

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2009

Prepared on August 27, 2009

ITEM NUMBER: 17

SUBJECT: Reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048151, for the City of Pismo Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility, San Luis Obispo County (Order No. R3-2009-0047)

KEY INFORMATION

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| Discharger: | City of Pismo Beach |
| Facility Name: | City of Pismo Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant |
| Facility Address: | 550 Frady Lane Pismo Beach, CA 93449 San Luis Obispo County |
| Type of Waste: | Municipal wastewater |
| Treatment: | Secondary level biological treatment using oxidation ditches, secondary clarifiers, chlorine disinfection, and dechlorination |
| Disposal: | Pacific Ocean |
| Facility Design Flow: | Average flow of 1.9 million gallons per day (MGD) |
| Facility Permitted Flow: | Average flow of 1.9 MGD |
| Existing Order: | Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0051, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0048151 |
| 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 City of Pismo Beach (Discharger) owns and operates a municipal sanitary sewer system that includes wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities.

Facility and Discharge. The Discharger's treatment facility includes extended aeration using oxidation ditches, secondary clarification, chlorine disinfection, and dechlorination capability with a design flow of 1.9 MGD. Treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean at a depth of approximately 55 feet through a 4,400 foot outfall/diffuser system, jointly owned by the Discharger and South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District. The outfall diffuser provides a minimum initial dilution of approximately 165 to 1 (ocean water to effluent). The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District discharge is regulated under separate permit (NPDES Permit No. CA00480003.)

PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

The purpose of proposed Order No. R3-2009-0047 is to update and reissue NPDES Permit No. CA0048151. The existing permit, Order No R3-2004-0051, 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 City of Pismo Beach 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 limits for silver and benzidine, 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 City of Pismo Beach provided minor editorial comments and corrections that have been incorporated into the proposed Order. Aside from those minor corrections, the City of Pismo Beach concurs with the proposed Order and its letter

of support is included as Attachment 2 to this staff report. No other comments were received on the draft proposed Order.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order R3-2009-0047 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2009-0047, 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 17, 2009, letter from the City of Pismo Beach

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