
- h. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species;
- i. Estuarine habitat;
- j. Shellfish harvesting; and
- k. Commercial and Sport Fishing.

17. Present and anticipated uses of groundwater in the vicinity of the discharge include:

- a. Domestic supply;
- b. Agricultural supply;
- c. Industrial process supply; and
- d. Industrial service supply.

CEQA

18. These waste discharge requirements are for an existing facility and are exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations.

EXISTING ORDERS AND GENERAL FINDINGS

19. The discharge has been regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 94-86, adopted by the Regional Water Board on October 14, 1994.
20. Discharge of waste is a privilege, not a right, and authorization to discharge is conditional upon the discharge complying with provisions of Division 7 of the California Water Code and any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to implement water quality control plans, to protect beneficial uses, and to prevent nuisance. Compliance with this Order should assure this and mitigate any potential adverse changes in water quality due to the discharge.
21. On **June 16, 2009**, the Regional Water Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to adopt waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with a copy of the proposed Order and an opportunity to submit written views and comments.
22. In a public meeting on August 31, 2009, the Regional Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and found this Order consistent with the above findings.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to authority in section 13263 of the California Water Code, that the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz, its agents, successors, and assigns, may discharge wastewater at the Buena Vista Migrant Labor Camp/Tierra Vista Apartments, providing compliance is maintained with the following:

[Note: Other prohibitions and conditions, definitions, and the method of determining compliance are contained in the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January 1984. Applicable paragraphs are referenced in Provision No. 4 of this Order.]

PROHIBITIONS

1. Discharge of wastewater to the treatment system from other sources than the Buena Vista Migrant Labor Camp or the Tierra Alta Apartments is prohibited.
2. Discharge to areas other than the designated percolation/evaporation ponds and leachfield disposal areas shown in Attachment A is prohibited.
3. Wastewater on the soil surface of the leachfield disposal area is prohibited.

4. Bypass of the collection and treatment systems is prohibited.
5. Discharge of untreated or partially treated wastes directly to the percolation/evaporation ponds or the leachfield disposal area is prohibited.
6. Wastewater shall not be discharged within 150 feet of any well used for domestic purposes, or within 100 feet of any surface stream or drainageway.

DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Extraneous surface flow shall be excluded from the percolation/evaporation ponds.
2. Daily flow averaged over each month shall not exceed 56,000 gpd, except as approved in writing by the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer subsequent to submittal by the Discharger of a technical report that includes the factual basis and rationale for the proposed increase. In no case, shall the flowrate exceed 95,500 gpd.
3. Wastewater discharged to the evaporation/percolation ponds shall not have a pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.3.
4. Effluent discharged to the leachfield disposal area shall not exceed the following limits:

Parameter	Units	Maximum, 12-month running mean
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Water supply (WS) + 250
Sodium	mg/L	WS + 70
Chloride	mg/L	WS + 65

