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California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region

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September 30, 2009

In reply refer to:
ahdai:255679

Ms. Alice Benson
Wastewater Operations Manager
Ramona Municipal Water District
105 Earlham Street
Ramona, CA 92065-1599

Dear Ms. Benson:

SUBJECT: SANTA MARIA WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY(WRF)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) has reviewed the June, July, and August 2009 monthly monitoring reports, and the second quarter 2009 monitoring report submitted by the Ramona Municipal Water District (District) in accordance with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2000-177.

The Regional Board identified the following violations of the Discharge Specifications contained in Order No. 2000-177:

1. There was 1 violation of Discharge Specification B.4 of the 12-month average effluent concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS), established at 800 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The violation occurred during the April-June quarterly monitoring periods with a reported value of 907 mg/L.

2. There was 1 violation of Discharge Specification B.4 of the 12-month average effluent concentration of sulfate, established at 200 mg/L. The violation occurred during the April-June quarterly monitoring periods with a reported value of 246.2 mg/L.

3. There was 1 violation of Discharge Specification B.4 of the daily maximum effluent concentration of sulfate, established at 250 mg/L. The violation occurred during the April-June quarterly monitoring periods with a reported value of 259 mg/L.

The next monitoring report to be submitted is the September 2009 monthly monitoring report due by October 31st, 2009.

The Regional Board acknowledges that the District is planning an upgrade to the Santa Maria WRF that should address exceedances of sulfate and total dissolved solids discharge specifications. Please be aware these violations subject the District to possible further enforcement action by the Regional Board, including administrative enforcement orders requiring the District to cease and desist from violations, or to clean up waste and abate existing or threatened conditions of pollution or nuisance; administrative assessment of civil liability in amounts of up to $5,000 per day per violation;1 referral to the State Attorney General for injunctive relief; and referral to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

The heading portion of this letter includes a Regional Board code number noted after "In reply refer to." In order to assist us in the processing of your correspondence please include this code number in the heading or subject line portion of all correspondence and reports to the Regional Board pertaining to this matter. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Ms. Amanda Dai at (858) 627-3977 or at email adai@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Morris

Robert Morris, P.E.
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
Groundwater Branch