

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2014
Prepared on December 11, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 11

SUBJECT: Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Former Casmalia Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility, Santa Barbara County (WDR No. R3-2004-0124, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit [NPDES] No. CA0049972)

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KEY INFORMATION

Discharger: Casmalia Resources and Casmalia Resources Site Steering Committee
Location: Former Casmalia Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility, Santa Barbara County
ECM PIN: CW-213467
Type of Discharge: Stormwater Runoff from Ponds, Effluent from the Groundwater Treatment Plant, and Treated Landfill Leachate
Disposal Method: Stormwater runoff and treated wastewater is discharged to Casmalia Creek
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0124, NPDES Permit No. CA0049972
This Action: Rescind Order No. R3-2004-0124

SUMMARY

On December 3, 2004, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2004-0124, NPDES Permit No. CA0049972, which allows Casmalia Resources and Casmalia Resources Site Steering Committee (Discharger) to discharge stormwater runoff, treated effluent from the groundwater treatment plant, and treated landfill leachate to Casmalia Creek. On December 10, 2013, the Discharger submitted a Notice of Termination to rescind the subject permit. Central Coast Water Board staff recommends the Board rescind Order No. R3-2004-0124.

DISCUSSION

The former Casmalia Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility (Facility) occupies approximately 250 acres in a rural area of the Casmalia Hills in Santa Barbara County. The Facility operated from 1973 to 1989 and accepted more than 4.5 billion pounds of industrial and commercial wastes. The Facility's historic operations have resulted in pollution of soil, groundwater, and habitat for the California red-legged frog, a federally designated threatened species.

In 1997, the USEPA entered into a judicial settlement (consent decree) with the Discharger, a group of 54 of the largest generators of waste disposed at the Facility. On September 13, 2001, the USEPA placed the Facility on the National Priorities List (Superfund). Since 1997, USEPA has required the Discharger to perform several investigations and response actions, such as capping four landfills from 1999 to 2002, installing and operating a groundwater collection and

treatment system, consolidating and managing waste impoundments, and site improvements, including slope stabilization and minimizing amounts of infiltrating rainwater. More detailed information regarding the Facility can be found on the USEPA's website: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/ViewByEPAID/cad020748125?OpenDocument#approach>

Since the Discharger obtained a NPDES permit in 1999, the Discharger has not discharged stormwater runoff or treated wastewater to Casmalia Creek. The Discharger has instituted site controls to manage stormwater and wastewater disposal. On December 10, 2013, the Discharger sent a Notice of Termination to the Central Coast Water Board, asking the Board to rescind its NPDES permit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

On December 20, 2013, Central Coast Water Board staff sent a letter and public notice to the Discharger and other potentially interested parties notifying them of the intent to rescind Order No. R3-2004-0124. The Discharger published the public notice in a local newspaper identifying the Central Coast Water Board's intent to rescind the NPDES permit. To date, Central Coast Water Board staff has not received any comments regarding the proposed rescission.

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind Order No. R3-2004-0124, as proposed.

ATTACHMENT

1. Order No. R3-2004-0124, NPDES Permit No. CA0049972.

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