

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2009

Prepared on September 16, 2009

ITEM NUMBER: 18

SUBJECT: Reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0047830, for the Avila Beach Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility, San Luis Obispo County (Order No. R3-2009-0055)

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger:	Avila Beach Community Services District, Port San Luis Harbor District
Facility Name:	Wastewater Treatment Facility
Facility Address:	2850 Avila Beach Drive Avila Beach, CA 93424 San Luis Obispo County
Type of Waste:	Municipal wastewater
Treatment:	Equivalent to secondary treatment consisting of a primary clarifier, a fixed film reactor, a secondary clarifier, chlorination and dechlorination.
Disposal:	Pacific Ocean
Facility Design Flow:	Average flow of 0.2 million gallons per day (MGD)
Facility Permitted Flow:	Average flow of 0.2 MGD
Existing Order:	Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0068, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0047830
Recycling Requirements:	Not applicable at this time
This Action:	Reissue NPDES Permit

SUMMARY

The proposed Order is presented in the statewide format for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. This standardized format presents the proposed Order with all supporting information appended as associated attachments. This format was developed through a statewide effort between the State Water Board, Regional Water Boards, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to standardize NPDES permitting and compliance evaluation. The facility information and permit evaluation discussion normally contained within the staff report are presented in the Fact Sheet, which is included as Attachment F to the proposed Order.

This staff report briefly summarizes general information regarding proposed changes in the permit, referencing the Fact Sheet for additional detail. The Order, Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Fact Sheet each include a table of contents.

Discharger. The Avila Beach Community Services District (Discharger) owns and operates a municipal sanitary sewer system that includes wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities. The wastewater facility provides sewer service for the Port San Luis Harbor District. This local agency retains ownership and responsibility for the collection system within its jurisdictional area.

Facility and Discharge. The Discharger's treatment facility includes a primary clarifier, a fixed film reactor, a secondary clarifier, chlorination and dechlorination. The design capacity of the treatment facility is 0.2 MGD. Treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through a 2,700-foot outfall/diffuser system at a depth of approximately 34.5 feet. The diffuser provides a minimum initial dilution of approximately 151 to 1 (ocean water to effluent).

PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

The purpose of this proposed Order No. R3-2009-0055 is to update and reissue NPDES Permit No. CA0047830. The existing permit, Order No R3-2004-0068, expired on September 10, 2009.

CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED ORDER

Changes proposed in Order No. R3-2009-0055 from the existing Order No. R3-2004-0068 are summarized below. Typographical errors and minor changes that do not alter the intent of the Order are not discussed. For a complete discussion of the rationale for these changes, refer to the Fact Sheet portion of the permit (Attachment F).

Statewide NPDES Permit Template: Staff used the current statewide NPDES Permit template to develop the proposed Order. Although the permit format has changed, major permit elements and discharge requirements have been retained.

Collection System General Waste Discharge Requirements Finding: The Avila Beach Community Services District and Port San Luis Harbor District are enrolled in the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, which specifies management practices designed to preclude water quality impact resulting from discharges from the collection system (Fact Sheet Section III.E.1).

Effluent and Receiving Water Limitations: Due to the construction of a new outfall diffuser system, the initial dilution ratio increased (described in the Fact Sheet Section II.). Staff used the new dilution ratio to determine reasonable potential, as specified in the Ocean Plan, and to calculate effluent limitations for parameters that demonstrate or retain reasonable potential. Based on the results of the Reasonable Potential Analysis, effluent limitations for copper and zinc have not been carried over from the previous Order. Water quality-based effluent limitations for parameters which retained reasonable potential from the previous Order were revised to reflect the new dilution ratio, based on the procedures for calculating effluent limitations specified in the Ocean Plan and discussed in detail in the Fact Sheet. The effluent and receiving water limitations reflect requirements of the Basin Plan, Ocean Plan, and federal Clean Water Act (described in the Fact Sheet Section IV.).

Monitoring: Benthic sediment and benthic biota monitoring has been added to the Order. The benthic monitoring is consistent with other Permits in the Central Coast Region where wastewater treatment plants discharge secondary treated effluent to the ocean. Monitoring for chloroform, chronic toxicity, ammonia, and tributyltin has been increased from annually to twice a year based on the results of a Reasonable Potential Analysis (provided in section IV.C.3 of the Fact Sheet). Monitoring program changes are described in the Fact Sheet Section VI.

Changes in Response to Comments: The Avila Beach Community Services District provided minor editorial comments (Attachment 2) and corrections that have been incorporated into the proposed Order. In addition, the Discharger submitted the five comments that are summarized, with corresponding staff responses, beginning on page F-35 of the Fact Sheet. Based upon the Discharger's comments, additional clarifying language is incorporated into the proposed Order. No other comments were received on the draft proposed Order.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2009-0055 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

The attachments are available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/Board_info/agendas/2009/2009_agendas.shtml

Then click on "view agenda" for October 23, 2009; then click on Item 18.

1. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2009-0055, including attachments:
 - A – Definitions
 - B – Site Map
 - C – Flow Schematic
 - D – Standard Provisions
 - E – Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - F – Fact Sheet (including Response to Comments)
2. August 28, 2009, letter from the Avila Beach Community Services District