

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

ITEM NO. 4

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028, *An Order Rescinding Order No. 2000-138, Waste Discharge Requirements for Outdoor Resorts Rancho California, Inc. Outdoor Resorts Rancho California RV Park, Riverside County* (Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028). (Brandon Bushnell)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028.

KEY ISSUES

Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028 (**Supporting Document 1**), if adopted, rescinds Order No. 2000-138, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Outdoor Resorts Rancho California, Inc. Outdoor Resorts Rancho California RV Park, Riverside County* (Order No. 2000-138). The onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) at Outdoor Resorts Rancho California RV Park (Facility¹), owned and operated by the Rancho California RV Resort Owners Association (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).²

PRACTICAL VISION

Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028 is consistent with the Strategize for Healthy Waters chapter of the *San Diego Water Board Practical Vision*.³ 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.

¹ The Rancho California RV Resort Owners Association renamed the Facility to Rancho California RV Resort.

² General Order:

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

³ Practical Vision:

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

Additionally, enrolling dischargers in the General Order maintains consistent regulation of small domestic wastewater systems throughout the state.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board with information to assist in its consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028. If adopted, Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028 will rescind Order No. 2000-138 and activate the Facility's enrollment in the General Order.

The Facility is located at 45525 Highway 79, Aguanga in the County of Riverside (**Supporting Document 2**). Board staff inspected the Facility on May 4, 2021, and did not observe any violations of the requirements specified in Order No. 2000-138 during the inspection.

Board staff determined the Facility's OWTS is eligible for enrollment in the General Order based on the Discharger's information submitted in the September 30, 2022, report of waste discharge. Furthermore, Order No. 2000-138 is not as protective of water quality as the requirements specified 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 (WDRs), the Board's Executive Officer issued the NOA to the Facility's responsible parties, prior to the Board's consideration to rescind the Facility's existing individual WDRs. Board staff posted a draft copy of the NOA for Rancho California RV Resort to the San Diego Water Board's website on May 8, 2023.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The significant differences between the General Order and Order No. 2000-138 are:

1. Order No. 2000-138 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. 2000-138. 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.

COMPLIANCE RECORD

The Board issued eight staff enforcement letters for the following violations of Order No. 2000-138:

- Failure to submit the 2000 and 2001 Annual Monitoring Reports. The Discharger is unable to submit the 2000 and 2001 Annual Monitoring Reports due to a lack of historical data from the previous owner.
- Failure to submit the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report by the January 31, 2019, due date. The Discharger submitted the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report on December 4, 2022.
- Failure to submit annual potable water consumption log with the annual monitoring reports for 2009, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2019, 2020, and 2021. The Discharger submitted the logs for 2017, 2019, 2020, and 2021 on December 4, 2022. The Discharger submitted the log for 2022 with the 2022 annual report by the specified due date. The Discharger is unable to provide the logs for 2009, 2015, and 2016 due to a lack of historical data from the previous owner.
- Failure to sample for pH in 2006. The Discharger is unable to provide the 2006 pH measurement due to a lack of historical data from the previous owner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Board staff notified the Discharger and known interested parties of this action on May 5, 2023 (**Supporting Document 4 and 5**). Additionally, Board staff posted Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028 on its website, along with a draft of the Facility's NOA, on May 8, 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. Board staff rescheduled the public hearing for the consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028 from the August 9, 2023, meeting to September 13, 2023, and notified the Discharger (**Supporting Document 6**).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0028
2. Vicinity and Facility Map

3. Notice of Applicability for Rancho California RV Resort
4. Transmittal Letter
5. Notice of Public Hearing and Written Comment Period
6. Notice of Hearing Change