

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2005

Prepared on March 3, 2005

ITEM NUMBER: 20

SUBJECT: General Waste Discharge Requirements for Fertilizer and Pesticide Handling Facilities in the Central Coast Region, Order No. R3-2005-0001

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger: Various fertilizer and pesticide handling facilities
Location: Locations throughout the Central Coast Region
Discharge Type: Fertilizer and pesticides spills, residues, and rinsewater
Treatment: None
Existing Orders: Twenty-five individual orders issued throughout the Central Coast Region

SUMMARY

There are currently twenty-five individual waste discharge requirement orders issued to fertilizer and pesticide handling facilities and other facilities in the Central Coast Region. Regional Board staff's evaluation of existing orders revealed few differences in individual order requirements. Site inspections confirm that most fertilizer and pesticide handling facilities utilize common storage and transfer methods. To consistently and efficiently regulate these facilities, adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2005-0001 (General Order) is appropriate.

quality issues. Groundwater monitoring at existing sites has proven the long-term negative effects these practices have had on regional water quality in some instances.

Historically, Regional Board staff required that dischargers develop their own Management Practices (MPs) to help reduce the potential for spills. This General Order identifies thirteen specific MPs and requires that dischargers implement them or equivalent MPs approved by the Executive Officer. An added provision requires the discharger submit a Pollution Prevention Plan describing site-specific processes and other MPs that will be used.

DISCUSSION

Overview - In the 1980s, Regional Board staff became aware of potential groundwater impacts from fertilizer and pesticide facilities and began issuing individual waste discharge requirements to regulate their discharges. These facilities are typically transfer points that store fertilizer and pesticides for distribution to crop application equipment.

Incidental discharge, seepage, leakage and overspray are seemingly small problems that over time can create larger groundwater-

Monitoring and Reporting Program - The proposed order includes Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2005-0001 (General MRP) that specifies waste disposal, spill, paved areas, sump and management practice monitoring requirements. Groundwater monitoring may be required for some facilities with historical spills or releases. The General MRP may be modified by the Executive Officer to accommodate site-specific groundwater monitoring requirements.

Enrollment Procedures – Facilities that are unregulated must apply for coverage under this General Order by submitting a completed *Notice of Intent to Comply with the Terms of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Fertilizer and Pesticide Handling Facilities* (NOI) and first annual fee. As existing individual waste discharge requirements come up for review and revision, staff may determine that coverage under the General Order is more appropriate, and require the Discharger to submit an NOI. In either case, after staff has reviewed the NOI and determined that a facility would be appropriately regulated by the General Order, the Executive Officer will notify the discharger of the enrollment. Staff will notify the Regional Board of enrollments in the next agenda. Staff will also recommend rescission of individual waste discharge requirements if appropriate.

CEQA SUMMARY

Each new or expanded facility must comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) prior to coverage under this General Order. Facilities that were previously regulated under individual waste discharge requirements are exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15301 (existing facilities).

COMMENTS

Staff added Finding A.2. regarding fees to this version of the proposed order.

The following parties were notified of the General Order by mail on December 28, 2004 and had no comment:

AGRX

Associated Tagline, Inc.

Boyer Fertilizer Service, Inc.

Cal Agra, Inc.

California Liquid Fertilizer

Jessen Family LTD Partnership

Dune Company of Salinas

McAbee Trucking, Inc.

NH3 Service Company – Salinas

NH3 Service Company – Santa Maria

Santa Maria Valley Crop Service

Simplot Soil Builders

Western Farm Service – Brown Road

Western Farm Service – Main Street

Western Farm Service – Greenfield

Western Farm Service – Paso Robles

Western Farm Service – Salinas

Western Farm Service – Watsonville

Western Farm Service – Goleta

Western Farm Service – Hollister

Wilbur-Ellis/Soilserv

Wilbur-Ellis/Soilserv – King City

Wilbur-Ellis/Soilserv – Soledad JP

Wilbur-Ellis/Soilserv – Hollister

Wilbur-Ellis/Soilserv – Salinas JP

Wilbur-Ellis/Soilserv – Soledad SS

Wilbur-Ellis/Soilserv – Salinas SS

Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner

Santa Cruz County Health Department

Santa Clara County Agricultural Commissioner

Santa Clara County Environmental Health

Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner

Monterey County Health Department

San Luis Obispo County Agricultural
Commissioner

San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health

Santa Barbara County Agricultural
Commissioner

Santa Barbara County Environmental Health

GeoSyntec Consultants

Secor International

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Waste Discharge Requirements No. R3-
2005-0001 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. General Waste Discharge Requirements
Order No. R3-2005-0001
- B. General Monitoring and Reporting
Program No. R3-2005-0001
- C. Notice of Intent
- D. Monitoring Transmittal Sheet

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