

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION
895 Aerovista Lane, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401**

STIPULATED ORDER NO. R3-2005-0120

**MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTY
IN THE MATTER OF
SAN SIMEON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board) finds the following:

1. On May 31, 2002, the Central Coast Water Board adopted *Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0046, NPDES Permit No. CA0047961, for San Simeon Community Services District* (hereafter Discharger) and *Local Sewering Entity of Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, San Luis Obispo County* (Order No. R3-2002-0046).
2. California Water Code section 13385(h)(1) requires the Central Coast Water Board to assess a mandatory penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each serious violation.
3. California Water Code section 13385(h)(2) provides a serious violation occurs if the discharge exceeds the effluent limitations for a Group II pollutant by 20 percent or a Group I pollutant by 40 percent or more. Group I and II pollutants are specified in Appendix A to section 123.45 of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations.
4. California Water Code Section 13385.1(c) states that for the purposes of section 13385.1(a)(1), section 13385(f)(2), (h), (i) and (j), "effluent limitation" means a numeric or numerically expressed narrative restriction on the quantity, discharge rate, concentration, or toxicity units of a pollutant or pollutants authorized to be discharged from a location that is specified in waste discharge requirements. An effluent limitation may be final or interim, and may be expressed as a prohibition. An effluent limitation, for those purposes, does not include a receiving water limitation, a compliance schedule, or a best management practice."
5. California Water Code section 13385(i) requires the Central Coast Water Board to assess a mandatory penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each violation, not counting the first three violations, if the discharger does any of the following four or more times in a consecutive six-month period:
 - a) Violates a waste discharge requirement effluent limitation;
 - b) Fails to file a report pursuant to Section 13260;
 - c) Files an incomplete report pursuant to Section 13260; or
 - d) Violates a toxicity effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements where the waste discharge requirements do not contain pollutant-specific effluent limitations for toxic pollutants.
6. California Water Code section 13385(l) states that "(1) In lieu of assessing penalties pursuant to subdivision (h) or (i), the...regional board, with the concurrence of the discharger, may direct a portion of the penalty amount to be expended on a supplemental environmental project in accordance with the enforcement policy of the state board. If the penalty amount exceeds fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), the portion of the penalty amount that may be directed to be expended on a supplemental environmental

project may not exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) plus 50 percent of the penalty amount that exceeds fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).”

7. Order No. R3-2002-0046 includes in part the following:

Effluent Limitation No. 2:

“Effluent shall not exceed the following limits:

Constituent	Units	30-Day Average	7-Day Average	Daily Maximum
Settleable Solids	mL/L	1.0	1.5	3.0

Effluent Limitation No. 4:

“Effluent shall not exceed the following limits:

Constituent	Units	6-Month Median	Daily Maximum	Instantaneous Maximum
Total Chlorine Residual	mg/L	0.23	0.93	6.96
Total Coliform Bacteria	MPN/100 mL	--	230	2400

8. Settleable Solids is a Group I Pollutant. Total Chlorine Residual is a Group II Pollutant. Effluent containing constituent values that are greater than serious thresholds (limit + 40% for Group I pollutants, limit + 20% for Group II pollutants) are serious violations. Total Coliform Bacteria is neither a Group I nor Group II Pollutant; therefore serious violations do not apply to Total Coliform Bacteria.
9. A chronic violation occurs when effluent contains a constituent concentration that is less than the serious threshold but greater than the permit limit.
10. According to monitoring reports submitted by the Discharger, the Discharger committed the following violations of effluent limitations of Order No. R3-2002-0046 in the period January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2005. The three violations listed prior to January 1, 2005 are included for the purpose of enumerating chronic violations subject to mandatory penalties:

#	Violation Date	Constituent	Permitted Limit	Reported Value	Violation Type
--	12/18/04	Total Coliform	230 MPN/100 mL Daily Maximum	500 MPN/100 mL	Chronic
--	12/23/04	Total Coliform	230 MPN/100 mL Daily Maximum	500 MPN/100 mL	Chronic
--	12/29/04	Total Coliform	230 MPN/100 mL Daily Maximum	1600 MPN/100 mL	Chronic
1	1/7/05	Total Coliform	230 MPN/100 mL Daily Maximum	300 MPN/100 mL	Chronic
2	1/18/05	Total Coliform	230 MPN/100 mL Daily Maximum	300 MPN/100 mL	Chronic
3	1/25/05	Total Coliform	230 MPN/100 mL Daily Maximum	300 MPN/100 mL	Chronic
4	3/1/05	Total Coliform	230 MPN/100 mL Daily Maximum	>1600 MPN/100 mL	Chronic
5	3/26/05	Total Chlorine Residual	0.93 mg/L Daily Maximum	8 mg/L	Serious
6	5/13/05	Total Chlorine Residual	0.93 mg/L Daily Maximum	6.80 mg/L	Serious
7	6/7/05	Total Coliform	230 MPN/100 mL Daily Maximum	300 MPN/100 mL	Chronic
8	6/28/05	Settleable Solids	1.5 mL/L 7-Day Average	1.75 mL/L	Chronic

11. According to Finding No. 10, the Discharger committed two serious violations in the period January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2005. The amount of the mandatory penalty for the serious violations (2 x \$3,000) is six thousand dollars (\$6,000).

