

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION  
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-5427**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. 01-100  
Revised November 14, 2014**

For

**CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, (hereafter Board) finds that:

**SITE OWNER AND LOCATION**

1. The Cambria Community Service District, (hereafter "Discharger") owns and operates a Wastewater Treatment Facility located at 5500 Heath Lane in Cambria, San Luis Obispo County (see Attachment A).

evaporation/percolation pond, shown on Attachment A1. The disposal site capacity is currently 1.5 mgd.

**PURPOSE OF ORDER**

2. The primary objectives of this updated Order are to: 1) regulate the discharge of treated wastewater to land, 2) update the Discharge Monitoring Program, and 3) bring the site into compliance with the Basin Plan and all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to this discharge.

5. **Geology:** The surface soils below the land disposal site are generally sandy and silty clays, underlain by clays and impermeable bedrock of franciscan chert, volcanic rock and sandstone. Permeabilities generally decrease with depth and distance from surface waters.

**SITE/FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

3. **Design and Current Capacity:** The treatment system consists of flow equalization and grit removal facilities, two 0.5 MGD activated sludge treatment units (1.0 total treatment capacity), two 0.3 MG holding ponds and disinfection facilities. The Discharger is in the design phase of upgrading and expanding its treatment plant capacity. A diagram of the treatment facility processes is shown on Attachment B, included as part of this order.

6. **Groundwater:** Depth to ground water at the land disposal site is approximately 17 feet at the evaporation/percolation pond site and 9 feet at the spray area. However, depth to ground water is as little as 4 feet in low lying areas near San Simeon Creek. Ground water movement within the disposal area is generally towards San Simeon Creek, to the south-southwest. Cambria Community Services District's primary source of water supply is the San Simeon Creek well field, located approximately 2000 feet east (upgradient) of the disposal area.

4. **Discharge Type:** Effluent is pumped to the land disposal site and sludge is disposed at a private land disposal facility. The effluent land disposal site is located 2.5 miles north of the treatment plant and consists of 22 acres of spray disposal areas and an

7. Provision D.2 has been included requiring the discharger to take steps to ensure that degradation of the water supply does not occur. Maintenance of a minimum ground water level differential is necessary to protect the water supply well field from dissolved salts and nitrates in the wastewater discharge. The effluent limitation for total dissolved solids is based on maintaining the prescribed differential.

8. **Surface water:** Surface water in San Simeon

Creek flows to the west approximately one mile to the Pacific Ocean. Van Gordon Creek flows south to the confluence with San Simeon Creek in the southwest corner of the disposal area.

9. **Storm water:** Currently, all storm water is directed away from the treatment facility. Storm water that comes into contact with the treatment process is collected and treated. The site is protected from flooding or washout from a 100-year flood event.

9a. In 2014, the CCSD added supplemental treatment units including microfiltration and reverse osmosis to produce water of suitable quality for upstream groundwater recharge. Microfiltration reject and backwash flows will be discharged to the disposal area. (Added November 14, 2014.)

**MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM**

10. The requirements for monitoring and reporting are contained in the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-100. Minor changes were made to the program from the previous Order. The Discharger is now required to monitor nitrogen and ammonia levels in effluent as well as groundwater elevation in all sampling wells.

**Basin Plan**

11. The Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Board on November 19, 1989 and approved by the State Board on August 16, 1990. The Board approved amendments to the Basin 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.

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

- a. Municipal and Domestic Supply, and
- b. Agricultural Supply

13. Surface water quality objectives have not been included, since surface water discharge is prohibited by this Order.

14. Median Groundwater objectives for this Sub-basin are not specifically described in the Basin Plan. However groundwater sampling results indicate that salts and nitrates are increasing partially as a result of this discharge to land.

15. Historic values for the groundwater (as measured in supply wells) in this area are as follows:

Constituent	Concentration (mg/l)
Total Dissolved Solids	375
Sodium	21
Chloride	19

\*New Santa Rosa supply well has much higher TDS (~750mg/l)

Effluent values of the same constituents are as follows:

Constituent	Concentration (mg/l)
Total Dissolved Solids	860*
Sodium	180
Chloride	253

\*When using San Simeon supply water

Groundwater data also indicates a significant increase in salts between upgradient and downgradient\* wells.

Constituent	Upgradient (mg/l)	Downgradient* (mg/l)
Total Dissolved Solids	373	767
Sodium	22	120
Chloride	21	173

\*Downgradient wells are under periodic tidal influence and apparent increases are not solely from effluent discharge.

This order contains provisions to limit the impacts of salt at the Cambria CSD disposal field and plan for future salts management.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

16. This action is intended to enforce the laws and regulations administered by the Board. As

such, this action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 13389 of the Water Code of the Resources Agency Guidelines.

### **EXISTING ORDERS AND GENERAL FINDINGS**

17. This discharge has been subject to Waste Discharge Requirements contained in Order No. 93-24 adopted May 14, 1993.
18. 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.
19. On July 25, 2001, the Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to issue 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.
20. After considering all comments pertaining to this discharge during a public hearing on December 7, 2001, this Order was found consistent with the above findings.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to authority in Sections 13263 and 13267 of the California Water Code, the Cambria Community Services District, its agents, successors, and assigns, may discharge waste at the afore-described facility providing compliance is maintained with the following:

All technical and monitoring reports submitted pursuant to this Order are required pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code. Failure to submit reports in accordance with schedules established by this Order, attachments to this Order, or failure to submit a report of sufficient technical quality to be acceptable to the Executive Officer, may subject the discharger to

enforcement action pursuant to Section 13268 of the California Water Code. The Regional Board will base all enforcement actions on the date of Order adoption.

