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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 30, 2014

Mr. Joe Bartolomei  
Ms. Catherine Bartolomei  
Farmhouse Inn  
7871 River Road  
Forestville, CA 95436

Dear Mr. and Ms. Bartolomei:

**Subject:** Notice of Continued Coverage under General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, State Water Resources Control Board, Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ

**File:** Farmhouse Inn, 7871 River Road, Forestville, WDID No. 1B07094RSON

On February 26, 2014, our office received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) application with a description of a proposal to expand the wastewater treatment and disposal system serving the Farmhouse Inn, located at 7871 River Road, Forestville. Additional project information was received on July 23, 2014, making the ROWD application complete. Based on a technical review of the application, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff has determined that the discharge from the expanded wastewater system is eligible for continued enrollment under State Water Resources Control Board General Order No. 97-10-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order). As per the Regional Water Board Notice of Coverage letter issued to the Farmhouse Inn on January 27, 2009, discharges from the facilities wastewater treatment and disposal system are authorized by enrollment under the General Order.

### **Expansion Project Description**

The Farmhouse Inn (Permittee) currently consists of 18 guest rooms, a 24 seat restaurant; a swimming pool; and spa. The wastewater treatment and disposal system serving the Inn is designed to handle a peak wastewater load of up to 3,285 gallons per day (gpd). The system includes a grease trap for restaurant flows, 2 septic tanks, 2 sump tanks with duplex pumping, 2 AdvanTex pretreatment units, and 2 subsurface drip dispersal fields.

The proposed expansion project will add office space, a kitchen area, 7 guestrooms for a total of 25 guestrooms and expand the wastewater treatment and disposal system. The expanded wastewater system will include the addition of a 2,000 gallon grease trap, a 5,000 gallon aeration/clarification tank, a 5,000 gallon pre-anoxic tank, a 5,000 gallon surge tank, two additional AdvanTex AX100 treatment pods, a 5,000 gallon post anoxic tank, and a new 6,428 square foot subsurface dispersal field (Area C). The new dispersal field will be located on the southern adjacent parcel currently owned by the Sonoma County Water Agency. A wastewater sewage disposal easement has been granted by the Sonoma County Water Agency to the Farmhouse Inn for use of Area C.

The expanded wastewater system is designed to treat a peak daily flow of 6,000 gpd and an average daily flow of 4,000 gpd. The discharged effluent will be treated to produce an effluent not to exceed 30 mg BOD/L, 30 mg TSS/L, and 16 mg Total N/L. Effluent will primarily be discharged to dispersal fields identified as Area B and Area C.

Three new deep monitoring wells will be installed down gradient of Area C and eight shallow monitoring wells will be installed within Area C. Additionally, two of the existing deep monitoring wells located down gradient of Area A will be relocated in the same general area so as to avoid construction impacts from parking lot upgrades. A total of nineteen shallow monitoring wells and four deep monitoring wells will be used to monitor the performance of the dispersal fields and site groundwater quality.

A cumulative impact analysis to determine potential impacts from nitrate accumulation in groundwater was prepared for the expansion project. The analysis was based on the AdvanTex pretreatment unit achieving a 70% reduction in Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) concentrations that will result in a concentration of 16 mg/L TKN in treated final effluent. The water quality objectives of 45 mg/l nitrate as NO<sub>3</sub> (10 mg/L nitrate as N) will be met at the deep monitoring wells located down gradient of the disposal fields.

A condition of the January 27, 2009, enrollment under the General Order was compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements in Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R1-2009-0011. MRP No. R1-2009-0011 has been replaced with MRP No. R1-2014-0063 in order to recognize the existence of the eleven new monitoring wells and to modify some monitoring requirements. Continued enrollment under the General Order requires compliance with the monitoring and reporting requirements in MRP No. R1-2014-0063.

### **CEQA Compliance**

On July 18, 2014, the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) approved a Use Permit for the Farmhouse Inn expansion project and prepared a Negative Declaration. The Negative Declaration includes mitigation measures to reduce the project's potentially significant adverse impacts to the environment.

In addition, the State Water Resource Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration on November 18, 1997, for small domestic wastewater systems enrolled under State Water Board Order No. 97-10-DWQ. In adopting State Water Board Order No. 97-10-DWQ, the State Water Board determined that potentially significant environmental impacts from discharges from small domestic wastewater systems would be mitigated to a level of insignificance by compliance with State Water Board Order No. 97-10-DWQ.

The following conditions, which are based on the expansion project description contained in the ROWD and application, are to be followed at all times:

**Site Specific Conditions**

1. The Permittee shall not discharge waste in excess of the design treatment and disposal capacity of the domestic wastewater treatment and disposal system.
2. The Permittee shall ensure that the subsurface disposal systems are maintained so that at no time will wastewater surface at any location.
3. The Permittee shall not discharge treated effluent to the disposal field at concentrations exceeding 16 mg/L TKN, the concentration cited in the cumulative impact analysis.
4. The discharge of effluent to the disposal field shall not cause an exceedance of water quality objectives in groundwater, as measured at the deep monitoring wells located down gradient of the disposal fields.
5. The Permittee shall allow the Regional Water Board and/or other authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as required by law to: 1) enter upon the Permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is conducted to inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment, practices, or operations regulated or required by this permit, and 2) to sample or monitor at reasonable times for the purpose of assuring compliance to this permit, and 3) to have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that are required to be kept under the conditions of this permit.
6. All instances of noncompliance that may endanger public health or the environment shall be reported orally to the Regional Water Board as soon as possible, but no later than 2 hours from the time the Permittee becomes aware of the circumstances, and a written report shall be submitted such that an original signed written copy is received by the Regional Water Board no later than five days after the event.
7. All reports required by this permit or other information requested by the Regional Water Board, or the State Water Board shall be signed by the principal executive

officer or a duly authorized representative of that person. Any person signing a document under this requirement shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted, is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

8. Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, this permit action is contingent on: (1) the discharge being completed in strict compliance with the Permittee's project description, and (2) compliance with all applicable requirements of the Basin Plan.

Enclosed is a copy of the General Order (Enclosure 1) and MRP No. R1-2014-0063 (Enclosure 2). Enrollment under the General Order began on January 27, 2009, and continues to be effective for the Permittee's proposed wastewater treatment and disposal system expansion project.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Prat of my staff at (707)576-2542 or by email at [Rachel.Prat@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Rachel.Prat@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original digitally signed by*

Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

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Enclosure:

- 1) General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, State Water Resources Control Board, Water Quality Order No. 97-10 DWQ
- 2) Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R1-2014-0063

cc: Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403