

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

ORDER NO. 01-005  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
SERRA CANYON COMPANY LIMITED  
(Malibu Beach Recreational Vehicle Park)  
(File No. 73-073)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) finds:

1. The Serra Canyon Company Limited (hereinafter Discharger) operates the Malibu Beach Recreational Vehicle Park, a 155-space recreational vehicle and 74-space tent campground located at 25801 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, California (Figure One). Nine septic tanks and twenty nine seepage pits discharge up to 12,000 gallons per day (gpd) of primary treated wastewater to groundwater. An average daily dry weather flow of up to 8,000 gpd of domestic wastewater is discharged to the seepage pit disposal system. The seepage pit disposal system is located approximately 400 feet from the Pacific Ocean. The Discharger discharges domestic wastewater from the Malibu Beach Recreational Vehicle Park under Waste Discharge Requirements contained in Order No. 95-018, adopted by this Regional Board on January 23, 1995.
2. The facility is located in an unsewered area of the City of Malibu (City). No public sewers have been scheduled for construction in the vicinity of the site. The City currently does not provide wastewater collection and treatment utilities; rather, the City primarily relies upon subsurface disposal system for disposal of domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater.
3. On February 2, 2000, the Discharger filed a Report of Waste Discharge with this Regional Board proposing to replace the existing septic tank system<sup>1</sup> with three Fixed Activated Sludge Treatment (FAST) units. By letter of November 30, 2000, the discharger has stated that it may not use a FAST system, but is evaluating other wastewater treatment systems capable of producing a secondary treated effluent. According to information provided by the Discharger, each FAST unit is capable of treating up to 6,000 gpd, and is capable of producing a secondary treated effluent before being discharged to the seepage pit disposal system. The Discharger proposes to install the three FAST treatment units, and/or one or more other treatment systems, to expand the capacity of the existing treatment system to

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<sup>1</sup> The term septic system is used in this document to reflect that currently, the wastewater receives only primary treatment through a series of grease interceptors and septic tanks, prior to disposal into seepage pits. The Discharger shall install a treatment system that will produce a disinfected and secondary treated effluent.

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accommodate the increasing number of visitors to the park each year. The proposed wastewater treatment system will be designed by the Discharger to treat up to 18,000 gpd of sewage. The proposed increased treated wastewater discharge will add additional treated wastewater to the existing 29 seepage pits used for treated wastewater disposal. The discharger shall conduct an evaluation to determine if the existing 29 seepage pits can adequately dispose of the treated wastewater without adverse impacts such as causing slope instability.

4. The wastewater receives only primary treatment in the existing septic system before being discharged to the seepage pit disposal system. The quality of effluent from the septic tank system is not monitored, as a result the effluent quality from the septic tank and its impact on groundwater is not known. The existing septic system is not capable of disinfecting wastewater discharged to the seepage pits. Furthermore, the existing septic system is not capable of producing a secondary treated effluent until system upgrades are completed.
5. Discharges from the existing septic tank system infiltrate groundwater through the seepage pit disposal system. The bottom of the seepage pits and the water table may not have a minimum required 10-foot vertical separation. In addition, the seepage pit disposal system discharges in close proximity (approximately 400 feet) to the Pacific Ocean. Groundwater monitoring is being required since groundwater at the disposal site may be in hydraulic connection with the Pacific Ocean. The Discharger must upgrade the septic system and install disinfection equipment to disinfect the effluent to levels of body contact recreation prior to discharge to the seepage pit disposal system: in accordance with the Time Schedule Order 01-006 outline dates. The Executive Officer shall have the authority to waive compliance with a minimum 10 feet separation, provided a minimum of 5 feet vertical separation between the seepage pit disposalsystem and the water table be maintained at all times.
6. The Regional Board encourages the Discharger to consider upgrades that would enable the treatment system to meet water reclamation standards and provide greater flexibility for disposal/reuse of the treated wastewater from the treatment system. The Discharger has indicated that they are evaluating cost effective ways to reuse treated effluent from the treatment system.
7. The facility is located in Section 15, Township 1S, Range 18W (San Bernardino Base & Meridian). The facility's approximate latitude is 34o 02' 00" and a longitude of 118o 44'.

