

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
December 12, 2012

- ITEM: 6
- SUBJECT: Waste Discharge Requirements: Leuthe Residence Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2012-0056) (Fisayo Osibodu).
- PURPOSE: To consider adopting Tentative Order No. R9-2012-0056, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Mr. Bill Leuthe, Leuthe Residence Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, San Diego County.*
- RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2012-0056 (tentative Order, Supporting Document No. 1) is recommended.
- KEY ISSUES:
1. The discharge from the proposed onsite wastewater treatment system/advanced treatment unit (OWTS/ATU) must be regulated under waste discharge requirements (WDRs) because the Basin Plan currently does not include waiver conditions for advanced treatment systems.
  2. The tentative Order specifies that the OWTS/ATU must achieve a minimum nitrogen removal efficiency of fifty percent. The tentative Order also requires the Discharger to maintain sufficient vegetative area on the subsurface disposal field to ensure that there is sufficient uptake of nitrogen by vegetation in the disposal field to prevent adverse impacts to groundwater quality.
- DISCUSSION: The tentative Order prescribes WDRs for the treatment and subsurface disposal of domestic wastewater from a proposed 4-bedroom residence to be located in Escondido, San Diego County (see Supporting Document No. 2). The Discharger proposes to install an OWTS/ATU with a subsurface drip irrigation system for treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater from the residence. The OWTS/ATU will be designed for an average daily flow of 600 gallons per day.

The property is not located within reasonable proximity to the sanitary sewer system; therefore onsite treatment of wastewater is necessary for the residential development project. The use of an advanced treatment system with a subsurface drip irrigation system is also necessary because the property does not meet the criteria for installation of a conventional septic tank and leach field. The San Diego Water Board developed WDRs for this project because the Basin Plan does not include a waiver of WDRs for advanced treatment systems. In addition, the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health (County) currently does not have specific design and operation criteria in its local ordinance for advanced treatment systems. After the statewide OWTS regulations become effective, and the County develops its Local Agency Management Plan, the San Diego Water Board may be able to defer regulation of this project to the County.

The tentative Order establishes a discharge specification for removal of 50 percent of the nitrogen from the project effluent, based on the nitrogen removal efficiency expected to be achieved by the OWTS/ATU. The tentative Order also requires that a minimum of 6,430 square feet of vegetation area be utilized for effluent disposal to ensure that there is sufficient uptake of nitrogen by vegetation at the disposal field to prevent adverse impacts to groundwater quality. In addition, the effluent total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration is expected to be below the water quality objective for TDS.

The tentative Order requires the Discharger to submit a design plan prior to installation of the onsite treatment and disposal system, which includes measures to ensure proper operation and adequate maintenance of the system. Prior to initiation of the discharge, the Discharger is also required to submit a report certifying that the system meets the requirements of the tentative Order. Proper operation and maintenance of the OWTS/ATU is required to protect public health and ensure that the discharge will not adversely affect water quality. The tentative Order, therefore requires the Discharger to maintain a contract with a service provider, conduct effluent monitoring, and submit annual reports to the San Diego Water Board.

Tentative Resolution No. R9-2012-0057 (Item 5 on today's agenda) adopts a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and

certifies that the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects proper assessment of the environmental impacts from the adoption of the tentative Order; and installation, operation, and maintenance of the OWTS/ATU.

A revised copy of the tentative Order (showing changes in underline/strikeout format) is included as Supporting Document No. 5. The changes made in the revised tentative Order are minor, and help to further clarify the tentative Order. A clean copy of the tentative Order is included as Supporting Document No. 1. To date no comments have been received on the tentative Order.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Copy of Tentative Order No. R9-2012-0056 and Tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program
2. Location Map
3. Information Sheet
4. Notification Letter
5. Underline/Strikeout Version of Tentative Order No. R9-2012-0056 and Tentative Monitoring and Reporting Program

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notification of this action was sent to known interested parties by mail and email on October 2 (Supporting Document No. 4) and 5, 2012, respectively. Notification of this action was also posted on the San Diego Water Board web page on October 3, 2012.