

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
(June 13, 2007)

- ITEM: 6
- SUBJECT: Update of Waste Discharge Requirements: Oak Tree Ranch, Inc. Oak Tree Ranch Private Residential Community Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facility near Ramona, San Diego County (tentative Order No. R9-2007-0046) (Michelle Mata).
- PURPOSE: To adopt updated waste discharge requirements for the discharge via subsurface disposal of up to 40,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater from the Oak Tree Ranch Private Residential Community Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- PUBLIC NOTICE: The Agenda notice for the April 25, 2007 Regional Board meeting serves as a public notice for this item. The draft tentative Order was made available to the discharger on March 30, 2007 and also made available to the public via the Regional Board web page on April 2, 2007.
- DISCUSSION: Oak Tree Ranch is a private residential community located northeast of the community of Ramona. The existing Oak Tree Ranch Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facility provides wastewater service for 139 residential homes within the boundaries of the Oak Tree Ranch Residential Community. The treatment facility consists of a gravity sewer collection system that flows into a secondary activated sludge, extended aeration plant. Effluent is disposed via surface irrigation on open space areas adjacent to the treatment plant.
- The treatment and disposal facility will be modified to include a 40,000 GPD extended aeration, intermittent cycle, activated sludge process treatment system, with a tertiary treatment process train and subsurface irrigation to open space areas adjacent to the treatment plant. Upon completion of the modifications there will be an additional 116 residential homes connected to the wastewater system, for a total of 255 homes.

The tentative Waste Discharge Requirements include interim discharge specifications that will remain in effect until September 31, 2007, when the new facility is to be completed and operational. Discharge specifications established in the tentative Order implement groundwater quality objectives for the Ramona Hydrologic Subarea (5.41).

The Regional Board has received comments from David Thornburg on behalf of Oak Tree Ranch, Inc. and the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF). A written Responses to Comments document and an Errata Sheet will be included in the Supplemental Agenda Package.

KEY ISSUE:

An increase in flow has the potential to impact the groundwater. The increased discharge, however, is not expected to have a significant impact on the quality of the groundwater and is consistent with the State's Resolution No. 68-16 for maintaining high quality waters.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Map
2. Transmittal letter for Tentative Order No. R9-2007-0046.
3. Tentative Order No. R9-2007-0046.
4. Comment letter from David Thornburgh, on behalf of Oak Tree Ranch, Inc.
5. Comment letter from the Environmental Law Foundation dated April 11, 2007.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:

The following areas of Tentative Order No. R9-2007-0046 differ from the current Order No. 93-34:

1. The facility name has been updated from Town and County Mobile Home Park to Oak Tree Ranch Private Residential Community.
2. The discharge specifications have been updated to include additional constituents.

3. The 12-month average discharge specification for Total Dissolved Solids has been decreased from 900 mg/l to 800 mg/l to maintain high quality water.
4. The tentative Order replaces nitrate specifications with total nitrogen specifications.
5. Effluent monitoring frequency has been increased from semiannually to quarterly.
6. The Groundwater Monitoring Program has been revised to include additional constituents.
7. Interim discharge specifications have been included to allow the existing effluent limits to remain in effect until September 31, 2007, when the plant modifications have been completed and operational.

COMPLIANCE
RECORD:

The Oak Tree Ranch Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facility has generally complied with its current requirements (Order No. 93-34). There have been occasional exceedances of the nitrate (as NO₃) discharge specification.

RECOMMENDATION(S): Adoption of Tentative Order No. 2007-0046 with Errata Sheet is recommended.