

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**INVESTIGATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2007-0068  
FOR  
FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT'S  
DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE TO THE LOS JILGUEROS PRESERVE,  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (hereinafter Regional Board) finds that:

1. Fallbrook Public Utility District (hereinafter FPUD) owns and operates a sewage collection system, including a 10-inch sewer main located at the 500 block of Palomino Road in Fallbrook, regulated under Order No. R9-2006-003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems*, and Order No. R9-2007-005, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Sewage Collection Agencies in the San Diego Region*. FPUD also owns and operates a 12-inch water main line which runs parallel to the 10-inch sewer main stated above.
2. FPUD notified the Regional Board of a 141,859-gallon sanitary sewer overflow from its wastewater collection system that occurred on March 25, 2007 between 0600 and 2130 at the 500 block of Palomino Road in Fallbrook. FPUD reported that the overflow was caused by a water main line break which resulted in a discharge of about 500,000-gallons of potable water which undermined a manhole and collapsed a 10 inch sewer main pipe resulting in an overflow of sewage. FPUD also reported that the overflow entered a dry creek bed and then flowed into two ponds at the Los Jilgueros Preserve.
3. The Los Jilgueros Preserve is located on South Mission Road on a land area of about 46 acres; and features ponds, wetlands, a native plant restoration area, and a 1.5 mile loop trail.
4. Pursuant to CWC Section 13267, the Regional Board may investigate the quality of waters of the state by requiring dischargers to submit technical or monitoring reports.
5. Submittal of technical information is necessary to determine the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the March 25, 2007 discharge of sewage and potable water.
6. The costs associated with providing the information, including sampling, analysis and reporting, are reasonable for assessing the circumstances of an illicit

discharge of sewage and potable water of the magnitude of this incident to waters of the state.

7. This action is for information gathering purposes and, as such, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 2100 Et seq.) in accordance with Section 15306, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Administration Code

**FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to California Water Code section 13267, to submit a technical report to the Regional Board no later than **5:00 PM, May 9, 2007**. The technical report must include the following:

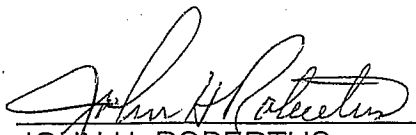
1. Detailed information about the nature and circumstances that resulted in the overflow from the sewer main. Include the chronology of events from when the spill was determined, the names and contact information of all FPUD personnel that responded to the incident and/or that were involved in onsite repairs.
2. An explanation of how the volume of sewage discharged was estimated. Provide any supporting documentation such as tabular or graphical flow monitoring data of flow volumes in the subject pipelines or at the treatment plant during that might help quantify the discharge volume.
3. The final destination of the discharge, and whether the discharge resulted in an overflow from the Los Jilgueros Preserve ponds or a discharge to surface waters downstream of the ponds.
4. Detailed chronological descriptions of all actions taken by the District to terminate the overflow, repair the failed pipelines, and mitigate any impacts. Please include an evaluation of the results of these actions.
5. A discussion of the effect of the combined discharge to the water quality of receiving waters, including; the ponds at the Los Jilgueros Preserve. Please include results of any water quality monitoring for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), coliform bacteria, and all other analyses conducted in the affected receiving waters prior to, during, or after the discharge.
6. A discussion of the District's assessment of the potential short and long term impacts of the discharge on public health, animal and plant communities, and on the overall ecosystem downstream of the discharge. Please explain how conclusions regarding impacts were determined and what steps, if any, the District has taken, or will take, to mitigate these impacts.
7. A discussion of whether the owners of the Los Jilgueros Preserve were notified of the discharge and steps, if any, the District has taken, or will take to mitigate any

impacts of the discharge on the Los Jilgueros Preserve. Include copies of any correspondence or emails sent to the owners of the Los Jilgueros Preserve regarding the above discharge, and any documentation that the owners of the Los Jilgueros Preserve are satisfied with the measures the District has taken, or will take to mitigate any impacts to the Los Jilgueros Preserve.

8. Submittal of the District's Sanitary Sewer Overflow Prevention Plan and Response Plan and a discussion of what measures in the Plans were implemented in regards to this incident and whether the Plans will be updated as a consequence of this incident, particularly to address spills in ecologically sensitive areas. This could include such tasks as monitoring of force main flows, increased monitoring frequency of sewer lines in sensitive areas, use of additional equipment to recover sewage overflows, etc.
9. The date and extent of the last preventive maintenance and/or inspection (e.g. line cleaning, closed-circuit television inspection) that was performed on the sewer line, water main line and other structures involved in the sewer overflow prior to March 25, 2007.
10. Any other pertinent information that will assist the Regional Board in evaluating this discharge.

All information provided in response to this Request for Technical Information must include the following signed certification statement:

*"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."*

  
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JOHN H. ROBERTUS  
Executive Officer

4/18/2007  
Date

JHR: mpm: rwm: mpa: oo