
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 8, 2014

Mr. Germon Medeiros
Sonoma Soil Builders LLC
3245 Cobblestone Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Medeiros:

Subject: Notice of Violation of the Industrial Storm Water Permit, Order 97-03-DWQ
File: Sonoma Soil Builders LLC, 5900 Pruitt Avenue, Windsor, Sonoma County,
WDID No. 1 491025096

On October 14, 2014, you applied for coverage and were subsequently enrolled under the Statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water for Industrial Activities (Industrial General Permit) for the above-referenced facility. The Industrial General Permit contains enforceable requirements intended to control the discharge of pollutants in the storm water from industrial facilities. Discharges of sediment and nutrient-laden storm water to waters of the United States can cause or contribute to violations of applicable water quality standards. The Industrial General Permit requires facility operators to reduce or prevent pollutants in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges through the development and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs require control of pollutants using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT) for toxic and non-conventional pollutants and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT) for conventional pollutants.

On November 19, 2014, Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff inspected your Windsor facility. Staff observed that storm water that had been in contact with uncovered soil amendment piles (horse manure, mushroom compost, lime, topsoil, etc.) was slowly draining under a K-rail fence and discharging into a storm drain. These polluted storm water discharges from your property to the storm drain system are in violation of Provisions A.1, A.2 and B.3 of the Industrial General Permit.

The following pictures depict conditions observed onsite during the Regional Water Board staff inspection.



November 19, 2014, uncovered soil amendments stored near storm drain at Sonoma Soil Builders, Paul Keiran, Regional Water Board staff photograph



November 19, 2014, Feedstock piles being soaked by storm water that later discharged into adjacent storm drain at Sonoma Soil Builders, Paul Keiran, Regional Water Board staff photograph



November 19, 2014, Storm drain that was accepting detained water seeping under K-rail at Sonoma Soil Builders, Paul Keiran, Regional Water Board staff photograph



November 19, 2014, uncovered ash pile eroding onto asphalt and ultimately into storm drains system at Sonoma Soil Builders, Paul Keiran, Regional Water Board staff photograph

Sonoma Soil Builders has not fully implemented appropriate BMPs to effectively prevent polluted storm water discharges at the Windsor facility. This lack of BMPs has resulted in discharges which constitute a violation of the requirements of the Industrial General Permit, and may be causing or contributing to violations of water quality standards. Therefore, you are required to immediately cease discharges of polluted storm water into waters of the State and waters of the United States. Pursuant to section F.3 of the Industrial General Permit, Sonoma Soil Builders shall submit a report to the Regional Water Board fully describing corrective actions taken to address the violations noted above by **January 8, 2015**.

Compliance with the Industrial General Permit requires that you have onsite an adequate Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and that you implement the BMPs in the SWPPP to achieve BAT and BCT. The SWPPP shall be revised as necessary to ensure that storm water discharges do not create a condition of pollution or nuisance. Pursuant to Section E.11 and C.3, Sonoma Soil Builders shall develop the means to properly control or eliminate sediment and nutrient laden storm water discharges via improved source control and BMPs that achieve BAT/BCT at the Windsor facility and submit this plan to the Regional Water Board by **February 8, 2015**.

Sonoma Soil Builders is in violation of the Industrial General Permit and subject to a monetary penalty (administrative civil liability). Pursuant to Water Code section 13385(a) (2), the Regional Water Board may impose civil liability of up to \$10,000 per day of each violation and up to \$10 per gallon discharged from the facility in excess of 1,000 gallons. When determining appropriate enforcement response for noncompliance, Regional Water Board staff consider a number of factors, including how promptly a Discharger takes corrective action and the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Keiran of my staff at (707) 576-2753 or at Paul.Keiran@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Shin-Roei Lee, Division Chief
Watershed Protection Division

141208_SonomaSoilBuildersNOV_Final