8. The Discharger does not currently monitor groundwater in order to evaluate any impacts from its discharge of water, however, the Regional Board is now requiring the Discharger to do so.
9. The septic tanks and seepage pit disposal systems for the Malibu Beach Recreational Vehicle Park are located in the Corral Canyon Hydrologic Subarea and overlie the Malibu Valley Groundwater Basin.
10. The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) on June 13, 1994. The Water Quality Control Plan designates beneficial uses and water quality objectives for groundwater within the Malibu Valley Groundwater Basin. The requirements contained in this Order are in conformance with the goals and objectives of the Water Quality Control Plan.
11. Discharges from the seepage pits infiltrate groundwater. Existing beneficial uses designated for groundwater include agricultural supply and potential municipal, domestic and industrial supply. With regard to the use of groundwater for municipal and domestic supply, the Discharger has stated there are no public water wells downgradient of the seepage pits. Potable water consumers in the area receive only imported water, and this is from the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29. The Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 receives water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California via the West Basin Municipal Water District, since 1961.
12. All requirements contained in this Order are in conformance with the goals and objectives of the Basin Plan, with the possible exception of the following:
  - Pathogens: The Discharger does not presently monitor concentrations of pathogens in discharges from its septic system. In accordance with the tentative Time Schedule Order 01-006, the Discharger shall disinfect its wastewater to body contact recreation standards, as groundwater beneath the seepage pits may be in hydraulic connection with the Pacific Ocean.
  - Nutrients: The Discharger does not presently monitor concentrations of nutrients in discharges from the septic system. In accordance with the tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program No. CI 6118, the Discharger shall monitor for nitrogen compounds and phosphorus.
13. The effluent from the septic system discharges in close proximity (400 feet) to the Pacific Ocean. Groundwater underlying the facility may be in hydraulic connection with the Pacific

Ocean. Beneficial uses designated for these surface waters include, among others: contact and non-contact water recreation; marine habitat, and shellfish harvesting. A Water Quality Assessment, adopted by this Regional Board on May 18, 1998, identified beaches along the Santa Monica Bay (including the Malibu area) as impaired by pathogens and nutrients.

14. The Discharger is not able to quantify potential impacts, if any, that may result from the discharge to groundwater or to nearby surface waters since there is no current groundwater or surface water monitoring conducted. Other potential impacts include the discharge of nutrients and bacteria to surface water, and the corresponding “water imbalance” whereby the high volume of wastewater discharged to groundwater, can cause an increased discharge of groundwater to surface water. The Discharger shall upgrade the existing septic system to meet the proposed limits in this Order for total and fecal coliform and enterococcus. The Discharger shall upgrade the existing septic system to a wastewater treatment system that will produce a disinfected and secondary treated wastewater. The Discharger will be required to monitor for total coliform, fecal coliform and enterococcus bacteria in accordance with **tentative** Monitoring and Reporting Program No. CI 6118. In addition, the Discharger shall monitor for nitrogen compounds (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia and organic nitrogen), phosphorus and surfactants in accordance with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. CI 6118. If monitoring indicates that nutrients are impacting the water quality; **in excess of Basin Plan objectives**, nutrient removal will be required.
15. Order No. 95-018 did not contain requirements for:
  - a. Removal of pathogens from the effluent prior to discharge to the seepage pit disposal system: The Discharger plans to upgrade the wastewater treatment system and add UV disinfection to meet the proposed effluent limits in this Order for total coliform, fecal coliform and enterococcus in accordance with Time Schedule Order No. 01-006.
  - b. Removal of nitrogen and other nutrient loads from the effluent prior to discharge to the seepage pit disposal system: At this time, the Discharger is not able to quantify impacts, if any, to groundwater or to nearby surface water as no monitoring program is in place. In accordance with the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. CI 6118, the Discharger will be required to monitor groundwater for elevated levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and surfactants.
  - c. Currently the Discharger does not monitor surface water (the Pacific Ocean). The monitoring and reporting program requires the discharger to evaluate the hydraulic connection between the groundwater and surface water. If groundwater in hydraulic

connection with surface water is degraded by sewage disposal, then surface water monitoring will be required.

16. Following a review of requirements in Order No. 95-018, these Waste Discharge Requirements have been revised to include increased design capacity of the treatment system, additional findings, updated standard provisions, an updated monitoring and reporting program, a requirement for receiving groundwater monitoring, ocean water monitoring and a time schedule order for upgrading the septic tank system.
17. The seepage pit disposal system discharges in close proximity (approximately 400 feet) to the Pacific Ocean. Groundwater monitoring is being required as groundwater underlying the seepage pit disposal system may be in hydraulic connection with the Pacific Ocean. A groundwater monitoring program and a surface water monitoring program are necessary to evaluate any impacts from the discharge of waste to groundwater quality, and to determine the migration potential of waste discharged to groundwater and nearby ocean water. A groundwater and a surface water monitoring program shall be established, so that groundwater and surface water may be sampled and analyzed to determine if discharges from the septic system impact water quality.
18. This project involves an existing facility and, as such, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 2100 et seq.), in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15301.
19. The Discharger has indicated that it can not immediately comply with the requirements contained in these **tentative** Waste Discharge Requirements because the treatment system needs to be upgraded. In order for the Discharger not to be in immediate violation of requirements in the Waste Discharge Requirements, the Regional Board has included a Time Schedule Order (TSO) that will allow the Discharger to complete all needed upgrades within a timeframe specified in the TSO.

