California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Resolution No. R1-2008-0065
WDID NO. 1B08057RSON

Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
For
Sonoma State University
Domestic Wastewater Equalization Tank
1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park

Sonoma County

WHEREAS, On April 01, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) from the State of California, Sonoma State University (hereinafter Discharger) for the construction and operation of a domestic wastewater equalization tank at 1801 East Cotati Avenue in Rohnert Park (APN 047-131-011). Additional information was received on May 7, 2008, to complete the ROWD; and,

WHEREAS, The purpose of the project is to provide a means for equalizing, the discharge of daily domestic wastewater flows from the University's campus to the City of Rohnert Park's sanitary sewer collection system through the use of diversion facilities and a wastewater equalization tank; and

WHEREAS, Domestic wastewater from the University campus is currently discharged to the City of Rohnert Park's sanitary sewer collection system via an 18` inch sewer line, located at the northwest corner of the University campus. The existing discharge is metered via the Parshall Flume flow monitoring structure near the sewer exit point; and

WHEREAS, The discharge is permitted in accordance with a January 1980 operating Agreement between the Discharger and the City of Rohnert Park. The Agreement authorizes the Discharger to release domestic wastewater to the City of Rohnert Park's sanitary sewer collection system at a maximum rate of 0.25 million gallons per day (MGD), measured as average dry weather flow (ADWF). The City of Rohnert Park sanitary sewer collection system discharges to the Santa Rosa Subregional Wastewater Treatment Plant, operated by the City of Santa Rosa; and,

WHEREAS, New development of the University's campus infrastructure, completed as part of the *May 2000 Revised Sonoma State Master Plan*, has resulted in an increase of campus wastewater volumes by approximately 0.042 MGD ADWF. The current projected wastewater

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ADWF volume for the campus is 0.229 MGD ADWF, which is approaching the 0.25 MGD ADWF limitation established in the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Discharger is proposing the construction of a 256,000 gallon, steel equalization tank, to be located in the northwest corner of the University's campus, approximately 500 feet south of Copeland Creek, and adjoining the University's existing wastewater collection system; and;

WHEREAS, High daily domestic wastewater flows will be diverted from the Discharger's connection to the City of Rohnert Park's sanitary sewer collection system to the wastewater equalization tank for temporary storage. During times of low campus wastewater generation, stored wastewater will be electronically metered back into the trunk main connecting the Discharger's sanitary sewer collection system to the City of Rohnert Park's sanitary sewer collection system; and

WHEREAS, The following safety features will be built into the design of the diversion facility and equalization tank to reduce the potential for impacts to water quality and to prevent nuisances:

Diversion Pump Facility

- The walls of the diversion pump station wet well will be extended above the Copeland Creek flood level elevation so as to prevent flooding of the pump station during times of Creek flooding.
- High flow relief piping will connect the upstream diversion manhole to the existing Parshall Flume structure, allowing for wastewater bypass of the pumping station and direct discharge to the City's collection system in instances of overburden to the diversion pump wet well, such as failed pumps.
- Dual pumps, each capable of diverting the full required capacity of 550 gallons per minute (gpm) will be installed in the wet well. One pump will be used as a stand-by pump.
- The pump station will be vented to the existing Parshall Flume structure to eliminate odors.
- The diversion control valves and pumps will be connected to a central controller which will automatically operate the system based on signals it receives from the Parshall Flume, each valve, the blowers and pumps, water level meters at the equalization tank, and chemical storage tanks.

Equalization Tank

- The equalization tank will be equipped with two water level measurement devices. A water level transducer with a high water alarm system that is connected to the central controller will signal

DRAFT

the diversion pumps to turn off and the control valves to open to allow wastewater to flow to the City's collection system if wastewater levels reach 25.5 feet (230,000 gallons) in the equalization tank. A second redundant water level float system will be connected to the central controller and will send a signal to lock-out the pumps if the water surpasses the high water level.

- The equalization tank will be equipped with floor mounted, coarse bubble diffusers which will deliver oxygen to the raw wastewater and keep the solids in suspension.
- An odor control system will be connected to the equalization tank. Air from the headspace of the equalization tank will be routed to an odor treatment unit for removal of noxious odors.
- The equalization tank will be equipped with an internal wash down system that will rinse the inside of the tank with recycled water each time the tank is drained of wastewater.
- An emergency generator will provide back-up power to the blowers, pump station, wash down booster pump station, odor control system, electric valves, control system and Parshall Flume; and

WHEREAS, The Regional Water Board staff has reviewed the ROWD and other information related to the proposed discharge and determined that issuance of a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements is consistent with the Basin Plan and is in the public interest. The Regional Water Board has determined the design, location, construction and maintenance of the proposed equalization tank project will provide adequate protection of beneficial uses of water and prevent nuisance, pollution and contamination; and

