

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2011

(Prepared on January 5, 2011)

ITEM NUMBER: 14

SUBJECT: Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Laguna Blanca School (Order No. 92-50) and enrollment in the *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (Order No. 97-10-DWQ)

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger: Laguna Blanca School
Location: 4125 Paloma Drive
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County
Discharge Type: Sanitary Wastewater
Treatment: Advanced Onsite Treatment with shallow subsurface dispersal and conventional septic systems (to remain temporarily)
Design Capacity: 10,125 gpd (peak flow) 6,750 gpd (average flow)
Discharge Volume: 1,167 gpd
Recycling: No direct reuse
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 92-50
This Action: Rescind Individual Order and enroll in Statewide General Order

SUMMARY

In 1992, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 92-50 authorizing sanitary wastewater discharges from Laguna Blanca School. As part of a facility-wide renovation plan, Laguna Blanca School recently upgraded its wastewater treatment and disposal system, installing enhanced onsite treatment. Also, Water Board staff reviewed Order No. 92-50 to determine if the 18-year old order should be updated. Based upon this review, staff recommends rescinding the individual order (Order No. 92-50) and enrolling Laguna Blanca School in the *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (Order No. 97-10-DWQ).

DISCUSSION

Section 13263(e) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authorizes Regional Water Quality Control Boards to review Waste Discharge Requirements periodically. The State Legislature has found that many older orders are out of date and therefore do not implement State laws, regulations, and revised Water Quality Control Plans.

Laguna Blanca School is located in the City of Santa Barbara county, in an area not served by the City sewer system. Order No. 92-50 authorized Laguna Blanca School to discharge up to 15,000 gallons per day (gpd) from six conventional septic tank/leachfield systems. As part of an overall school renovation, Laguna Blanca School has upgraded its wastewater facilities to include

enhanced biological treatment using AdvanTex Treatment Systems by Orenco Systems. Disposal is performed by a Geoflow Wasteflow subsurface drip system. The upgraded system is designed to treat and dispose of up to 10,125 gallons per day (gpd). Portions of the original wastewater system remain in use; however, those facilities will eventually be abandoned as new buildings are constructed with the overall campus master plan. Ultimately, all waste discharges from Laguna Blanca School will be treated and discharged through the AdvanTex Treatment System. The enhanced treatment system will provide for improved discharge quality, provided long-term operation and maintenance of the system is performed. The Discharger has entered into agreement with a contract wastewater facility operator to provide such operation and maintenance.

Rather than revise the existing order, staff recommends the Discharger 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. The discharges are less than 20,000 gallons per day; therefore, they are eligible for coverage by the General Order. Additionally, many other schools throughout the Central Coast Region are regulated under the General Order, so regulatory consistency will be enhanced. If the discharge is regulated by the General Order, then individual waste discharge requirements would not be necessary and Order No. 92-50 should be rescinded.

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 December 3, 2010, of staff's recommendation to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 92-50 and approve coverage of the Discharger using the General Order. These parties were invited to submit written comments by December 31, 2010. No comments were received.

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 92-50 and approve coverage of the discharge under the General Order.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Existing Order 92-50
2. Statewide General Order No. 97-10-DWQ