

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

(Prepared on July 14, 2011)

ITEM NUMBERS: 13, 14, 15

SUBJECT: Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Gaviota State Park (Order No. 97-03), Refugio State Beach (Order No. 97-04), and El Capitan State Beach (Order No. 97-05) and enrollment in the *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (Order No. 97-10-DWQ)

STAFF CONTACT: Sorrel Marks 805/549-3695 or smarks@waterboards.ca.gov

KEY INFORMATION

Dischargers and Locations: Gaviota State Park, 17000 Hwy 101, Goleta, Santa Barbara County  
Refugio State Beach, 10 Refugio Beach Rd, Goleta, Santa Barbara County  
El Capitan State Beach, Hwy 101 Exit 117, Goleta, Santa Barbara County

Discharge Type: Sanitary Wastewater

Treatment: Septic Tanks with disposal to leachfields and seepage pits

Discharge Volume: Gaviota 298 gpd average in winter and 2,302 gpd average in summer  
Refugio 3,195 gpd winter and 9,365 gpd summer  
El Capitan 3,307 winter and 12,378 summer

Recycling: None

Existing Orders: 97-03 Gaviota, 97-04 Refugio, 97-05 El Capitan

**This Action: Rescind Individual Order and enroll in Statewide General Order**

SUMMARY

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board (Central Coast Water Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 97-03 (Gaviota), Order No. 97-04 (Refugio), and Order No. 97-05 (El Capitan) to regulate sanitary wastewater discharges from these State Park facilities. These Orders are due for a regularly scheduled update. Staff recommends rescinding Order No. 97-03, Order No. 97-04, and Order No. 97-05 and regulating the discharges using the *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (Order No. 97-10-DWQ).

DISCUSSION

Three state parks, located in the Goleta area of Santa Barbara County, are regulated by the Central Coast Water Board. The parks include campsites, day-use areas, and employee residences. Sanitary wastewater is treated and disposed of through multiple septic tank/leachfield or pit systems at each site. The Central Coast Water Board last adopted waste

discharge requirements for these facilities in 1997. Specifically, the facilities at each park include:

- Gaviota - 39 campsites, day use areas, and 3 employee residences
- Refugio - 70 campsites, day use areas, and 3 employee residences
- El Capitan - 135 campsites, day use areas, and 5 residences

Water Board staff reviewed the Discharger's files and concluded that the character of the discharges has not significantly changed since the orders were adopted, and the wastewater systems meets Basin Plan requirements. Rather than revise the existing orders, staff recommends these discharges be regulated by Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order), adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on November 18, 1997. The General Order states,

*Discharges to land from small domestic wastewater treatment and disposal systems have certain common characteristics, such as similar constituents, concentration of constituents, disposal techniques, flow ranges and they require the same or similar treatment standards. These types of discharges are more appropriately regulated under general Waste Discharge Requirements.*

The General Order implements applicable Water Board standards, prohibitions, and requirements to protect water quality. If the discharge is regulated by the General Order, then individual Waste Discharge Requirements would not be necessary and Order No. 97-03, Order No. 97-04, and Order No. 97-05 should be rescinded.

**Gaviota Compliance History** - Annual monitoring reports document compliance with the requirements specified in Order No. 97-03, with the exception that during 2003, 2004 and 2005 monitoring reports were not submitted in a timely manner. Water Board staff issued Failure to Submit letters and ultimately Notice of Violations. Compliance has been restored and regular reports are received. Inspections reveal ongoing compliance.

**Rufugio Compliance History** – Annual monitoring reports document compliance with the requirements specified in Order No. 97-04, with the exception that during 2003, 2004 and 2005 monitoring reports were not submitted in a timely manner. Water Board staff issued Failure to Submit letters and ultimately Notice of Violations. Compliance has been restored and regular reports are received. Over the past 15 years, some facility improvements (leach field and tank replacements) have been installed and summary reports provided. Inspections reveal ongoing compliance.

**El Capitan Compliance History** - Annual monitoring reports document compliance with the requirements specified in Order No. 97-03, with the exception that during 2003, 2004 and 2005 monitoring reports were not submitted in a timely manner. Water Board staff issued Failure to Submit letters and ultimately Notice of Violations. Compliance has been restored and regular reports are received. Inspections reveal ongoing compliance.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY**

Waste Discharge Requirements for existing facilities are exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resource Code, Section 21100 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Administrative Code.

**COMMENTS**

The Discharger and interested parties were notified by a letter dated May 31, 2011, of Water Board staff's recommendation to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 97-03, Order No. 97-04, and Order No. 97-05, and approve coverage of the Discharger using the General Order. These parties were invited to submit written comments by July 7, 2011. No comments or objection to the proposed action were received.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Rescind the individual Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 97-03, Order No. 97-04, and Order No. 97-05, and approve enrollment under General Order No. 97-10-DWQ.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Order No. 97-03, Waste Discharge Requirements for Gaviota State Park
2. Order No. 97-04, Waste Discharge Requirements for Refugio State Beach
3. Order No. 97-05, Waste Discharge Requirements for El Capitan State Beach

S:\WDR\WDR Facilities\Santa Barbara Co\El Capitan State Campground\Recision of 97-03-04-05.itm.doc  
Files: Place #222398 (El Capitan), #226846 (Gaviota), #252295 (Refugio)