(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 paragraph D.2. of this Order.)

Throughout these requirements footnotes are listed to indicate the source of requirements specified. Requirements footnotes are as follows:

BP Basin Plan  
Design Design of Facility

Requirements not referenced are based on staff's best professional judgement

### **PROHIBITIONS**

1. Discharge to any areas other than the evaporation/percolation pond and spray area shown on Attachment B is prohibited.
2. Discharger of any wastes including overflow bypass, and seepage from transport, treatment or disposal system to adjacent drainageways or properties is prohibited

### **A. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **General Specifications**

1. Neither the treatment nor the discharge of waste shall create a pollution.
2. Contamination or nuisance, as defined by Section 13050 of the California Water Code (CWC). (H & S.C. Section 5411, CWC Section 13263).
3. Waste shall not be disposed of in any position where they can be carried from the disposal site and discharged into waters of the State or United States.
4. Discharge of uncontaminated storm

waters to the treatment facilities is prohibited unless adequate capacity is available.

5. Bypass of the treatment facilities and discharge of untreated or partially treated waste to the disposal site is prohibited. The discharge of up to 90,000 gallons per day of microfiltration unit reject and backwash may be discharged to the disposal area. (Added November 14, 2014)

6. Discharge shall be confined to the designated land discharge area as shown on Attachment B without overflow or bypass to adjacent properties or drainageways.

7. Daily flow, averaged over each month, shall not exceed 1.5 MGD<sup>Design</sup>.

### **Effluent Limitations**

1. Effluent discharged shall not exceed the following limits:

Constituent	Unit	30-Day Mean	Daily Instantaneous Maximum
Suspended Solids	mg/l	40	100
BOD <sub>5</sub> Soluble	mg/l	50	100
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	1000	1500
PH <sup>BP</sup>	pH units		Between 6.5 and 8.4

### **Groundwater Limitations**

1. The discharge shall not cause nitrate concentrations in the groundwater downgradient of the disposal area to exceed 10 mg/l (as N)<sup>BP</sup>.
2. The discharge shall not cause a significant increase of mineral constituent concentrations in underlying groundwaters, as determined by comparison samples collected from wells located upgradient and downgradient of the disposal area.
3. The discharge shall not cause concentrations of chemicals and radionuclides in groundwater to exceed limits set forth in Title 22, Chapter 15, Article 4 and 5 of the California Code of Regulations<sup>BP</sup>.

### **Wastewater Quality**

1. Effluent discharged to the percolation and evaporation ponds shall have a dissolved oxygen concentration greater than 2.0 mg/l.

### **System Operation**

1. At least two feet of freeboard shall be maintained within the District controlled disposal ponds.
2. Discharge shall not cause the formation of vector habitat within treatment or disposal areas.
3. The public shall not have contact with inadequately treated wastewater as a result of treatment or disposal
4. The discharge shall not contain substances in concentrations, which are toxic to human, animal, aquatic or plant life operations.

### **Solids Control**

5. All accumulated sludge, salts, or solid residues shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Executive Officer.

6. Solids shall be tested as outlined in the attached Discharge Monitoring Program.

#### D. PROVISIONS

1. The Discharger shall maintain an ongoing salts management program with the intent of reducing mass loading of salt in treated effluent to a level that will ensure compliance with Basin Plan Objectives and not negatively impact beneficial uses of groundwater. Salt reduction measures should focus on all potential salt contributors to the collection system, including residential, commercial, and industrial dischargers. As part of the salts management program, the Discharger shall provide an annual evaluation of salt reduction efforts. This evaluation shall include, but not be limited to:
  - a. Calculations of annual salt mass (lbs) discharged to the percolation ponds;
  - b. Analysis of ground water monitoring results related to salt and nutrient (N) constituents;
  - c. A summary of existing salt reduction measures;
  - d. Recommendations and time schedules for implementation of any additional salt reduction measures; and
  - e. The establishment or identification of a downgradient well which can reliably monitor influences from this discharge on groundwater.

The first installment of this evaluation shall be submitted to this office by January 2003 with the annual report. The annual evaluation may be included as part of the annual monitoring report each year.

2. Static ground water levels at well No. 3 (9P2) shall be maintained at or below

those at production well No. 2 (SS4) at all times. Specifics are detailed in the Groundwater Monitoring section of M&RP No. 01-100.

3. Order No. 93-24, "Waste Discharge Requirements for the Cambria Community Services District", adopted by the Board in May 14, 1993, is hereby rescinded.
4. The Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-100", as specified by the Executive Officer and incorporated as part of this Order.
5. The Discharger shall comply with all items of the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January 1984.
6. The Discharger shall submit a written report by May 30, 2005, acceptable to the Executive Officer, 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.
  - c. A summary of all violations of Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 01-100, which occurred since adoption of the order along with a description of the cause(s) and corrective action taken.

**I, Kenneth A. Harris Jr., Executive Officer**, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, complete, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region on November 14, 2014.

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Kenneth A. Harris Jr.  
Executive Officer