

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2008

(Prepared on August 8, 2008)

ITEM NUMBER: 16 and 17

SUBJECT: **Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Lucia Mar Unified School District's Lopez High School (Order No. 91-41) and Mesa Middle School (Order No. 95-56) and enrollment in the *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (Order No. 97-10-DWQ)**

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger: Lucia Mar Unified School District, Lopez High and Mesa Middle Schools
Location: 1055 Mesa View Drive, Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County (Lopez)
2555 Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County (Mesa)
Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County
Discharge Type: Sanitary Wastewater
Treatment: Septic Tanks and Leachfields
Design Capacity: 3,600 gpd (Lopez) and 6,800 gpd (Mesa)
Discharge Volume: <2,000 gpd (Lopez) and <5,200 gpd (Mesa)
Recycling: None
Existing Orders: 91-41 (Lopez High School) and 95-56 (Mesa Middle School)
This Action: Rescind Individual Orders and enroll in Statewide General Order

SUMMARY

The Central Coast Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 91-41 and Order No. 95-56 to regulate sanitary wastewater discharges from Lucia Mar Unified School District's Lopez High School and Mesa Middle School, respectively. Those Orders are due for a regularly scheduled update. Staff recommends rescinding Order No. 91-41 and Order No. 95-56 and regulating the discharges using the *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (Order No. 97-10-DWQ).

DISCUSSION

Section 13263(e) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authorizes Regional Water Quality Control Boards to review Waste Discharge Requirements periodically. The State Legislature has found that many older Orders are out of date and therefore do not implement State laws, regulations, and revised Water Quality Control Plans. It is time to review Waste Discharge Requirements for Lucia Mar Unified School District's Lopez High School and Mesa Middle School (hereafter Dischargers).

Lopez High School and Mesa Middle School are located in the unincorporated Nipomo Mesa area in San Luis Obispo County. Both facilities treat and dispose of sanitary wastewater through septic tank/leachfield systems with design capacities well in excess of existing flows. The Central Coast

Water Board last adopted Waste Discharge Requirements for these facilities in 1991 (Lopez High School) and 1995 (Mesa Middle School). Water Board staff inspected the facilities and reviewed the Discharger's file for the following items:

- a. Compliance with the Water Quality Control Plan, statewide plans and policies, and federal and state laws and regulations;
- b. Correspondence;
- c. Compliance Inspection Reports;
- d. Self Monitoring Reports;
- e. Active enforcement orders; and
- f. Significant changes in discharge volume or characteristics or in the beneficial uses of receiving waters.

Upon review, staff concluded that the character of the discharge has not significantly changed since the orders were adopted, and the wastewater systems are well maintained and operated effectively. Rather than revise the existing orders, staff recommends the Discharger be regulated by Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order), adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on November 18, 1997. The General Order states,

Discharges to land from small domestic wastewater treatment and disposal systems have certain common characteristics, such as similar constituents, concentration of constituents, disposal techniques, flow ranges and they require the same or similar treatment standards. These types of discharges are more appropriately regulated under general Waste Discharge Requirements.

The General Order implements applicable Water Board standards, prohibitions, and requirements to protect water quality. The discharges are less than 20,000 gallons per day; therefore, they are eligible for coverage by the General Order. Additionally, Lucia Mar Unified School District has other schools regulated under the General Order, so regulatory consistency will be enhanced. If the discharge is regulated by the General Order, then individual Waste Discharge Requirements would not be necessary and Order No. 91-41 and Order No. 95-56 should be rescinded.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

Waste Discharge Requirements for existing facilities are exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resource Code, Section 21100 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Administrative Code.

COMMENTS

The Discharger and interested parties were notified by a letter dated August 1, 2008, of staff's recommendation to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 91-41 and Order No. 95-56 and approve coverage of the Discharger using the General Order. These parties were invited to submit written comments by August 14, 2008. No comments were received.

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 91-41 and Order No. 95-56 and approve corresponding enrollment in the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, Order No. 97-10-DWQ.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Existing Orders 91-41 and 95-56
2. Statewide General Order No. 97-10-DWQ

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