

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2017

Prepared August 2, 2017

ITEM NUMBER **8**

SUBJECT **Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Cuyama Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Plant, New Cuyama, Santa Barbara County**

STAFF CONTACT: **Sheila Soderberg (805) 549-3592**
Senior Engineering Geologist
Sheila.Soderberg@waterboards.ca.gov

KEY INFORMATION

Location: 5500 Highway 166, New Cuyama, CA 93254
Place ID: CW-216428
Type of Waste: Municipal and domestic wastewater
Design Capacity: 0.15 million gallons per day (MGD)
Present Volume: 0.04 MGD
Current Treatment: Secondary: extended aeration, clarification, chlorination, dechlorination
Disposal: Lined evaporation ponds
Existing Order: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2007-0020/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) No. CA0048089

This Action: **Terminate Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2007-0020**

SUMMARY

Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2007-0020 (Attachment 1) for Cuyama Community Service District's (Cuyama CSD) Wastewater Treatment Plant expired May 11, 2012, and Central Coast Water Board staff administratively extended its NPDES permit. In January 2016, Cuyama CSD ceased discharging treated municipal wastewater effluent to Salisbury Creek. Cuyama CSD is currently discharging its treated wastewater to evaporation ponds with the future intent of using the treated wastewater to irrigate non-food crops. Cuyama CSD is no longer discharging to Salisbury Creek, and Water Board staff will enroll the new discharge in State Water Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems*. Therefore, staff proposes to terminate Order No. R3-2007-0020/NPDES Permit No. CA0048089.

DISCUSSION

In April 2014, Cuyama CSD received one of several grants from the State Water Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund to identify an alternative wastewater effluent disposal location. Cuyama CSD selected to dispose of treated effluent in evaporation ponds and apply recycled wastewater to an adjacent property for irrigation of non-food crops. In December 2014, Cuyama CSD submitted an application to the Central Coast Water Board to change its treated effluent discharge from Salisbury Creek to the evaporation ponds. In May 2015, the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) provided comments on Cuyama CSD's engineering report for production, distribution, and use of recycled water. In December 2015, the State Water Board granted approval to Cuyama CSD to divert water to the four proposed lined ponds with irrigation of 575 acres of non-food crops. In January 2016, Cuyama CSD ceased its discharge to Salisbury Creek and began discharging to one of its newly constructed evaporation ponds. After receiving additional SRF funds, Cuyama CSD broke ground in April 2017 to construct an additional three evaporation ponds.

The Central Coast Water Board proposes to enroll Cuyama CSD's discharge of treated domestic wastewater to land in State Water Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems*. As of the date of this staff report, Cuyama CSD still needs to address DDW's comments on its engineering report before it can begin using recycled water it produces for non-food crop irrigation.

Because Cuyama CSD is no longer discharging its treated wastewater to Salisbury Creek, the Central Coast Water Board proposes to terminate Order No. R3-2007-0020 regulating this discharge.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

In 2001, Cuyama CSD upgraded its wastewater treatment plant. Cuyama CSD's discharge to Salisbury Creek has consistently complied with requirements, except for those regarding effluent monitoring: coliform monitoring frequency, and effluent trihalomethane limits, including bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane (THMs). Cuyama CSD's permit compliance history is included as Attachment 2. The Central Coast Water Board issued numerous violation notices and administrative civil liability orders in response to the Cuyama CSD's permit noncompliance for coliform and THMs.

During the permit term, Cuyama CSD and the Central Coast Water Board have entered into three separate settlement agreements/stipulated orders (Order No. R3-2009-0005, Order No. R3-2010-0023, and Order No. R3-2017-0023). For each agreement, Central Coast Water Board agreed to suspend the penalties (i.e. fines) as long as Cuyama CSD completed compliance projects to meet permitted effluent limits.

Ultimately, Cuyama CSD had to decide either to modify its disinfection system to reduce THM generation to meet permitted limits or completely eliminate the surface water discharge. As discussed above, Cuyama CSD was able to secure the funding to eliminate the discharge to surface water.

It should be noted that the wastewater effluent limits for discharges to surface water must meet more stringent criteria than for discharges to land because aquatic receptors are often more sensitive than humans (i.e., groundwater users). With adequate operation and maintenance of its

wastewater treatment plant, Cuyama CSD's treated domestic wastewater to land should continuously meet the State Board's *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems*.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

Termination of waste discharge requirements for this discharge is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21100, et. seq.) in accordance with Section 13389 of the California Water Code.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

On May 10, 2017, the Water Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to terminate WDRs for the discharge and provided an opportunity to submit written comments and recommendations. Notification of the Water Board's intent to terminate the permit was by posting on the Water Board's website and posting at the facility. Written comments were due at the Water Board office by 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2017. The Water Board did not receive any comments during the public comment period.

RECOMMENDATION

Terminate Order No. R3-2007-0020/NPDES Permit No. CA0048089, as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

For copies, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2017/2017_agendas.shtml

1. Order No. R3-2017-0020, including the following associated attachments:
 - Attachment A - Definitions
 - Attachment B – Map
 - Attachment C – Flow Schematic
 - Attachment D – Standard Provisions
 - Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Attachment F – Fact Sheet

2. Compliance History