

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
NORTH COAST REGION

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE,  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING,  
AND  
HEARING PROCEDURE

FOR

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT  
NO. R1-2010-0081

ISSUED TO

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
WDID NO. 1B762760SON

SONOMA COUNTY

HEARING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 9, 2010

PLEASE READ THIS HEARING PROCEDURE CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF YOUR DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

**Background**

The Assistant Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint pursuant to California Water Code Section 13323 against the City of Sebastopol (Discharger) alleging that the Discharger violated the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems. The Complaint proposes that administrative civil liability in the amount **three hundred ninety thousand one hundred and thirty one dollars (\$390,131)** be imposed. A hearing is currently scheduled to be held before the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) during its December 9, 2010 meeting.

**Purpose of Hearing**

The purpose of the hearing is to consider relevant evidence and testimony regarding the ACL Complaint. At the hearing, the Regional Board will consider whether to issue an administrative civil liability order assessing the proposed liability, or a higher or lower amount, or reject the proposed liability. The public hearing on December 9, 2010 will commence at 8:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as practical, or as announced in the Regional Board meeting agenda. The meeting will be held at the Regional Board office located at 5550 Skylane Blvd, Ste A, Santa Rosa, CA. An agenda for the meeting will be issued at least ten days before the meeting and posted on the Regional Board's web page at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_info/board\\_meetings/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/).

## **Hearing Procedures**

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with this hearing procedure. This hearing procedure has been pre-approved by the Regional Board's Advisory Team in model format. A copy of the general procedures governing adjudicatory hearings before the Regional Board may be found at Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 648 et seq., and is available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/index.shtml) or upon request. In accordance with Section 648, subdivision (d), any procedure not provided by this Hearing Procedure is deemed waived. Except as provided in Section 648 and herein, subdivision (b), Chapter 5 of the Administrative Procedures Act (commencing with Section 11500 of the Government Code) does not apply to this hearing.

THE PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES HEREIN MAY BE AMENDED BY THE ADVISORY TEAM AT ITS DISCRETION. **ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE HEARING PROCEDURE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE REGIONAL BOARD'S ADVISORY TEAM BY SEPTEMBER 19, 2010 OR THEY WILL BE WAIVED.** FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

## **Hearing Participants**

Participants in this proceeding are designated as either "parties" or "interested persons." Designated parties to the hearing may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses and are subject to cross-examination. Interested persons generally may not submit evidence, cross examine witnesses, or be subject to cross examination, but may present policy statements. Policy statements may include comments on any aspect of the proceeding, but may not include evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data). Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Regional Board, staff or others, at the discretion of the Regional Board.

The following participants are hereby designated as parties in this proceeding:

- (1) Regional Board Prosecution Team
- (2) City of Sebastopol, referred to as the Discharger

## **Requesting Designated Party Status**

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a designated party must request party status by submitting a request in writing (with copies to the existing designated parties) so that it is received by 5 p.m. on September 29, 2010 to Catherine Kuhlman at 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, 95403. The request shall include an explanation of the basis for status as a designated party (e.g., how the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the potential actions by the Regional Board affect the person), the information required of designated parties as provided below, and a statement explaining why the party or parties designated above do not adequately represent the person's interest. Any opposition to the request must be received by the

Advisory Team, the person requesting party status, and all parties by 5 p.m. on October 11, 2010. The parties will be notified by 5 p.m. on October 18, 2010 in writing whether the request has been granted or denied.

### **Primary Contacts**

#### **Advisory Team:**

Samantha Olson, [solson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:solson@waterboards.ca.gov) 916-327-8235  
David Rice [davidrice@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:davidrice@waterboards.ca.gov) 916-341-5182  
Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer, [CKuhlman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CKuhlman@waterboards.ca.gov),  
707-576-2225

#### **Prosecution Team:**

David Boyers, [dboyers@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dboyers@waterboards.ca.gov), 916-341-5276  
Luis Rivera, [LRivera@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:LRivera@waterboards.ca.gov), 707-570-3769  
Diana Henrioulle, [DHenrioulle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DHenrioulle@waterboards.ca.gov), 707-576-2350  
David Leland, [dleland@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dleland@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Bill Rodriguez, [WRodriguez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:WRodriguez@waterboards.ca.gov), 707-576-2683