12. According to Finding No. 10, the Discharger committed six chronic violations in the period January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2005. California Water Code section 13385(i) requires the Central Coast Water Board to assess a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each violation, not counting the first three, occurring in a consecutive six-month period. In this case, at least three effluent violations occurred in the six months prior to the first violation listed in Finding No. 10, therefore none of these chronic violations are exempt from mandatory penalty. The mandatory penalty for the above chronic violations (6 x \$3,000) is eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000).
 13. The total amount of the mandatory penalty for violations occurring in the period January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2005 (\$6,000 + \$18,000) is twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000).
 14. The Executive Officer of the Central Coast Water Board issued Mandatory Penalty Complaint No. R3-2005-0120 on September 19, 2005, pursuant to California Water Code Section 13385. The Complaint proposed imposing a mandatory penalty in the amount of twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000).
 15. According to California Water Code section 13385(l), the portion of the mandatory penalty amount that may be directed to a supplemental environmental project (SEP) may not exceed nineteen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$19,500).
 16. In a letter dated October 12, 2005, the Discharger requested that \$19,500 of the mandatory penalties be directed towards an SEP to install tertiary treatment facilities to produce recycled water and eliminate portion of their discharge to the Pacific Ocean. Installation of tertiary treatment facilities will cost at least \$200,000. The Central Coast Water Board previously directed \$79,500 to this SEP, through adoption of Mandatory Penalty Order No. R3-2005-0032 on March 24, 2005. That order requires completion of the SEP by September 25, 2007.
 17. This project qualifies as an SEP in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's *Water Quality Enforcement Policy*, Resolution No. 2002-0040. The SEP goes above and beyond the obligations of the Discharger (the Discharger is obligated by Order No. R3-2002-0046 to produce secondary-treated and disinfected wastewater, not tertiary-treated wastewater) and is not an action required of the Discharger by any rule or regulation of any entity. The SEP will benefit water quality. The SEP will not directly benefit Central Coast Water Board functions or staff.
 18. In a letter dated October 14, 2005, the Discharger provided copies of two checks to demonstrate preparedness to settle the matter. The letter states:

"Attached are copies of two checks, one in the amount of \$4,500.00 and the second in the amount of \$19,500.00. The San Simeon Community Services District is prepared to deposit the check for \$19,500 into an SEP account established at Mid State Bank in Cambria, Ca. We are also prepared to deliver the \$4,500.00 check to the State Regional Water Quality Control Board. Both of these checks will be issued on adoption of the RWQCB order."
- The Discharger also submitted a signed waiver of hearing form on October 25, 2005.
19. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.), in accordance with Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.
 20. Central Coast Water Board staff spent approximately 30 hours responding to these violations and preparing this Order. Accordingly, expended Central Coast Water Board staff resources are \$2,250.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to California Water Code Section 13385, that San Simeon Community Services District is assessed a Mandatory Penalty in the amount of twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000).

San Simeon Community Services District shall submit written proof of payment to its Tertiary Treatment Facilities Construction Account in the amount of nineteen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$19,500) to the *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Attn: Matt Thompson, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California, 93401*, by **January 1, 2006, 5:00 P.M.** The Tertiary Treatment Facilities Construction Account shall be utilized solely for construction of tertiary treatment facilities, not planning, design, or permitting. Written proof may consist of an approved Administrative Officer's report and Budget Amendment Request, or equivalent, to transfer funds to the Tertiary Treatment Facilities Construction Account. If proof of payment to the Tertiary Treatment Facilities Construction Account is not submitted by January 1, 2006, 5:00 P.M., the suspended liability shall be immediately due and payable to the State Water Resources Control Board.

San Simeon Community Services District shall complete construction of tertiary treatment facilities as soon as possible, but no later than **September 25, 2007**. San Simeon Community Services District shall submit written certification of completion of the tertiary treatment facilities construction and a post-project accounting of expenditures related to the project **no later than 30 days after completion of the project, but no later than October 25, 2007**. If this project completion report is not submitted by **October 25, 2007, 5:00 P.M.**, the entire suspended liability plus interest shall be immediately due and payable to the State Water Resources Control Board. If the final total cost of the project is less than ninety-nine thousand dollars (\$99,000), San Simeon Community Services District shall remit the difference to State Water Resources Control Board **no later than 30 days after completion of the project**. Upon request of the Discharger, the Executive Officer may extend any of these due dates if the Executive Officer determines that the delays are beyond the Discharger's reasonable control.

San Simeon Community Services District shall submit semiannual reports on the progress of tertiary treatment facilities construction to the Executive Officer by January 31st and July 31st of each year. The Progress Reports shall denote the current balance of the Tertiary Treatment Facilities Construction Account. Progress reports may be submitted with regular monthly monitoring reports.

San Simeon Community Services District shall also submit a check payable to State Water Resources Control Board in the amount of four thousand, five hundred dollars (\$4,500) to *SWRCB Accounting, Attn: Enforcement, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California 95812-0100* by **January 1, 2006, 5:00 P.M.** A copy of the check shall also be submitted to *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Attn: Matt Thompson, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401* by **January 1, 2006, 5:00 P.M.**

Any person affected by this action of the Central Coast Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code Section 13320, and Title 23, California code of Regulations, Section 2050. The State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812, must receive the petition by January 1, 2006. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided upon request

I, **Roger W. Briggs**, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on December 2, 2005.

Executive Officer