

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

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 22-23, 2014**  
Prepared on March 20, 2014

**ITEM NUMBER:** 9

**SUBJECT:** Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements, Reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048216 for City of Watsonville Wastewater Treatment Facility, Santa Cruz County, Order No. R3-2014-0006

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**KEY INFORMATION**

Location: 401 Panabaker Lane, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County  
Place ID: 271872  
Type of Discharge: Secondary-treated, undisinfected municipal wastewater with industrial pretreatment and brine disposal programs  
Permitted Flow: 12.0 million gallons per day (mgd; average dry weather flow)  
Average Daily Flow: 6.7 mgd  
Water Reclamation: Permitted separately through the City of Watsonville and Pajaro Valley Water Agency Master Reclamation Permit No. R3-2008-0039 with a maximum permitted flow of 7.2 mgd  
Treatment method: Biofiltration and activated sludge with clarification, no disinfection  
Disposal Method: Pacific Ocean discharge via 7,350-foot long diffuser  
Solid Wastes: Offsite biosolids disposal through land application or composting  
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2008-0016  
**This Action:** **Adopt Order No. R3-2014-0006**

**DISCUSSION**

The City of Watsonville (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging pursuant to Order No. R3-2008-0016, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA00048216. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD), dated October 14, 2012, and applied for an NPDES permit renewal to discharge up to 12.0 MGD of treated wastewater from its facility. Water Board staff received supplemental information on February 4, 2103 and deemed the application complete.

The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system which provides sewerage service for a population of approximately 61,000 in an area that includes the City of Watsonville, the Santa Cruz County Freedom Sanitation District, the Santa Cruz County Salsipuedes Sanitary District, and the Monterey County Pajaro Sanitation District. The collection system encompasses 21 square miles and includes more than 170 miles of sanitary sewer lines which currently receive wastes discharged from residential, commercial, and 13 significant industrial facilities, including several food processors. Each member agency owns, operates, and maintains a sanitary sewer system that conveys wastewater to the

Discharger's force main for transport to the facility. The Facility's design, average dry weather treatment capacity is 12 MGD, with a design peak wet weather treatment capacity of 36 MGD. Average daily influent flow ranges from 4.5 – 8.5 MGD. Tertiary-treated recycled water is produced and distributed under a separate permit to the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency and City of Watsonville.

### **COMPLIANCE HISTORY**

Please refer to page F-11 in the Fact Sheet for a summary of the Discharger's compliance history. The Discharger had only one instance non-compliance between May 2008 and February 2014. The detection of poly chlorinated byphenols (PCBs) in September 2011 was from a non-standard high volume water sampling methodology and subsequent analysis did not confirm PCBs exceeding limitations.

### **CHANGES FROM THE EXISTING ORDER**

The proposed Order is structured in accordance with the statewide NPDES permit template. The proposed Order is consistent with the previous Order with the exception of the following changes/modifications, which are also discussed in detail in the proposed permit fact sheet:

#### Substantive changes

- Updated the Pretreatment Monitoring section within the Monitoring and Reporting Program (pages E-16 to E-18) to provide more detailed requirements for pretreatment monitoring reports. Additionally, clarified that pretreatment reports shall be uploaded to the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) database, consistent with other self-monitoring reports required within the permit.
- Updated Table E-8 to reflect recent updates to the Central Coast Long-Term Environmental Assessment Network (CCLEAN) monitoring requirements. These requirements are consistent with other CCLEAN participants, e.g. Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, and Carmel Area Wastewater Treatment Plants.
- Updated the Central Coast Standard Provisions in Attachment D-1 to be consistent with the January 2013 revision.
- Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>) has been implemented in place of BOD<sub>5</sub> monitoring and limits. The previous permit allowed for use of CBOD<sub>5</sub> following Executive Officer approval.

#### Minor changes

- Updated service population to 55,000 from 61,000 in previous permit (page F-3).
- Updated Ocean Plan references and language to the newly adopted 2012 Ocean Plan.
- Revised Effluent Limitations for settleable solids, turbidity, and bacteria parameters to be "instantaneous maximums" rather than "maximum daily" limitations. This change is consistent with Ocean Plan Table 2.
- Added a requirement for Discharger to maintain a current Permittee Entry Tool (PET) for CIWQS uploads and to include lab data sheets with CIWQS uploads (page E-21).

- Updated Monitoring Location names for receiving water locations to include the prefix “RSW” in Table E-1 (page E-3).
- Updated the Sanitary Sewer System General Waste Discharge Requirements to include the newly amended Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP 2013-0058-EXEC) adopted August 6, 2013, and enrollments of all four sewerage entities: City of Watsonville, Pajaro, Freedom, and Salsipuedes Sanitation Districts.
- Modified and adjusted some standard language throughout the permit to be consistent with the State’s NPDES template for discharges related to the California Ocean Plan and Central Coast Water Board standard language. For example, Section 5.a Biosolids Management section has been updated (page 14).
- Eliminated the submittal of paper copies of self-monitoring reports (page E-19). Discharger has already been submitting electronic monitoring reports through the CIWQS database.
- Modified the layout of Table E-9 Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule to be more clear with regards to required reports and due dates. These changes will also facilitate Water Board staff’s input of permit requirements into the CIWQS database.

## COMMENTS

Public notice was provided and posted for the consideration of this proposed permit. Central Coast Water Board staff did not receive comments on the proposed permit within the public comment period.

## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2014-0006, as proposed.

## ATTACHMENT

For copies, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board’s internet website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2013/2013\\_agendas.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2013/2013_agendas.shtml)

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2014-0006, including the following attachments:
  - Attachment A – Definitions
  - Attachment B – Map
  - Attachment C – Flow Schematic
  - Attachment D – Standard Provisions
  - Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)
  - Attachment F – Fact Sheet