

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT**

**MAY 10, 2023**

**ITEM NO. 3**

**SUBJECT**

Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020, *An Order Rescinding Order No. R9-2015-0012, Waste Discharge Requirements for United States Navy, Remote Training Site Warner Springs Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, San Diego County* (Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020). (Brandon Bushnell)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020.

**KEY ISSUES**

Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020 (**Supporting Document 1**), if adopted, rescinds Order No. R9-2015-0012, *Waste Discharge Requirements for United States Navy, Remote Training Site Warner Springs Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, San Diego County* (Order No. R9-2015-0012). The onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) at Remote Training Site Warner Springs (Facility), owned and operated by the United States Navy (Discharger), will be regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order).<sup>1</sup>

**PRACTICAL VISION**

Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020 is consistent with the Strategize for Healthy Waters chapter of the *San Diego Water Board Practical Vision*.<sup>2</sup> The use of statewide permits, like the General Order, help the San Diego Water Board focus staff resources on larger projects and facilities within the region that pose a greater threat to water quality. Additionally, enrolling dischargers in the General Order maintains consistent regulation of small domestic wastewater systems throughout the state.

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<sup>1</sup> General Order:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2014/wq2014\\_0153\\_dwq.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wq2014_0153_dwq.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Practical Vision:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/practical\\_vision/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/)

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board with information to assist in its consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020. If adopted, Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020 will rescind Order No. R9-2015-0012 and enroll the Facility in the General Order.

The Facility is located at 34567 State Highway 79, Warner Springs in San Diego County (**Supporting Document 2**). Board staff inspected the Facility on October 27, 2021, and did not observe any violations of the requirements specified in Order No. R9-2015-0012 during the inspection.

Board staff reviewed the requirements specified in Order No. R9-2015-0012 with the Discharger's monitoring reports, and determined the Facility's OWTS is eligible for enrollment in the General Order. Implementation of the General Order provides a more appropriate, consistent, and streamlined statewide approach to regulating small domestic wastewater treatment systems. Discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems have certain common characteristics, such as similar constituents, concentrations of constituents, disposal techniques, and flow ranges, and require the same or similar treatment standards. While the Discharger may request to be regulated under individual waste discharge requirements, the Facility's enrollment in the General Order allows the Board to effectively and efficiently regulate discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems, while prioritizing the agency's limited resources.

Board staff prepared a Notice of Applicability (NOA) (**Supporting Document 3**) in accordance with the General Order, after determining the Facility's enrollment is appropriate. The NOA contains site-specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the Facility. Since this Facility is operating under individual waste discharge requirements (Order No. R9-2015-0012), the Board's Executive Officer issued the NOA to the Discharger, prior to the Board's consideration to rescind Order No. R9-2015-0012. A draft copy of the NOA for the Facility was posted to the San Diego Water Board's website on February 23, 2023.

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The significant differences between the General Order and Order No. R9-2015-0012 are:

1. Order No. R9-2015-0012 includes specific individual waste discharge requirements for the Facility, whereas the General Order regulates OWTS consistently statewide.
2. The monitoring required by the General Order is less stringent than the monitoring required by Order No. R9-2015-0012. The monitoring and reporting program required by the General Order, however, is more appropriate because it is consistent with the monitoring and reporting requirements for facilities of similar

size and discharge across the state.

3. For wastewater flows less than 1,000 gallons per day, the General Order enrollment will allow the Discharger to use the septic tank for treatment and disposal of wastewater. For wastewater flows over 1,000 gallons per day, the Discharger will operate the Advantex AX-Max textile filter biological treatment process to meet the prescribed effluent limitations in the General Order.

## **COMPLIANCE RECORD**

The Board issued three staff enforcement letters for the following violations of Order No. R9-2015-0012:

- Failure to achieve a 50 percent reduction in total nitrogen on the following dates: January 12, 2017, April 6, 2017, October 18, 2018, April 9, 2020, December 10, 2020, January 14, 2021, April 8, 2021, July 22, 2021, and November 18, 2021.

The Facility does not consistently generate wastewater flows to properly operate the treatment plant to meet effluent limitations in Order No. R9-2015-0012. The General Order enrollment will allow the Discharger to use the septic tanks for treatment and disposal of wastewater for wastewater flows less than 1,000 gallons per day.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Board staff notified the Discharger and known interested parties of this action on February 22, 2023 (**Supporting Document 4 and 5**). Additionally, Board staff posted Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020 on its website, along with a draft of the Facility's NOA, on February 23, 2023. The Board did not receive any comments during the public comment period. These actions satisfy the 30-day public notification and comment period requirements of Water Code section 13167.5.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020
2. Vicinity and Facility Map
3. Notice of Applicability for Remote Training Site Warner Springs
4. Transmittal Letter
5. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period