PROVISIONS

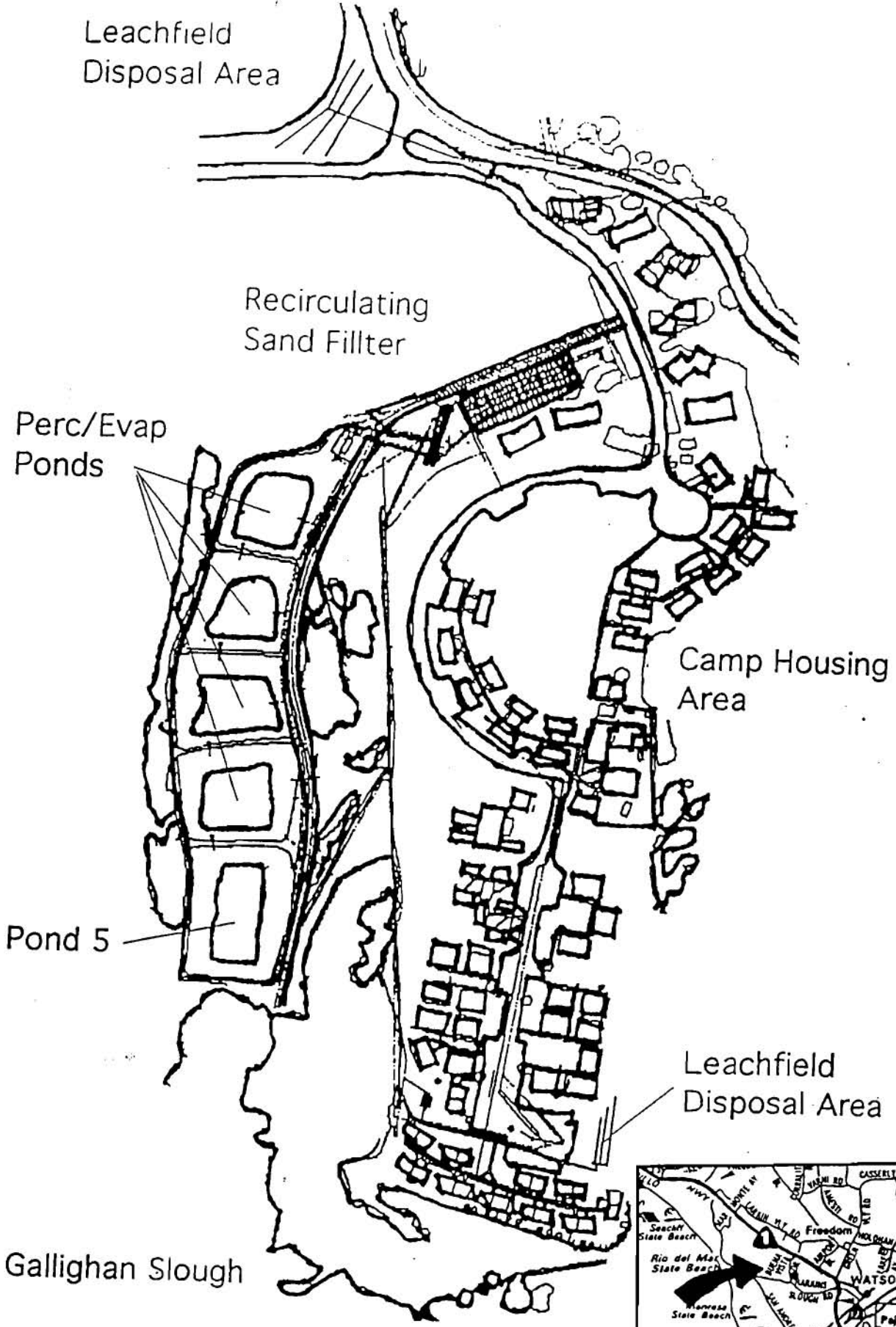
1. Order No. 94-86, "Waste Discharge Requirements for Housing Authority of County of Santa Cruz", adopted by the Regional Water Board on October 14, 1994, is hereby rescinded.
2. The Discharger shall submit an annual Salts Management Program Report. The report shall describe management practices the Discharger implements to ensure effluent salt concentrations do not increase significantly over time. The report shall be submitted with the 1st quarter monitoring report for each year.
3. The Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2009-0043," and any amendments thereto, as specified by the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer.
4. The Discharger shall comply with all items of the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January 1984; except Item No. A.8.
5. Pursuant to Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9 of the California Code of Regulations, the Discharger must submit a written report to the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer no

later than November 1, 2014, addressing:

- a. Whether there will be changes in the continuity, character, location, or volume of the discharge; and
 - b. Whether, in their opinion, there is any portion of the Order that is incorrect, obsolete, or otherwise in need of revision.
5. **By December 11, 2009**, for the approval of the Executive Officer, the Discharger shall submit a technical report addressing long-term maintenance or upgrade of the recirculating sand filter, including, but not limited to, the sand medium. The report shall include a time schedule of milestones to maintain or upgrade the sand filter.

I, ROGER W. BRIGGS, 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, Central Coast Region, on August 31, 2009

Executive Officer



**ATTACHMENT A - BUENA VISTA TIERRA ALTA
MIGRANT FARM LABOR CAMP**

