

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
October 14, 2009

- ITEM: 10
- SUBJECT: Waste Discharge Requirements for Rite Time Pharmaceuticals Inc., Anza Commercial Center Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS). (Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0147) (*Fisayo Osibodu*)
- PURPOSE: To consider adopting waste discharge requirements for the onsite treatment and disposal of up to 7,000 gallons per day (gpd) of domestic wastewater generated at a proposed commercial center located in the unincorporated community of Anza, Riverside County.
- PUBLIC NOTICE: Notification of this action was posted on the Regional Board web page on September 9, 2009. This action satisfies the public notification requirements of California Water Code, Division 7 section 13167.5 for a 30 day notice.
- DISCUSSION: Rite Time Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Discharger) is proposing to develop a commercial center along State Highway 371 in Anza that would generate up to 7,000 gpd of domestic wastewater. Because the area is unsewered, the Discharger has proposed to install an onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system on the 3+ acre site. In response to concerns regarding the potential impacts to water quality from a conventional septic tank/seepage pit system, the Discharger will install and operate an advanced treatment unit with subsurface drip irrigation. This system is expected to significantly reduce the nitrogen concentrations in the discharge, but not to levels that comply with the Basin Plan water quality objective. Consequently, the discharge utilizes a small portion of the aquifer's assimilative capacity.
- The treatment system will consist of a septic tank, recirculation tank, biological treatment and filtration processes, and a post anoxic dosing tank for additional nitrate removal. The subsurface drip irrigation system has been designed for the full design flow by utilizing porous pavement on a portion of the parking lot for slightly more than one-half of the irrigation area. Seepage pits will serve as a back-up to the drip irrigation system.
- This project possibly may qualify for a waiver of waste discharge requirements when the State Board adopts its statewide onsite wastewater treatment regulations. At present, however, regulation

of the discharge with waste discharge requirements is recommended for the following reasons:

1. The project is located in an area where groundwater serves as the sole source of potable water.
2. Available information on the hydrogeology of the area indicates that the aquifer has limited assimilative capacity.
3. Prescriptive standards are necessary to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the onsite treatment and disposal system in order to protect public health and prevent contamination of groundwater. These prescriptive standards are based on the Florida Department of Health (Florida DOH) regulations because the State of California has not yet adopted regulations for onsite treatment and disposal systems.
4. Effluent discharge specifications are necessary to ensure that the discharge from the onsite treatment and disposal system will not cause groundwater beneath or downgradient of the site to exceed the Basin Plan water quality objectives.
5. Groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the discharge is necessary to verify the impact of the discharge on groundwater quality.
6. The Tentative Order will require the Discharger to prepare and submit a design plan that outlines specific components of the onsite treatment and disposal system, and will require the Discharger to submit a report prior to initiation of the discharge which certifies that the system has been installed as designed.

To date, the Regional Board has not received public comments regarding this item.

KEY ISSUES:

1. Dilution of effluent in the groundwater is needed for the discharge to achieve compliance with water quality objective for nitrate.
2. The tentative Order contains prescriptive standards for operation and maintenance of the onsite disposal system that are based on Florida DOH regulations.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES: Not applicable

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

1. Location Map
2. Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0147
3. Information Sheet for Tentative Order No. R9-2009 0147

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0147

Supporting Document No. 1

Location Map

Supporting Document No. 2

Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0147

Supporting Document No. 3

Information Sheet for Tentative
Order No. R9-2009-0147