WHEREAS, The Discharger is enrolled in the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (Sanitary Sewer Order) which requires public agencies that own or operate sanitary sewer systems over 1 mile in length to develop and implement sewer system management plans (SSMPs) and report all sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) to the State Water Board's online SSO database. The Discharger's sewer system management plan includes the following elements: goal of the SSMP; organization; legal authority; operation & maintenance program; design and performance provisions; an overflow emergency response plan; fats, oils, and grease control program; system evaluation and capacity assurance plan; monitoring, measurement & program modifications; SSMP program audits; and a communication program. The equalization tank and diversion facilities are considered part of the Discharger's sanitary sewer system and as such are subject to the State Water Board's Sanitary Sewer Order; and

DRAFT

WHEREAS, On May 15, 2007, the California State University Board of Trustees approved an addendum to the *Sonoma State University Master Plan Revision EIR* to address the addition of the wastewater equalization project. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental documents, and the potential impacts to water quality from the wastewater equalization project.

Potentially significant impacts to water quality associated with the construction and operation of the equalization tank were identified in the addendum to the EIR, and include:

Construction Related Increases in Erosion and Sedimentation, with Subsequent Impacts to Water Quality – construction would expose large areas of bare soil during construction that could be exposed to precipitation and subsequent erosion. Construction activities that involve soil disturbance, excavation, cutting/filling, stockpiling, and grading activities could result in increased erosion and sedimentation to surface waters, and result in decreased water quality. Construction best management practices, including precautions to prevent erosion and sedimentation, will be employed, especially because of the proximity of the proposed wastewater equalization site to Copeland Creek. To mitigate potential impacts associated with construction, the Regional Water Board is requiring the Discharger to: 1) obtain enrollment under the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ) prior to initiating construction; 2) submit to the Regional Water Board for approval an erosion control plan which utilizes Best Management Practices prior to any site grading work taking place; 3) construct post-construction water quality controls, including: the utilization of vegetated swales designed in accordance with June 3, 2005 Santa Rosa Area Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan, along the west end of the equalization tank site; the utilization of pervious materials, such as gravel, in the area surrounding the diversion facility; and the mitigation of vegetation removal above the top of the bank of Copeland Creek at a 2:1 willow loss mitigation rate, and

WHEREAS, The Regional Water Board conducted a public hearing on July 24, 2008, in Santa Rosa, California, and considered all evidence concerning this matter,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to California Water Code section 13269 the Regional Water Board, based on the aforementioned hearing, finds that a Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for the domestic wastewater equalization tank at 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, would be in the public interest and consistent with the Basin Plan provided that the Discharger is in compliance with the following:

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a. The Discharger shall obtain all appropriate construction permits, including a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, Water Quality Order, 99-08-DWQ prior to initiating construction;

b. The Discharger shall submit to the Regional Water Board for approval prior to any site grading work taking place an erosion control plan which utilizes Best Management Practices;

c. The Discharger shall construct post-construction water quality controls in accordance with the terms described in the ROWD;

d. The Discharger and subsequent property owners shall allow Regional Water Board staff reasonable access onto the affected property for the purpose of performing an inspection to determine compliance with waiver conditions.

e. The Discharger shall submit to the Regional Water Board annual reports, on or before June 30th of each year that shall include:
    - A spreadsheet listing the average daily flow (ADF) and Peak Daily Wet Weather Flow (PDWWF) for the previous 12 months and the Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF) rates for the months of September and October;
    - Copies of all monitoring reports forwarded to the City of Rohnert Park during the previous 12 months;
    - A description of how the system operated during the year including any substantial modifications made to the system during the previous 12 months (including changes in flow);
    - A description of any significant malfunctions with the system, including any leaks, spills and or complaints received with regards to the system;
    - A report on the number of days the equalization tank was in use along with the volume of wastewater held in the equalization tank on those days.

f. The discharge shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region;

g. The Discharger shall comply with the requirements of the Sanitary Sewer Order, including development and implementation of the SSMP and reporting all SSOs to the State Water Board's online SSO database.

DRAFT

h. The discharge shall comply with the conditions for this Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements as set forth herein, and discharge only in accordance with the terms described in the ROWD;

i. The discharge shall not create a pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by California Water Code Section 13050;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Regional Water Board has reviewed the addendum to the Master Plan Revision for the wastewater equalization project, and finds that based on the mitigation proposed and described above, the wastewater equalization project will not have an impact on water quality. The Regional Water Board will file a Notice of Determination within five days from the issuance of this order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discharge of any waste not specifically regulated by the Waiver described herein is not authorized by this Waiver.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements shall expire July 24, 2012, in accordance with Section 13269 of the Water Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this action waiving the issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements for the domestic wastewater equalization tank at 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park; (a) is conditional, (b) may be terminated at any time, (c) does not permit an illegal activity, (d) does not preclude the need for permits which may be required by other local or governmental agencies, and (e) does not preclude the Regional Water Board from administering enforcement remedies (including civil penalties) pursuant to the Water Code.

Certification:

I, Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on July 24, 2008.

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Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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