#### **Discharger:**

Susan Kelly, City of Sebastopol, 714 Johnson Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472,  
[suekelly@sonic.net](mailto:suekelly@sonic.net) 707 823-2151

### **Separation of Functions**

To help ensure the fairness and impartiality of this proceeding, the functions of those who will act in a prosecutorial role by presenting evidence for consideration by the Regional Board (Prosecution Team) have been separated from those who will provide advice to the Regional Board (Advisory Team). Members of the Advisory Team are Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer, and Samantha Olson and David Rice, Staff Counsels. Members of the Prosecution Team are: Luis Rivera, Assistant Executive Officer; David Leland, Supervising Water Resources Control Engineer in charge of the Watershed Protection Division; Diana Henrioulle, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer in charge of the Enforcement Unit; William Rodriguez, Sanitary Engineering Associate; and David Boyers, Senior Staff Counsel, State Water Board, Office of Enforcement. Any members of the Advisory Team who normally supervise any members of the Prosecution Team are not acting as their supervisors in this proceeding, and vice versa. Members of the Prosecution Team may have acted as advisors to the Regional Board in other, unrelated matters, but they are not advising the Regional Board in this proceeding. Members of the Prosecution Team have not had any ex parte communications with the members of the Regional Board or the Advisory Team regarding this proceeding.

### **Ex Parte Communications**

The designated parties and interested persons are forbidden from engaging in ex parte communications regarding this matter with members of the Advisory Team or members of the Regional Board. An ex parte contact is any written or verbal communication pertaining to the investigation, preparation or prosecution of the ACL Complaint between a member of a designated party or interested person on the one hand, and a Regional Board member or an Advisory Team member on the other hand, unless the communication is copied to all other designated parties (if written) or made in a manner open to all other designated parties (if verbal). Communications regarding non-controversial procedural matters are not ex parte contacts and are not restricted. Communications among one or more designated parties and interested persons themselves are not ex parte contacts.

### **Hearing Time Limits**

To ensure that all participants have an opportunity to participate in the hearing, the following time limits shall apply: each designated party shall have a combined 30 minutes to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses (if warranted), and provide a closing statement; and each interested person shall have 3 minutes to present a non-evidentiary policy statement. Participants with similar interests or comments are requested to make joint presentations, and participants are requested to avoid redundant comments. Participants who would like additional time must submit their request to the Advisory Team so that it is received no later than November 18, 2010. Additional time may be provided at the discretion of the Advisory Team (prior to the hearing) or the Regional Board Chair (at the hearing) upon a showing that additional time is necessary.

### **Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements**

The following information must be submitted in advance of the hearing:

1. All evidence (other than witness testimony to be presented orally at the hearing) that the Designated Party would like the Regional Board to consider. Evidence and exhibits already in the public files of the Regional Board may be submitted by reference as long as the exhibits and their location are clearly identified in accordance with Title 23, CCR, Section 648.3.
2. All legal and technical arguments or analysis.
3. The name of each witness, if any, whom the designated party intends to call at the hearing, the subject of each witness's proposed testimony, and the estimated time required by each witness to present direct testimony.
4. The qualifications of each expert witness, if any.
5. (Discharger only) If the Discharger intends to argue an inability to pay the civil liability proposed in the Complaint (or an increased or decreased amount as may be imposed by the Regional Board), the Discharger should submit supporting evidence as set forth in the "ACL Fact Sheet" under "Factors that must be considered by the Board."

The Prosecution Team shall submit 15 hard copies of its information and one electronic copy of the information to Jean Lockett, Executive Assistant to the Executive Officer so that it is received by 5 p.m. on October 18, 2010.

The remaining designated parties shall submit 15 hard copies of their information and one electronic copy of the information to Jean Lockett, Executive Assistant to the Executive Officer so that they are received by 5 p.m. on November 8, 2010.

Any designated party that would like to submit information that rebuts the information previously submitted by other designated parties shall submit 15 hard copies of their rebuttal information and one electronic copy of the information to Jean Lockett, Executive Assistant to the Executive Officer so that they are received by 5 p.m. on November 18, 2010. Rebuttal information shall be limited to the scope of the information previously submitted by the other designated parties. Rebuttal information that is not responsive to information previously submitted by other designated parties may be excluded.

