SUBJECT

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2020-0188 is recommended.

KEY ISSUES

PRACTICAL VISION
Tentative Order No. R9-2020-0188 is consistent with the Strategizing for Healthy Waters chapter of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision.² The use of statewide permits, like the General Order, help the San Diego Water Board focus staff resources on larger projects and facilities within the region that pose a greater threat to water quality. Additionally, enrolling dischargers in the General Order maintains consistent regulation of small domestic wastewater systems throughout the State.

² Practical Vision: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/
DISCUSSION

The Facility is located at 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, in San Diego County (Supporting Document 2). San Diego Water Board staff reviewed the Discharger’s Report of Waste Discharge for enrollment of the Facility in the General Order and the requirements specified in Order No. 99-04. San Diego Water Board staff determined the Facility OWTS is eligible for enrollment in the General Order. Furthermore, Order No. 99-04 is outdated and is not as protective of water quality as the requirements specified in the General Order. Implementation of the General Order provides a more appropriate, consistent, and streamlined statewide approach to regulating small domestic wastewater treatment systems. Discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems have certain common characteristics, such as similar constituents, concentrations of constituents, disposal techniques, and flow ranges, and require the same or similar treatment standards. While the Discharger may request to be regulated under individual waste discharge requirements, the Facility’s enrollment in the General Order allows the San Diego Water Board to effectively and efficiently regulate discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems, while prioritizing the agency’s limited resources.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The significant differences between the General Order and Order No. 99-04 are:

1. Order No. 99-04 includes individual waste discharge requirements for the Facility, whereas the General Order regulates small domestic wastewater facilities statewide.

2. The monitoring required by the General Order is less stringent than the monitoring required by Order No. 99-04. The monitoring and reporting program required by the General Order, however, is more appropriate and consistent with facilities of similar size and discharge across the state.

COMPLIANCE RECORD

The San Diego Water Board issued twenty-one staff enforcement letters and two notices of violation for the following 392 violations of Order No. 99-04:


• 1 violation for exceeding biochemical oxygen demand limits in 2011.

• 1 violation for discharging waste to waters of the United States in 1999.

• 1 violation for an unauthorized discharge of 300 gallons of partially treated wastewater in 2020.

The Discharger is currently installing an upgraded treatment system to improve its ability to meet the prescribed effluent limits more consistently and limit the number of violations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notification of this action was provided to the Discharger and known interested parties on September 14, 2020 (Supporting Documents 3 and 4). Additionally, the San Diego Water Board posted Tentative Order No. R9-2020-0188 on its website on September 14, 2020. No comments were received during the public comment period. These actions satisfy the 30-day public notification and comment period requirements of Water Code section 13167.5.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2020-0188
2. Vicinity and Facility Map
3. Tentative Order No. R9-2020-0188 Transmittal Letter
4. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period