

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Prepared on January 12, 2006

ITEM NUMBER: 13

SUBJECT: Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Domestic Orenco Standard Intermittent Sand Filter Septic Treatment and Disposal System, Klauer Residence, 400 Breen Road (APN 012-13-38), San Benito County, Resolution No. R3-2006-0023

KEY INFORMATION

Disposal Type:	Individual on-site domestic septic system repair with Orenco Standard Intermittent Sand Filter septic treatment and disposal system
Design Flow:	600 gallons per day
Property:	6.58 Acre agricultural/residential
Landowner/Discharger:	Kraig Klauer
Local Oversight Agency:	San Benito County Division of Environmental Health
This Action:	Adopt Resolution Waiving Waste Discharge Requirements

DISCUSSION

On December 5, 2005, Regional Board staff received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD): Supplemental Form for Regional Board Subsurface Disposal Exemption Submittal (Supplemental Form) for a proposed on-site domestic intermittent sand filter septic treatment and disposal system at the above-referenced property from the design engineer, Steve Brooks, E.H.S. The San Benito County Division of Environmental Health (Environmental Health) determined the site is not suitable for a standard on-site subsurface disposal system and does not meet Basin Plan requirements because of insufficient vertical separation between standard disposal trench bottom and first encountered groundwater. Consequently, Environmental Health is not authorized to issue a permit without an exemption from the Basin Plan prohibition. The San Benito County Environmental Health and

Planning & Building Departments certified the Supplemental Form on November 23, 2005 and December 12, 2005, respectively, and recommended approval of the exemption request.

Based on information provided in the ROWD, the Executive Officer approved the Basin Plan exemption and notified the Discharger of this proposed waiver of waste discharge requirements on January 12, 2006.

Waste discharge requirements for on-site wastewater disposal system Basin Plan exemptions were formerly waived under Resolution No. 89-04, *Waiver of Regulation of Specific Types of Waste Discharges*. This waiver policy expired June 30, 2004. State Board staff is currently developing state-wide regulations for on-site systems. Once these regulations are in place, Regional Board

staff plans on bringing a general waiver of waste discharge requirements to the Regional Board for review and approval. In the meantime, we propose that on-site systems that local agencies cannot permit be authorized by individual waivers of waste discharge requirements, provided the Discharger can demonstrate the system poses no threat to water quality.

System Design.

The proposed Orenco Standard Intermittent Sand Filter system was designed to accommodate shallow groundwater conditions (approximately five feet below the ground surface) at the subject property. The proposed system was conservatively designed for a peak daily flow of 600 gallons per day. New components to the currently failing septic leachfield include a septic holding tank (1500 gallons), a pump tank (1500 gallons) plus an additional 218 gallon sump basin in the Orenco Standard Intermittent Sand Filter. The drain field consists of 12 trenches of 28 linear feet each for a total of 336 linear feet of drainpipe. The Orenco Automatic Distributing Valve will automatically alternate distribution of effluent to each side of the drain field. An equivalent reserve expansion area of 1,000 sq. ft. was also designated on the property. Semiannual inspection of the septic tank, wet well, alarm system, and depth to groundwater monitoring are required for the life of the system. The owner is also required to have the system inspected by a licensed septic tank contractor at least every two years for solids buildup and pump the system as necessary. Environmental Health staff will provide regular inspection and oversight of the sewage disposal system and will monitor the system after all rainfall events resulting in greater than one inch of precipitation.

Environmental Health approved the initial Orenco Standard Intermittent Sand Filter system design and had the design engineer forward the Supplemental Form to the Regional Board for final review and approval on December 1, 2005. In addition, the San Benito County Environmental Health and Planning & Building Departments all certified the Supplemental Form and recommended conceptual approval of the exemption request.

Intermittent sand filter septic treatment and disposal system designs have been successfully applied under similar conditions throughout the state since prior to 1980.

Conditional Waiver

The waiver of waste discharge requirements and discharge of domestic sewage to the proposed on-site intermittent sand filter septic treatment and disposal system is subject various conditions and monitoring and reporting requirements as specified in the attached waiver resolution.

The proposed on-site domestic intermittent sand filter septic treatment and disposal system, if operated and maintained in accordance with the San Benito County Division of Environmental Health permit requirements and the waiver conditions, will be in the public interest. This waiver is conditional and can be terminated at any time. This waiver expires on February 10, 2011.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Individual subsurface disposal systems for domestic residences are categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guideline 15303.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2006-0023

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Resolution No. R3-2006-0023

SAWDR\Basin Plan Exemptions\San Benito Co\On-Site Septic\400-410 Breen Road\400 Breen - WDR waiver SR 011006.doc