

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

**DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS**

---

In the Matter of Wastewater Petition WW0074

**Camarillo Sanitary District**

**ORDER APPROVING CHANGE IN PLACE OF USE  
AND QUANTITY OF DISCHARGE**

---

SOURCE: Conejo Creek tributary to Calleguas Creek thence Mugu Lagoon

COUNTY: Ventura

---

**WHEREAS:**

1. Camarillo Sanitary District (District) filed Wastewater Change Petition WW0074 with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on April 16, 2014, pursuant to Water Code section 1211. The petition seeks to change the place of use of treated wastewater and discontinue the discharge of treated wastewater to Conejo Creek.
2. Water Code section 1211 requires the owner of any wastewater treatment plant to obtain approval from the State Water Board prior to making any change in the point of discharge, place of use, or purpose of use of treated wastewater, where changes in the discharge or use of treated wastewater result in decreasing the flow in any portion of a watercourse. The District has not obtained previous approval of any such changes under Water Code section 1211. For the purposes of this Order, the State Water Board considers the following information as the District's existing point of discharge, place of use, and purpose of use of treated wastewater:
  - a. The points of discharge are the following:
    - i. Discharge Serial No. 001-A at North 1,894,351 feet and East 6,258,736 feet by California Coordinate System 1983, Zone 5, being within SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Projected Section 5, T1N, R20W, SBB&M; and,
    - ii. Discharge Serial No. 001-B at North 1,894,433 feet and East 6,258,876 feet by California Coordinate System 1983, Zone 5, being within SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Projected Section 5, T1N, R20W, SBB&M.
  - b. The place of use is 744 acres within the District's service area, as shown on map dated August 6, 2015 on file with the State Water Board.
  - c. The purpose of use is irrigation.
3. The District owns and operates a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and a treated wastewater distribution system consisting of pipes and pump stations to either distribute treated wastewater to customers for irrigation of crops or discharge treated wastewater to Conejo

Creek. Although capable of discharging treated wastewater to Conejo Creek at a maximum rate of 11.2 cubic feet per second (cfs), the District currently discharges at a rate of approximately 3.5 cfs. While the District has increased the amount of treated wastewater produced at the WWTP, the amount of treated wastewater discharged to Conejo Creek has remained relatively constant as a result of a system to distribute treated wastewater to customers.

4. Wastewater treatment, use, and discharge activities by the District are authorized by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) through Order R4-2014-0062. The Regional Water Board completed a Total Maximum Daily Load study that imposed salinity standards for Conejo Creek. The treated wastewater currently produced by the WWTP has salinity concentrations that exceed the standards for Conejo Creek. With the impending implementation of the salinity standards in late 2023, the District's WWTP must cease non-emergency discharges to Conejo Creek unless salinity concentrations in the treated wastewater discharged to Conejo Creek are lowered. Although the District provides treated wastewater for irrigation in lieu of discharges to Conejo Creek, the current and reasonably foreseeable treated wastewater customer demands are insufficient to account all of the WWTP's production of treated wastewater by the 2023 deadline.
5. The District has proposed two solutions to eliminate non-emergency discharges to Conejo Creek: (1) expand the service area to provide treated wastewater for irrigation; and, (2) connect the District's WWTP to the Regional Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP), operated by the Calleguas Municipal Water District, which discharges to the Pacific Ocean.
6. To expand the service area, the District proposes to install a new 16-inch distribution line to facilitate expansion of the treated wastewater distribution system to supply a broader service area. The place of use for irrigation will increase by 305 acres to a total of 1,049 acres.
7. To connect to the SMP, the District proposes to install a 24-inch pipeline. The SMP is owned and operated by the Calleguas Municipal Water District, and collects saline water generated by groundwater desalting facilities and excess recycled water and conveys that water for safe discharge to the Pacific Ocean, where natural salt levels are higher.
8. Public notice of the change was issued on September 11, 2014. No protests were filed.
9. The State Water Board has determined that the petition for change in the place of use and quantity of discharge to a watercourse will not cause injury to any other lawful user of water.
10. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the District is the lead agency for preparation of environmental documentation for the project. On February 12, 2013, the District completed a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) entitled *Camarillo Effluent Diversion Pipeline Project* (SCH No. 2012081075). On February 26, 2014, the District certified the final EIR for the project, and on February 28, 2014 the District issued a Notice of Determination. To minimize impacts to special status species, sensitive communities, wetlands and wildlife habitat, the final EIR included provisions that required surface streamflow monitoring during dry weather months in order to ensure that surface streamflow in Calleguas Creek at Highway 1 does not decrease below 2 cfs as a monthly average.
11. The State Water Board is a CEQA responsible agency for purposes of considering whether to approve the wastewater change petition that will allow the City to proceed with the proposed project. As a CEQA responsible agency, the State Water Board must consider the environmental documentation prepared by the lead agency and any other relevant evidence in the record, and reach its own conclusions on whether and how to approve the project involved. (Cal. Code

Regs., tit. 14, § 15096, subd. (a).) The State Water Board has considered the final EIR in deciding whether to approve the petition. There is no evidence that approval of the wastewater change petition will have any adverse impacts on water resources within the State Water Board's purview for the petition. The State Water Board will issue an NOD within five days of the date of this Order.

12. In addition to any obligation the State Water Board may have under CEQA, the Board has an independent obligation to consider the effect of the proposed change on public trust resources and to protect those resources where feasible. (*National Audubon Society v. Superior Court* (1983) 33 Cal.3d 419 [189 Cal.Rptr. 346].) No adverse effects to public trust resources are expected.
13. The State Water Board has a Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water (Recycled Water Policy), originally adopted on February 3, 2009 and amended on January 22, 2013. The purpose of the Recycled Water Policy is to increase the use of recycled water from municipal wastewater sources, and one of the goals for California, as stipulated in the Recycled Water Policy, is to increase the use of recycled water over 2002 levels by at least one million acre-feet per year by 2020, and by at least two million acre-feet per year by 2030. The District's project, as proposed in the wastewater change petition, is consistent with the purpose of the Recycled Water Policy, and will help California meet the goals of the Recycled Water Policy.
14. Pursuant to Resolution 2012-0029, the State Water Board has delegated the authority to administer the State Water Board's water rights program to the Deputy Director for Water Rights, and the Deputy Director for Water Rights has redelegated the authority.

#### ORDER

#### NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The points of discharge are unchanged.
2. The place of use is changed to include 1,049 acres within the District's service area, as shown on map dated August 6, 2015 on file with the State Water Board.
3. The purpose of use is unchanged.
4. The quantity of discharge of treated wastewater from the WWTP to Conejo Creek may be reduced by up to 3.5 cfs during the period of January 1 to December 31 of each year.
5. For the protection of instream resources, and in accordance with mitigation measure MM-BIO-1 from the District's final EIR, the reduction of discharge of treated wastewater into Conejo Creek at the points of discharge shall not occur when surface flow in Calleguas Creek at Highway 1 is at or below 2 cfs as a monthly average.
6. The District shall monitor surface flow during dry weather months in order to ensure that surface streamflow in Calleguas Creek at Highway 1 does not decrease below 2 cfs as a monthly average. The District shall maintain records of streamflow monitoring in Calleguas Creek and of any actions taken to maintain streamflow in Calleguas Creek at Highway 1 in accordance with this term, and such records will be made available upon request by the Deputy Director for Water Rights.

Wastewater Petition WW0074  
Page 4

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:  
AMANDA MONTGOMERY, FOR

*Barbara Evoy, Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights*

Dated: AUG 26 2015