

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2009

Prepared on September 1, 2009

ITEM NUMBER: 16

SUBJECT: Reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048003, for the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Wastewater Treatment Facility, San Luis Obispo County (Order No. R3-2009-0046)

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger:	South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District
Facility Name:	Wastewater Treatment Facility
Facility Address:	1600 Aloha Place Oceano, CA 93445-9735 San Luis Obispo County
Type of Waste:	Municipal wastewater
Treatment:	Secondary level biological treatment using trickling filters, secondary clarifiers, chlorine disinfection, and dechlorination
Disposal:	Pacific Ocean
Facility Design Flow:	Average flow of 5.0 million gallons per day (MGD)
Facility Permitted Flow:	Average flow of 5.0 MGD
Existing Order:	Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0050, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0048003
Recycling Requirements:	Not applicable at this time
This Action:	Reissue NPDES Permit

SUMMARY

The proposed Order is presented in the 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 Water Board, Regional Water Boards, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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, which is included as Attachment F to the proposed Order.

This staff report briefly summarizes general information regarding proposed changes in the permit, referencing the Fact Sheet for additional detail. The Order, Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Fact Sheet each include a table of contents.

Discharger. The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District (Discharger) owns and operates a municipal sanitary sewer system that includes wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities. The wastewater facility provides sewer service for the cities of Arroyo Grande and Grover

Beach and the Oceano Community Services District. These local agencies retain ownership and responsibility for collection systems within their jurisdictional areas.

Facility and Discharge. The Discharger's treatment facility includes primary clarification, trickling filters, secondary clarification, disinfection using chlorine, and dechlorination. The design capacity of the treatment facility is 5.0 MGD. Treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through a 4,400 foot outfall/diffuser system at a depth of approximately 55 feet. The outfall system is jointly owned by the Discharger and the City of Pismo Beach. The diffuser provides a minimum initial dilution of approximately 165 to 1 (ocean water to effluent). The City of Pismo Beach discharge is regulated under separate permit (NPDES Permit No. CA0048151.) The facility also accepts brine wastes from water softener regeneration companies, which is mixed with the final treated wastewater prior to discharge.

PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

The purpose of this proposed Order No. R3-2009-0046 is to update and reissue NPDES Permit No. CA0048003. The existing permit, Order No R3-2004-0050, expired on September 10, 2009.

CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED ORDER

Changes proposed in Order No. R3-2009-0047 from the existing Order No. R3-2004-0051 are summarized below. Typographical errors and minor changes that do not alter the intent of the Order are not discussed. For a complete discussion of the rationale for these changes, refer to the Fact Sheet portion of the permit (Attachment F).

Statewide NPDES Permit Template: Staff used the current statewide NPDES Permit template to develop the proposed Order. Although the permit format has changed, major permit elements and discharge requirements have been retained.

Collection System General Waste Discharge Requirements Finding: The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District is enrolled in the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems that specifies management practices designed to preclude water quality impact resulting from discharges from the collection system (Fact Sheet Section III.E.2).

Effluent and Receiving Water Limitations: The proposed Order carries over effluent and receiving water limitation from the existing permit, with two exceptions. Due to calculations errors the existing permit incorrectly specifies silver and benzidine limits; these errors are corrected in the proposed Order. The effluent and receiving water limitations reflect requirements of the Basin Plan, Ocean Plan, and federal Clean Water Act (described in the Fact Sheet Section IV.)

Monitoring: The proposed monitoring program includes some reductions in the frequency of sampling for constituents that have been documented (by prior sampling) to be fairly consistent in concentrations and within discharge limitations. The basis of these monitoring frequency reductions is that less frequent monitoring will provide cost savings to the Discharger without significantly reducing discharge compliance evaluations. Monitoring program changes are described in the Fact Sheet Section VI.

Changes in Response to Comments: The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District provided minor editorial comments and corrections that have been incorporated into the proposed Order. In addition, the Discharger submitted the six comments that are summarized, with corresponding staff responses, beginning on page F-26 of the Fact Sheet. Based upon the

Discharger's comments, additional clarifying language is incorporated into the proposed Order and the monitoring frequency for cyanide, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate and TCDD Equivalents is proposed annually. Annual monitoring for these constituents is a reduction from the frequency proposed in the earlier draft circulated for comments, and is consistent with requirements specified in the Ocean Plan. Discussion of these changes is provided on page F-27. No other comments were received on the draft proposed Order.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order R3-2009-0047 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

The attachments are available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/Board_info/agendas/2009/2009_agendas.shtml

Then click on "view agenda" for October 23, 2009; then click on Item 16.

1. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2009-0046, including attachments:
 - A – Definitions
 - B – Site Map
 - C – Flow Schematic
 - D – Standard Provisions
 - E – Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - F – Fact Sheet (including Response to Comments)

2. August 21, 2009, letter from the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District