

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 5-6, 2013
Prepared on October 24, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 13

SUBJECT: Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements, Reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0047961 for San Simeon Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Luis Obispo County, Order No. R3-2013-0021

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KEY INFORMATION

Location: 9245 Balboa Ave, San Simeon, San Luis Obispo County
Place ID: 255462
Type of Discharge: Treated domestic wastewater
Permitted Flow: 0.2 million gallons per day (mgd; average dry weather flow)
Type of Treatment: Activated sludge, secondary clarification, and chlorination
Disposal Method: Ocean discharge and recycled water beneficial use
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2007-0024
Reclamation: Landscape irrigation via truck deliveries

This Action: Adopt Order No. R3-2013-0021

DISCUSSION

The San Simeon Community Services District (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging pursuant to Order No. R3-2007-0024, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0047961. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge, dated October 11, 2011, and applied for an NPDES permit renewal to discharge up to 0.2 MGD of treated wastewater from the San Simeon Wastewater Treatment Plant (hereinafter Facility). Water Board staff deemed the application complete on October 11, 2011.

The Discharger owns and operates a sewer system and a domestic wastewater treatment plant located in San Simeon. The Facility services a population of approximately 462 persons. Wastewater treatment facilities include a bar screen, comminutor, a 90,000-gallon equalization basin, four activated sludge tanks, four secondary clarifiers, and chlorination/dechlorination capability. In 2012, the Facility also added a small package recycled water treatment unit. The proposed Order includes water reclamation requirements for the first phase of the Discharger's recycled water use. The Discharger will be batch producing recycled water, storing the water in an onsite tank, and then distributing the recycled water for approved irrigation use sites within San Simeon. Distribution will be by water trucks initially; however, the Discharger may include distribution pipes at a time in the future as the economics become more feasible.

CHANGES FROM THE EXISTING ORDER

The proposed Order is structured in accordance with the statewide NPDES permit template. The proposed Order is consistent with the previous Order with the exception of the following changes and modifications, which are also discussed in detail in the proposed permit fact sheet:

Substantive changes

- A pH range has been added to the receiving water limits, consistent with the Basin Plan water quality objective for the protection of ocean waters. The effluent pH limitation has remained unchanged from the existing permit; however, the Discharger is required to perform an Effluent pH Evaluation (discussed in Public Comments section below).
- The analysis of previous monitoring data did not indicate a reasonable potential for chronic toxicity; therefore, the chronic toxicity limit has been removed. This is discussed in Section IV.C.5 of the proposed permit. However, chronic toxicity monitoring and a toxicity trigger of 116 TUC have been established consistent with the Ocean Plan's Section III.C.4.c. These changes are discussed in the permit fact sheet (page F-20).
- Receiving Water Limitations Section V.A.1 Bacterial Characteristics has been extended from 1,000 feet in the current permit to 3 miles in the proposed permit. This change was based on preliminary comments received from USEPA.
- Dissolved oxygen concentration in receiving waters has been revised to include a mean annual dissolved oxygen concentration not less than 7.0 mg/L. Additionally, a requirement has been added that dissolved oxygen concentration in receiving water shall not fall below 5.0 mg/L as a result of the discharge of oxygen-demanding waste materials. These limits are based on water quality objectives for Ocean Waters, as found in the Central Coast Basin Plan.
- Influent sampling for biological oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) has increased from quarterly to monthly to provide a more accurate and representative monthly percent removal result. These changes are discussed in the permit fact sheet (page F-23).
- Effluent sampling has been added for temperature, total chlorine used, fecal coliform, and Enterococcus, as shown on Table E-3 Effluent Monitoring Location EFF-001. Acute toxicity sampling has been decreased to once per permit cycle based on the reasonable potential analysis. These changes are discussed in the permit fact sheet (page F-24).
- Updated the Central Coast Standard Provisions in Attachment D-1 to be consistent with the January 2013 revision.

Minor changes

- Removed "kg/day" mass loading effluent limitations for BOD₅, Oil and Grease, and TSS. This is a minor change as the existing and proposed permits still retain mass loading effluent limitations for those parameters in units of "lbs/day." This is simply a unit conversion, not a change to the actual permitted mass discharge limitation.

- Added sampling locations for Recycled Water (RCL-001) and Biosolids (BIO-001) to Table E01 Monitoring Station Locations. The inclusion of these locations will be used to amend the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) database, thereby allowing the Discharger to electronically upload monitoring data for those locations.
- Added a table for acute toxicity testing to clarify approved test species as referenced in the approved methodologies.
- Added a table for biosolids monitoring frequency to clarify frequencies as referenced in 40 CFR 503.
- Paper submittals of the self-monitoring data are no longer required, as the same data is required to be electronically uploaded to the CIWQS database.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice was provided and posted for the consideration of this proposed permit. On September 30, 2013, the Discharger submitted a letter objecting to the proposed effluent pH limitation change. On October 1, 2013, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff submitted a letter stating that it does not object to the issuance of this NPDES permit. Central Coast Water Board staff addressed public comments in detail within the Fact Sheet, pages F-27 and F-28.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2013-0021, as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

For copies, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2013/2013_agendas.shtml

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2013-0021, including the following attachments:
 - Attachment A – Definitions
 - Attachment B – Map
 - Attachment C – Flow Schematic
 - Attachment D – Standard Provisions
 - Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)
 - Attachment F – Fact Sheet