
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

TENTATIVE

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254912:BBushnell

**Subject: Tentative Notice of Applicability for Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ,
Remote Training Site Warner Springs Onsite Wastewater Treatment
System, San Diego County**

Sarah Koppel:

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) is to inform the United States Navy (Discharger) that the Remote Training Site Warner Springs (Facility) onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) is anticipated to be enrolled in State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order). The Facility's enrollment in the General Order is effective upon adoption of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board), 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). Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020 will be considered at the regularly scheduled San Diego Water Board meeting on May 10, 2023.

The San Diego Water Board reviewed 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) and the Discharger's record of compliance with Order No. R9-2015-0012. Order No. R9-2015-0012 is outdated and is not as protective of water quality as the requirements specified in the General Order. Implementation of the General Order provides a more appropriate

and consistent statewide approach to regulating small domestic wastewater treatment systems. While the Discharger may request to be regulated under individual waste discharge requirements, the Facility's OWTS enrollment in the General Order allows the San Diego Water Board to effectively and efficiently regulate discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems, while prioritizing the agency's limited resources.

The Facility's OWTS meets the enrollment eligibility criteria included in the General Order. An electronic copy of the General Order is available online at the following website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf

NOA FINDINGS AND REQUIREMENTS – The Discharger must comply with all applicable requirements in the General Order and any additional requirement included in this NOA, upon the effective date of enrollment in the General Order.

1. FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Facility is located at 34567 State Highway 79, Warner Springs in San Diego County, within the Warner Hydrologic Subarea of the San Luis Rey Hydrologic Unit. The Facility's OWTS includes an influent pump station, two septic tanks, two Advantex AX-Max textile filter units, a 40,000-gallon effluent storage tank, and an effluent pump station. Domestic wastewater is collected from the administration building, barracks, and laundry and shower facility. The Discharger disposes treated effluent to a spray field. The Discharger modified the Facility's OWTS to operate the septic system for wastewater treatment during times of reduced wastewater flows. The reduced flows cannot sustain the OWTS's Advantex AX-Max textile filter units.

The Facility is located within the Warner Hydrologic Subarea of the San Luis Rey Hydrologic Unit which has a groundwater quality objective of 5 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for nitrate. Prohibition A.8 of the General Order prohibits the discharge of waste in violation of, or not consistent with, the San Diego Water Board's *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin* (Basin Plan).¹ Provision B.1.b.iii.3 of the General Order requires this NOA to specify applicable Basin Plan groundwater and/or surface water limitations. The General Order is acceptable to regulate the Facility's OWTS discharge because this NOA establishes total nitrogen effluent limitations that are protective of the groundwater quality objectives for the Warner Hydrologic Subarea.

¹ Web link to Basin Plan:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/

2. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The General Order regulates discharges from new and existing small domestic wastewater treatment systems. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and consistent with Finding No. 32 of the General Order, the action to enroll the Facility's OWTS is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 14, section 15301 (ongoing or existing projects), section 15302 (replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems), and section 15303 (new construction or conversion of small structures).

3. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger and operator of the Facility's OWTS must be familiar with the requirements contained in the General Order, this NOA, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in section 5 below.

The Discharger must comply with the prohibitions and specifications contained within the General Order, which are applicable to all wastewater systems. The Discharger also must comply with the following General Order specifications applicable to the Facility's OWTS specific treatment and/or disposal system.

- a. Required Technical Reports/Plans. The Discharger must submit the following plans:
 - i. A Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.a. The San Diego Water Board must receive the Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan by 5:00 p.m. on September 12, 2023.
 - ii. A Sampling and Analysis Plan consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.b. The San Diego Water Board must receive the Sampling and Analysis Plan by 5:00 p.m. on September 12, 2023.
 - iii. A Sludge Management Plan consistent with the requirements of General Order Provision E.1.c. The San Diego Water Board must receive the Sludge Management Plan by 5:00 p.m. on September 12, 2023.

Upon receipt of these plans by the San Diego Water Board, the Discharger must implement the plans.

- b. Prohibitions. The Discharger must comply with all prohibitions listed in section A of the General Order and all applicable requirements in the Basin Plan.
- c. Setback Requirements. The Discharger must ensure new discharges maintain the applicable setbacks specified in Table 3 of the General Order.

- d. Additional Applicable Requirements of the General Order. The Discharger must comply with all the requirements listed in sections B.1 (All Wastewater Systems), B.2 (Septic Systems), B.3 (Aerobic Treatment Units), B.7 (Land Application and/or Recycled Water Systems), and B.8 (Sludge/Solids/Biosolids Disposal) of the General Order.

4. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

The Discharger must not allow the flowrate to exceed the limitation listed in Table 1, while using the septic system:

Table 1. Septic Tank Effluent Limitations

Constituent	Unit ¹	Monthly Average Limitation
Daily Flowrate	gpd	1,000 ²

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day.
- 2) The Discharger shall utilize the Advantex AX-Max textile filter units when the average daily effluent flowrate exceeds or is expected to exceed the limitation for one month.

The Discharger must not allow the flowrate and effluent concentrations to exceed the limitations listed in Table 2, while using the Advantex AX-Max textile filter units:

Table 2. Advantex AX-Max Textile Filter Units Effluent Limitations

Constituent	Unit ¹	Limitation
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	mg/L	30 (monthly average) 45 (7-day average)
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	30 (monthly average) 45 (7-day average)
Total Nitrogen ²	mg/L	50% reduction ³
Daily Flowrate	gpd	10,000 (monthly average)

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day and mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) Total nitrogen limitation is to protect against exceedances of the Basin Plan's groundwater quality objective for Warner Hydrologic Subarea.
- 3) The value represents the minimum percent reduction compared to the untreated, influent wastewater concentration. Reduction must be calculated on an annual basis. The reduction shall not result in an effluent limitation lower than 10 mg/L total nitrogen.

5. MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The Discharger must comply with the monitoring requirements below, which are based on the MRP of the General Order.

a. Reporting Frequency

The Discharger must submit quarterly and annual monitoring reports as described in sections A and B of Attachment C of the General Order. The Discharger's first quarterly report is the April – June 2023 Quarterly Report, which must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on August 1, 2023. The Discharger's first annual report is the 2023 Annual Report, which must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board by March 1, 2024.

b. Influent Monitoring

The Discharger must collect a liquid grab sample at the beginning of the treatment system and the samples must be analyzed and results reported as described in Table 3.

Table 3. Advantex AX-Max Textile Filter Units Influent Monitoring

Constituent	Unit ¹	Sample Type	Sampling Frequency ²	Reporting Frequency
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) Quarterly is defined as a period of three consecutive calendar months beginning on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

c. Effluent Monitoring

The Discharger must collect a liquid grab sample from the septic tank. The Discharger must collect septic tank effluent samples as close to the outlet pipe as practical. The Discharger must analyze the samples, and report the results as described in Table 4 when the septic tank is operating and Table 5 when the Advantex AX-Max textile filter units are operating:

Table 4. Septic Tank Effluent Monitoring

Constituent	Units ¹	Sample Type	Sample Frequency ²	Reporting Frequency ²
Flowrate	gpd	Metered ³	Continuous	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day and mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) The Discharger may meter or estimate the effluent flowrate based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method.

Table 5. Advantex AX-Max Textile Filter Units Monitoring

Constituent	Unit ¹	Sample Type	Sampling Frequency	Reporting Frequency
TSS	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
BOD	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Flowrate ²	gpd	Metered	Continuous	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day and mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) The Discharger may meter or estimate the effluent flowrate based on potable water supply meter readings or other approved method.

d. Septic Tank Monitoring

The Discharger must monitor the septic tank as described in Table 6:

Table 6. Septic Tank Monitoring

Parameter	Units	Measurement Type	Inspection/Reporting Frequency
Sludge depth and scum thickness in each compartment of each tank	Feet	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually
Distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually

Septic tanks shall be pumped when any one of the following conditions exists:

- i. The combined thickness of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the tank depth of the first compartment.
- ii. The scum layer is within 3 inches of the outlet device.
- iii. The sludge layer is within 8 inches of the outlet device.

If the Discharger pumps out a septic tank during the year, the Discharger must submit the pumping report with the annual report. At a minimum, the pumping report shall include the date, nature of service, service company name, and service company license number.

e. Land Application Area (LAA) Monitoring

The Discharger must monitor LAAs when wastewater and/or supplemental irrigation water is applied. If wastewater or supplemental irrigation is not applied during a reporting period, the monitoring report must so state. LAA monitoring must be conducted as described in Table 7:

