

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2006
Revised on February 27, 2006

ITEM NUMBER: 8

SUBJECT: Reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048941 for Heritage Ranch Community Services District, San Luis Obispo County, Order No. R3-2006-0012

KEY INFORMATION

Location: 4870 Heritage Road, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County
Discharge Type: Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant
Capacity: 0.4 MGD
Treatment: oxidation ponds and chlorination
Disposal: Unnamed Ephemeral Drainage, Tributary to the Nacimiento River
Recycling: None
Existing Orders: NPDES Permit/Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-006
This Action: Adopt Waste Discharge Requirements

SUMMARY

The proposed Order is presented in the new statewide format for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. This standardized format presents the proposed Order with all supporting information appended as associated attachments. This format was developed through a statewide effort between the State Board, Regional Boards, and USEPA to standardize NPDES permitting and compliance evaluation. The facility information and permit evaluation discussion normally contained within the staff report are presented in the Fact Sheet as Attachment F to the proposed Order.

Staff provides some general information regarding proposed changes in the permit, with reference to the Fact Sheet for additional detail. The Order, Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Fact Sheet each include a Table of Contents.

The Heritage Ranch Community Services District (District) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system to provide sewerage service to Heritage Ranch Community, serving a

population of approximately 3,760. The wastewater treatment facility effluent is discharged to an unnamed ephemeral drainage that is tributary to the Nacimiento River.

Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-006, technically expired on February 2, 2006. However, the District submitted a timely report of waste discharge before the expiration of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-006. Consequently, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-006 remains in effect until a new permit is adopted and currently serves as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for discharges of treated municipal wastewater from the District to the unnamed ephemeral drainage, tributary to the Nacimiento River.

PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

Proposed Order No. R3-2006-0012 updates the NPDES permit and will serve as a routine, five-year reissuance of Order No. 01-006 and NPDES Permit No. CA00448941.

CHANGES WITHIN THE PROPOSED ORDER

Significant changes in proposed Order No. R3-2006-0012 from the existing Order No. 01-006 are summarized below. For a more complete discussion, refer to the fact sheet.

Effluent Limitations: Staff analyzed the Permit using the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California, 2005* (SIP) and determined the need for copper, mercury 4,4-DDD effluent limits. The proposed Permit includes interim and final effluents for those constituents.

The previous permit included discharge limitations for the protection of groundwater quality. Those limitations were intended to comply with Porter-Cologne, but were not required by the Clean Water Act. Those limitations are not included in the proposed permit because of the low probability of the occurrence of groundwater at the discharge location and ephemeral drainage.

Compliance Schedules: In the Permit's Section VI, compliance schedules were established for

- investigating the need for final limits for mercury and 4,4-DDD,
- investigating and controlling copper sources,
- investigating and ceasing, if necessary, the migration of effluent from the percolation ponds to the unnamed ephemeral drainage,
- providing for effluent dechlorination before discharging, and
- developing a toxicity reduction evaluation workplan

Monitoring: The discharger pumps effluent out of the Nacimiento Reservoir basin and discharges it over bedrock at the headwaters of unnamed tributary to the Nacimiento River. Although the discharger previously monitored groundwater, the monitoring location was irrelevant, since it monitored a basin not affected by the discharge. The previous permit's groundwater monitoring was not included in the proposed permit because there is no groundwater to monitor at the discharge location.

Biosolids Standard Language: 40 CFR 503 requires that producers of biosolids meet certain reporting, handling, and disposal requirements. Staff

added to the Order and MRP standard language provided by USEPA to clearly disclose the Discharger's responsibilities regarding biosolids disposal.

CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments were submitted by the Heritage Ranch Community Services District (Attached). Those comments, staff's responses, and minor changes made to the attached draft of the tentative Order are shown in the Fact Sheet beginning on page F-24.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order R3-2006-0012 as proposed, including minor revisions made in response to written comments as shown in the Fact Sheet beginning on page F-24.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2006-0012 and the following associated attachments:

- Attachment A – Definitions
- Attachment B – Topographic Map
- Attachment C – Wastewater Flow Schematic
- Attachment D – Federal Standard Provisions
- Attachment D-1 – Central Coast Water Board Standard Provisions
- Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2006-0012
- Attachment F – Fact Sheet
- Attachment G – Elements of the Wastewater Collection System Management Plan
- Attachment H – California Regional Water Board Contact Information
- Attachment I – Sewage Overflow Report Form
- Attachment J – Monitoring Report Transmittal Form

2. Letter dated January 17, 2006, from the Heritage Ranch Community Services District to the Executive Officer.