The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to revise Waste Discharge Requirements for this discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their views and recommendations for the requirements.

The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and to the tentative requirements.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Serra Canyon Company Limited shall comply with the following:

A. INFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. Waste discharged shall be limited to domestic wastewater only. No water softener regeneration brines, commercial, or industrial waste waters shall be discharged to the collection systems that flow to the treatment unit.
2. The maximum daily flow of influent from the collection system to the proposed treatment system shall not exceed the maximum design flow of 18,000 gpd. This flow limitation also applies to treated effluent discharged to the seepage pit disposal system.
3. No volatile organic compounds are to be discharged into the seepage pit disposal system.

B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. The pH of wastes discharged shall at all times be between 6.5 to 8.5 pH units.
2. The wastewater discharged to the seepage pit disposal system shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Monthly Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
BOD5	mg/L	30	45
Suspended solids	mg/L	30	45
Turbidity	NTU	10	15
Oil and grease	mg/L	--	15
Fecal coliform(a)	MPN/100mL	--	200
Enterococcus (b)	MPN/100mL	24	104

- (a) The limits for coliform shall apply prior to discharge of treated wastewater into the seepage pit disposal system.
  - (b) The limit for enterococcus is based on the geometric mean of at least 5 equally spaced samples in any 5-week period.
3. The wastewater discharged to the ~~leachfields~~ seepage pit disposal system shall not contain salts, heavy metals, or organic pollutants at levels that would impact

groundwater that may be in hydraulic connection with surface waters designated for marine aquatic life or body contact recreation.

4. Any wastes that do not meet the foregoing requirements shall be held in impervious containers, and discharged at a legal point of disposal.

### C. PROHIBITIONS

1. There shall be no sanitary sewer overflows or discharge of wastes to waters of the State (including storm drains) at any time.
2. No part of ~~the treatment system and~~ the seepage pit disposal system shall be closer than 150 feet to any water well. No part of the of the treatment system and disposal system shall be closer than 100 feet to any stream, channel or other watercourse.
3. No part of the treatment system and the seepage pits shall extend to a depth where wastes may deleteriously affect an aquifer that is usable for domestic purposes. In no case may the septic system and the seepage pits extend to within 10 feet of the zone of historic or anticipated high ground water level. The Discharger must submit certification that the seepage pits meet this requirement. However, upon installation of disinfection equipment and compliance with fecal coliform requirements in this Order, as well as compliance with all other requirements in this Order, the Executive Officer shall have the authority to waive compliance with a minimum 10 feet separation, provided Discharger may not need to comply with this requirement for a minimum of 5 feet-vertical separation between the septic seepage pit disposal system and the water table, be maintained at all times.
4. Wastes shall not be disposed of in geologically unstable areas or so as to cause earth movement.
5. Wastes discharged shall not impart tastes, odors, color, foaming or other objectionable characteristics to the receiving water.
6. Adequate facilities shall be provided to divert surface and storm water away from the treatment plant and seepage pit disposal system and from areas where any potential pollutants are stored.

7. The septic tanks, treatment system, sewer collection system and the seepage pit disposal system, shall be protected from damage by storm flows or runoff generated by a 100-year storm.
8. There shall be no onsite disposal of sludge. Any offsite disposal of sewage or sludge shall be made only to a legal point of disposal. For purposes of this Order, a legal disposal site is one for which requirements have been established by a California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and which is in full compliance therewith. Any sewage or sludge handling shall be in such a manner as to prevent its reaching surface waters or watercourses.
9. The treatment system, including the collection system that is a part of the treatment system and the seepage pit disposal system, shall be maintained in such a manner that at no time sewage will be permitted to surface or overflow at any location.
10. Sewage odors shall not be detectable.
11. Wastes discharged shall at no time contain any substance in concentrations toxic to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life.
12. The discharge of waste shall not create a condition of pollution, contamination, or nuisance.
13. The direct or indirect discharge of any wastewater to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited

D. PROVISIONS

1. The Discharger shall file, with the Regional Board, technical reports on self-monitoring work performed according to the detailed specifications contained in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 6118, as directed by the Executive Officer. The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the location and/or times specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be reported to the Regional Board. Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 6118 contains requirements, among others, specifying the following:
  - a) The Discharger shall ensure that the capacity of the disposal area is adequate for the discharge and that adequate steps are taken to accommodate system failures or to deal with loss of assimilative capacity of the soils.