Table 7. LAA Monitoring

Parameter	Unit ¹	Inspection Type	Inspection Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Supplemental Irrigation Flowrate	gpd	Meter ²	Monthly	Quarterly
Wastewater Flowrate	gpd	Meter ²	Monthly	Quarterly
Local Rainfall ³	Inches	Weather Station ³	Monthly	Quarterly
Acreage Applied ⁴	Acres	Calculated	Monthly	Quarterly
Application Rate ⁵	Gallons/ acre/ month	Calculated	Monthly	Quarterly
Soil Erosion Evidence	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Contaminant Berm Condition	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Soil Saturation/Ponding	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Nuisance Odors/Vectors	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly
Discharge Off Site	Not Applicable	Observation	Monthly	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) gpd denotes gallons per day and mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.
- 2) Meter requires reading a pump run-time meter or using another approved method.
- 3) Weather station may be site-specific station or nearby government weather reporting station.
- 4) Acreage applied denotes the acreage to which wastewater is applied.
- 5) Application rate may also be reported as inch/acre/month.

f. Solids Disposal Monitoring

The Discharger shall report the handling and disposal of all solids (e.g., screenings, grit, sludge, biosolids, etc.) generated at the wastewater system. Records shall include the name/contact information for the hauling company, the type and amount of waste transported, the date removed from the wastewater system, the disposal facility name and address, and copies of analytical data required by the entity accepting the waste. These records shall be submitted as part of the annual monitoring report.

g. Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater shall be collected from the proposed monitoring well network and monitored as described in Table 9:

Table 9. Groundwater Monitoring

Constituent	Unit ⁴	Sample Type	Sample Frequency ²	Reporting Frequency ³
Groundwater Elevation ¹	0.01 Feet	Calculated	Quarterly	Quarterly
Depth to Groundwater	0.01 Feet	Measurement	Quarterly	Quarterly
TDS	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Nitrate	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly

Table Notes:

- 1) Groundwater elevation shall be based on depth to water using a surveyed measuring point elevation on the well and a surveyed reference elevation.
- 2) Annual is defined as a period of 12 consecutive calendar months beginning in January and ending in December.
- 3) Report must include a map showing well locations, approximate depth to groundwater, and identify whether the wells are used for supply or strictly monitoring.
- 4) mg/L denotes milligrams per liter.

6. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

The Discharger must notify the succeeding owner and operator of the existence of the General Order, when control or ownership of the Facility or wastewater disposal area(s) changes. The Discharger's notification must be in writing. A copy of the Discharger's written notification must be immediately forwarded to the Executive Officer for the San Diego Water Board.

7. ENFORCEMENT

The Discharger must review and ensure this NOA completely and accurately reflects

the Facility's OWTS discharge. If the Discharger violates the terms or conditions listed in this NOA or the General Order, the San Diego Water Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. Prior to allowing changes to the wastewater strength, generation rate, or method of waste disposal, the Discharger must contact the San Diego Water Board to determine if submittal of a Report of Waste Discharge is required.

The Discharger is responsible for compliance with the General Order and this NOA. Failure to comply with the requirements in the General Order and this NOA could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharges of wastes other than treated domestic wastewater are prohibited.

8. ANNUAL FEES AND SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

The discharge has a threat to water quality and complexity rating of 2-C. The annual fee corresponding to a threat to water quality and complexity of 2-C can be found using the current fee schedule.² Pursuant to CCR title 23, section 2200(a), footnote 2, dischargers covered by waste discharge requirements for municipal and domestic discharges with permitted flows of less than 50,000 gallons per day in categories 2-B, 2-C, 3-B, and 3-C will receive a 50 percent fee discount. The fee is due and payable on an annual basis until enrollment in the General Order is terminated by the San Diego Water Board. If the wastewater discharge ceases, the Discharger must provide written notice to enable the San Diego Water Board to terminate enrollment and billing.

Please review the conditions specified in this NOA and applicable sections of the General Order and notify the San Diego Water Board if for any reason the Discharger is not able to comply with any of the conditions specified.

Please submit all future monitoring reports and documents required by this NOA and the General Order to the San Diego Water Board by e-mail. E-mail submittals must include a signed cover/transmittal letter with the facility name, facility contact information, and reference code **254912:BBushnell**. Monitoring reports, documents, and other email submittals must be sent to sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov. Routine email correspondence may be sent directly to individual San Diego Water Board staff members.

Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger should be transferred to a compact disc (CD) or universal serial bus (USB) drive and mailed to the San Diego Water Board. Board staff may request that specific individual items such as appendices to large/complex technical reports and/or large drawings, grading plans, or maps continue to be provided in paper format. If you have specific questions about email

² Web link to Fee Schedule:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality

submittal procedures, please contact our Mission Support Services Unit at 619-516-1990, or via email at sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please contact Brandon Bushnell at 619-521-8044 or via email at Brandon.Bushnell@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer

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DWG:rnm:as:bn:bb

Tech Staff Info & Use

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