

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, May 18, 2017
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2017-0014 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for County of Sonoma and The Sea Ranch Association for the Sonoma County Service Area 41, Zone 2; Sea Ranch Association Onsite Wastewater Management Zone, WDID No. 1B89051RSON (*Rachel Prat*)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2017-0014 (Proposed Order).

BACKGROUND: The community of The Sea Ranch is a 3,853-acre development that consists primarily of second homes located along the northern Sonoma County Coast. Sonoma County approved a maximum number of 2,929 lots for development. Lots within the development are served by either a publicly owned and operated wastewater treatment plant or an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS). The County designated 1,558 lots for development with the use of an individual or neighborhood OWTS.

On October 7, 1986, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 86-2108 which establish an On-site Wastewater Management Zone managed by the County of Sonoma, Service Area No.6, Sea Ranch Zone 2. In 1993, County Service Area No. 6, Sea Ranch Zone 2 became known as County Service Area 41, Sea Ranch Zone 2 (hereinafter "Zone").

The Sea Ranch Association is a nonprofit membership corporation of property owners of the Sea Ranch development. On July 13, 1989, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved an Operating Agreement (hereinafter "Operating Agreement") between the Sea Ranch Association and the County of Sonoma for management, maintenance, and administration of the Zone. As per the Operating Agreement, the services provided by The Sea Ranch Association are to comply with water quality discharge standards adopted by the Regional Water Board. The term of the Operating Agreement has been automatically extended for successive one-year periods since July 1, 1990, and is currently active.

On June 24, 1993, the Regional Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 93-67 for the Onsite Wastewater Management Zone. The County of Sonoma and The

Sea Ranch Association have been managing the OWTS including the common sewage disposal areas pursuant to Order No. 93-67. The Proposed Order regulates discharges from the OWTS located within the boundaries of the Zone (see Attachment A of the Proposed Order: Facility Map which depicts Zone boundaries). The types of OWTS operating in the Zone include conventional septic tank leachfield systems serving individual lots and neighborhood systems serving multiple lots. Neighborhood OWTS consist of multiple septic tanks connected to a shared leachfield located in a common area of the development. Adoption of the Proposed Order will result in the rescission and replacement of Order No. 93-67 with the Proposed Order.

ISSUES: A draft of this Order was available for public comment from February 23, 2017, to March 27, 2017. Minor comments were received from The Sea Ranch Association. The Sea Ranch Association requested a number of minor corrections. The Sea Ranch Association also proposed changes to the monitoring and reporting program, including the addition of five new monitoring well locations, to allow for the collection of additional groundwater sampling data. Regional Water Board staff incorporated the proposed corrections and the proposed changes to the monitoring and reporting program. A detailed response to the written comments is presented in the attached Response to Comments document.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2017-0014, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2017-0003
2. Staff Response to Comments
3. The Sea Ranch Association Comments
4. Public Notice