- b) The Discharger shall establish baseline bacteria levels in the effluent from the septic system by monitoring bacteria in wastewater prior to discharge into the leachfields and groundwater.
  - c) A monitoring program for groundwater shall be established so that the groundwater immediately downgradient and upgradient from the discharge area can be measured, sampled, and analyzed to determine if discharges from the seepage pit disposal system have impacted, or are impacting, water quality. In addition, the Discharger must complete a study to determine the degree of any hydraulic connection between the seepage pits and surface water. Submittal of a plan for monitoring groundwater, which is subject to the approval of the Executive Officer, is due by March 30, 2001.
  - d) A surface water monitoring program shall be established so that surface water can be measured, sampled, and analyzed to determine if discharges from the site have impacted or are impacting water quality. Submittal of a plan for monitoring surface water, which is subject to the approval of the Executive Officer, is due by March 30, 2001.
2. The Discharger shall provide a report regarding water conservation and water reuse by February 28, 2001.
  3. The Discharger shall upgrade the treatment system to include disinfection to meet the total and fecal coliform, and enterococcus limits contained in B2 above, prior to discharge into the seepage pit disposal system, in accordance with Time Schedule Order No. 01-006.
  4. The Discharge shall cause the treatment system to be inspected no less than **twice** once in 2 or 2 1/2 years during the life of the permit by an inspector to be retained and suggested by the Discharger but subject to the approval of the Executive Officer.
  5. The Discharger shall comply with all applicable requirements with respect to Assembly Bill No. 885.
  6. The Discharger shall notify this Regional Board within 24 hours of any adverse condition resulting from the discharge of wastewater from this facility; written

confirmation shall follow within one week. This information shall be confirmed in the next monitoring report. In addition, the report shall also include the reasons for the violations or adverse conditions, the steps being taken to correct the problem (including dates thereof), and the steps being taken to prevent a recurrence.

7. The Discharger shall notify the Regional Board within 24 hours , by telephone, of any bypassing or surfacing of wastes. Written confirmation shall follow within one week and shall include information relative to the location(s), estimated volume, date and time, duration, cause, and remedial measures taken to effect cleanup and measures taken to prevent any recurrence.
8. This Order does not alleviate the responsibility of the Discharger to obtain other necessary local, state, and federal permits to construct facilities necessary for compliance with this Order; nor does this Order prevent imposition of additional standards, requirements, or conditions by any other regulatory agency.
9. Any discharge of wastewater from the treatment system (including wastewater collection system) at any point other than specifically described in this Order is prohibited, and constitutes a violation of the Order.
10. After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this Order may be terminated or modified for causes including, but not limited, to:
  - a) Violation of any term or condition contained in this Order;
  - b) Obtaining this Order by misrepresentation, or failure to disclose all relevant facts;
  - c) A change in any condition, or discovery of any information that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge.
11. The Discharger shall furnish, within a reasonable time, any information the Regional Board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this Order. The Discharger shall also furnish to the Regional Board, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this Order.

12. The Discharger proposes to discharge a daily waste flow of up to 18,000 gallons per day, which is also the maximum flow rate the disposal system is designed for. The Discharger shall file a written report with this Regional Board at such time as the average monthly daily waste flow has reached or exceeded 13,500 gpd. The report shall detail provisions to cope with excess flows, provided, however, that the foregoing shall not be construed to allow flow in excess of 18,000 gpd.
13. Should monitoring data indicate impacts to groundwater or nearby surface water, the Discharger shall submit, within 90 days after determination of the problem, plans for measures that will be taken, or have been taken, to mitigate any long-term effects that may result from the subsurface disposal of wastes. Any water quality impact to surface and groundwater such as, but not limited to, risks to human health from pathogens, and accelerated eutrophication of surface waters from nutrients in waste waters shall be reported.
14. This Order includes "Standard Provisions Applicable to Waste Discharge Requirements." If there is any conflict between provisions stated herein and the "Standard Provisions," those provisions stated herein will prevail.
15. The Discharger shall submit to the Regional Board, within 180 days of the adoption of this Order, procedures that will be, or have been, taken to ensure that no discharge or recycling of any untreated or partially treated sewage, will result from the treatment facility, in the event of equipment failure.
16. These waste discharge requirements contained in this Order will remain in effect for a period of (5) years. Should the Discharger wish to continue discharging to groundwater for a period of time in excess of five years, the Discharger must file an updated Report of Waste Discharge with the Regional Board, no later than 180 days in advance of the expiration date of the Order, for consideration of issuance of new or revised waste discharge requirements. Any discharge of waste five years after the date of issuance, without obtaining new Waste Discharge Requirements from the Regional Board is a violation of the California Water Code, Section 13264. The Regional Board is authorized to take appropriate enforcement action for any noncompliance with this provision including assessment of penalties. .
17. In accordance with Water Code Section 13263(g), these requirements shall not create a vested right to continue to discharge. All discharges of waste into the waters of the State are privileges, not rights, and are subject to rescission or modification.

E. RESCISSION

Order No. 95-018, adopted by this Board on January 23, 1995, is hereby rescinded except for enforcement on Order No. 95-018.

I, Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on January 11, 2001.

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Dennis A. Dickerson  
Executive Officer