If the total amount of information submitted by any party is less than 15 pages, that party may submit the information by email, rather than in writing. In addition to the foregoing, each designated party shall submit (1) one copy of the above information to each of the other designated parties so that it is received by 5 p.m. on the deadline specified above.

Interested persons who would like to submit written non-evidentiary policy statements are encouraged to submit them to the Advisory Team as early as November 8, 2010 but no later than November 24, 2010. Interested persons do not need to submit written non-evidentiary policy statements in order to speak at the hearing.

In accordance with Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 648.4, the Regional Board endeavors to avoid surprise testimony or evidence. Absent a showing of good cause and lack of prejudice to the parties, the Regional Board may exclude evidence and testimony that is not submitted in accordance with this hearing procedure. Excluded evidence and testimony will not be considered by the Regional Board and will not be included in the administrative record for this proceeding. Power Point and other visual presentations may be used at the hearing, but their content may not exceed the scope of other submitted written material. A copy of such material intended to be presented at the hearing must be submitted to the Advisory Team at or before the hearing for inclusion in the administrative record. Additionally, any witness who has submitted written testimony for the hearing shall appear at the hearing and affirm that the written testimony is true and correct, and shall be available for cross-examination.

### **Request for Pre-hearing Conference**

A designated party may request that a pre-hearing conference be held before the hearing in accordance with Water Code Section 13228.15. A pre-hearing conference may address any of the matters described in subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 11511.5. Requests must contain a description of the issues proposed to be discussed during that conference, and must be submitted to the Advisory Team, with a copy to all other designated parties, as early as practicable.

### **Evidentiary Objections**

Any designated party objecting to written evidence or exhibits submitted by another designated party must submit a written objection to the Advisory Team and all other designated parties so that it is received by 5 p.m. on November 18, 2010. The Advisory Team will notify the parties about further action to be taken on such objections and when that action will be taken.

### **Evidentiary Documents and File**

The Complaint and related evidentiary documents are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Board office at 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa. This file shall be considered part of the official administrative record for this hearing. Other submittals received for this proceeding will be added to this file and will become a part of the administrative record absent a contrary ruling by the Regional Board Chair. Many of these documents are also posted on-line at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). Although the web page is updated regularly, to assure access to the latest information, you may contact Bill Rodriguez at [WRodriguez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:WRodriguez@waterboards.ca.gov) or by phone at 707-576-2683.

### **Questions**

Questions concerning procedural matters may be addressed to Samantha Olson at [solson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:solson@waterboards.ca.gov) or 916-327-8235, David Rice at [davidrice@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:davidrice@waterboards.ca.gov) or 916-341-5182, and Catherine Kuhlman, [CKuhlman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CKuhlman@waterboards.ca.gov) or 707-576-2225.

### **IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

(Note: the Regional Board is required to provide a hearing within 90 days of issuance of the Complaint (Water Code Section 13323). The Advisory Team will generally adhere to this schedule unless the discharger waives that requirement.)

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| September 9, 2010  | Prosecution Team issues ACL Complaint to Discharger and Advisory Team, sends Hearing Procedure to Discharger and Advisory Team, and publishes Public Notice. |
| September 19, 2010 | Deadline for objections, if any, to proposed Hearing Procedure.  |
| September 29, 2010 | Deadline for requests for designated party status.   |
| October 9, 2010    | Discharger's deadline for waiving right to hearing.  |

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| October 11, 2010  | Deadline for oppositions to requests for designated party status.   |
| October 18, 2010  | Prosecution Team's deadline for all information required under "Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements,"                              |
| October 18, 2010  | Advisory Team issues decision on requests for designated party status, if any.  |
| November 8, 2010  | Remaining Designated Parties' Deadline for all information required under "Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements."                   |
| November 18, 2010 | All Designated Parties' deadline for rebuttal information, evidentiary objections, and requests for additional time at the hearing, if any. |
| November 24, 2010 | Interested Persons' deadline for written non-evidentiary policy statements.   |
| December 9, 2010  | Hearing.  |

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Luis G. Rivera  
Assistant Executive Officer

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Date

Prosecution Team