

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 3, 2012

Prepared on March 16, 2012

ITEM NUMBER: 11

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MISSION HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT ORDINANCE TO CONTROL SALINITY INPUTS FROM SELF-REGENERATING WATER SOFTENERS, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, RESOLUTION NO. R3-2012-0017

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KEY INFORMATION

Location: Mission Hills, Santa Barbara County
Type of Discharge: Wastewater from self-regenerating water softeners
Disposal Method: Discharge to land
Local Jurisdiction: Mission Hills Community Services District

This Action: Adopt Resolution No. R3-2012-0017

DISCUSSION

On October 11, 2009, the State of California enacted Water Code Section 13148, relating to water softeners. This new law authorizes any local agency that owns or operates a community sewer system or water recycling facility to take action, by ordinance or resolution, after a public hearing on the matter, to protect the quality of the waters of the state by controlling salinity inputs from self-regenerating water softeners. The appropriate regional water board must make a finding that the control of such salinity input will contribute to the achievement of water quality objectives.

The proposed resolution (Attachment 1) supports Mission Hills Community Services District in controlling salinity input from self-regenerating water softeners through local agency ordinance. The resolution gives Mission Hills Community Services District the authority to implement and enforce an ordinance regulating self-regenerating water softeners.

Through this resolution, the Central Coast Water Board finds that the control of self-regenerating water softeners will contribute to the achievement of the water quality objectives approved in the Basin Plan. This finding is based on evidence in the records of the Central Coast Water Board, as described in this resolution, demonstrating that salinity input from residential use of self-regenerating water softeners is a significant source of controllable salts within the Mission Hills Community Services District.

The Central Coast Water Board has issued Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 97-35 to the Mission Hills Community Services District. As authorized by California Water Code section

13148(e), this resolution amends Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 97-35 to add a finding as set forth in paragraph 9 of the resolution.

Several communities have established or are moving forward with ordinances and resolutions managing the use of water softening systems used in commercial, industrial and residential buildings, and the Central Coast Water Board supports these cost-effective efforts at reducing salts contributions to groundwater basins. Mission Hills Community Services District provides water softener educational material to all its customers at the front counter, via U.S. mail, and on its website at <http://www.mhcsd.org/public-outreach/water-softener-educational-materials>. However, voluntary efforts have not adequately reduced salts contributions from self-regenerating water softener sources.

On January 31, 2012, Water Board staff notified the District and interested parties regarding the proposed action, provided copies of the draft resolution and staff report, and invited them to submit comments and recommendations by March 9, 2012.

COMMENTS

Ziyad Naccasha (counsel for Mission Hills CSD) – responded in support of adoption of the proposed resolution, no other comments received.

Michael Riley, Mission Hills CSD – no comments received

Kari Wagner, Wallace Group – no comments received

Pauli Undesser, Water Quality Association – no comments received

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2012-0017 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Resolution No. R3-2012-0017