

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

COMPLAINT NO R2-2004-0073  
MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES  
IN THE MATTER OF  
LAS GALLINAS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT  
SAN RAFAEL, MARIN COUNTY

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13385, this Complaint is issued to Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District (hereinafter called the Discharger) to assess mandatory minimum penalties (MMP), based on a finding of the Discharger's violations of Waste Discharge Requirements contained in Order Nos. 98-112 and R2-2003-0108 (NPDES No. CA0037851) for the period between February 1, 2000, and February 29, 2004.

The Executive Officer finds the following:

1. On October 21, 1998, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, (the Water Board) adopted Order No. 98-112 for the Discharger, to regulate discharges of waste from the Discharger's facility.
2. On December 3, 2003, the Water Board adopted Order No. R2-2003-0108 for the Discharger, to regulate discharges of waste from its facility. Order No. R2-2003-0108 became effective on January 1, 2004. Order No. 98-112 was superseded upon the effectiveness of Order No. R2-2003-0108.
3. Water Code Section 13385(h)(1) requires the Water Board to assess an MMP of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each serious violation.
4. Water Code Section 13385(h)(2) defines "serious violation" as any waste discharge of a Group I pollutant that exceeds the effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements by 40 percent or more, or any waste discharge of a Group II pollutant that exceeds the effluent limitation by 20 percent or more.
5. Water Code Section 13385(l) allows the Water Board, with concurrence of the discharger, to direct a portion of the MMP amount to be expended on a supplemental environmental project (SEP) in accordance with the enforcement policy of the State Water Resources Control Board. The Discharger may undertake an SEP for up to the full amount of the MMP for liabilities less than or equal to \$15,000. If the MMP amount exceeds \$15,000, the maximum MMP amount that may be expended on an SEP may not exceed \$15,000 plus 50 percent of the MMP amount that exceeds \$15,000.

6. Water Code Section 13385(i)(1) requires the Water Board to assess an MMP of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each violation, not counting the first three violations, if the discharger does any of the following four or more times in any six consecutive months:
  - a. Violates a waste discharge requirement effluent limitation.
  - b. Fails to file a report pursuant to Section 13260.
  - c. Files an incomplete report pursuant to 13260.
  - d. Violates a toxicity effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements where the waste discharge requirements do not contain pollutant-specific effluent limitations for toxic pollutants.

7. Effluent Limitations

Order Nos. 98-112 and R2-2003-0108 include the following applicable effluent limitations:

***EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS (Order No. 98-112)***

*Chlorine residual. The effluent shall not contain a chlorine residual concentrations greater than 0.0 mg/L at any time, except during the non-discharge season when effluent is discharged to the reclamation storage ponds.*

*The pH of the discharge shall not exceed 8.5 nor be less than 6.5.*

*Coliform bacteria. The wet weather moving median value for the MPN of total coliform bacteria in any five (5) consecutive samples shall not exceed 240 MPN/100 mL. Any wet weather single sample shall not exceed 10,000 MPN/100 mL.*

<i>Settleable solids weekly average</i>	<i>0.2 ml/L-hr</i>
<i>Copper interim daily average</i>	<i>17 µg/L</i>
<i>Suspended solids daily maximum</i>	<i>60 mg/L</i>

***EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS (Order No. R2-2003-0108)***

*Enterococcus: The treated wastewater, at some point in the treatment process prior to discharge, shall meet the following limit of bacteriological quality:*

*No single effluent sample exceeding 276 colonies per 100 mL*

8. Summary of Effluent Limit Violations

During the period between February 1, 2000, and February 29, 2004, the Discharger had sixteen violations of its effluent discharge limits. These violations are: three chlorine residual violations, three pH violations, a copper interim daily average violation, four total coliform five-sample moving median violations, a total coliform daily maximum violation, a total settleable solids weekly average violation, a total suspended solids daily maximum violation, and two enterococcus daily maximum violations. The details of these limit violations are summarized in the attached Table 1, which is incorporated herein by reference, and described in the following findings.

9. Chlorine residual (Group II pollutant)

The three chlorine residual violations (items 1, 2 and 11 in Table 1) are all serious violations. Therefore, these violations are subject to a \$9,000 MMP.

10. pH

The first pH violation (item 3 in Table 1) is a non-serious violation and counts as the first chronic violation in the 180-day period counting back from January 1, 2002 and is not subject to an MMP. The second pH violation (item 9 in Table 1) is a chronic violation and subject to an MMP since there have been four or more violations in a six-month period. The third pH violation (item 13 in Table 1) is a non-serious violation and counts as the second chronic violation in the 180-day period counting back from December 26, 2003 and is not subject to an MMP. Therefore, the total MMP for these violations is \$3,000.

11. Copper (Group II pollutant)

The copper interim daily average violation (item 4 in Table 1) is a serious violation. Therefore, the total MMP for this violation is \$3,000.

12. Total coliform 5-sample moving median

The first three total coliform 5-sample moving median violations (item 5-7 in Table 1) are non-serious violations and count as the three chronic violations in the 180-day period counting back from December 30, 2002 and are not subject to an MMP. The fourth total coliform 5-sample moving median violation (item 8 in Table 1) is a chronic violation and subject to an MMP since there have been four or more violations in a six-month period. Therefore, these violations are subject to a total MMP of \$3,000.

13. Total coliform daily maximum

The total coliform daily maximum violation (item 12 in Table 1) is a non-serious violation and counts as the first chronic violation in the 180-day period counting back from December 24, 2003 and is not subject to an MMP.

14. Settleable solids weekly average (Group II pollutant)

The settleable solids weekly average violation is a serious violation. Therefore, the total MMP for this violation is \$3,000.

15. Suspended solids daily maximum (Group II pollutant)

The suspended solids daily maximum violation (item 14 in Table 1) is a non-serious violation and counts as the third chronic violation in the 180-day period counting back from December 30, 2003 and is not subject to an MMP.

16. Enterococcus daily maximum

The two enterococcus daily maximum violations (items 15 and 16 in Table 1) are chronic violations and subject to an MMP since there have been four or more violations in a six-month period. Therefore, these violations are subject to a total MMP of \$6,000.

17. Water Code Exception

Water Code Section 13385(j) provides some exceptions related to the assessment of an MMP for effluent limit violations. None of the exceptions apply to the violations cited in this Complaint.

18. MMP Assessment

The total MMP amount is \$27,000.

19. Partial Suspended MMP Amounts

Instead of paying the full penalty amount to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account, the Discharger may spend an amount up to \$21,000 on a supplemental environmental project (SEP) acceptable to the Executive Officer. Any such amount expended to satisfactorily complete an SEP will be permanently suspended.

20. SEP Categories

If the Discharger chooses to propose an SEP, the proposed SEP shall be in the following categories:

- a. Pollution prevention;
- b. Pollution reduction;
- c. Environmental clean-up or restoration; and
- d. Environmental education.

**THE DISCHARGER IS HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE THAT:**

1. The Executive Officer proposes that the Discharger be assessed an MMP in the total amount of \$27,000.
2. The Water Board will hold a hearing on this Complaint on January 19, 2005, unless the Discharger waives the right to a hearing by signing the last page of this Complaint and checks the appropriate box. By doing so, the Discharger agrees to:
  - a. Pay the full penalty of \$27,000 within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective, or
  - b. Propose an SEP in an amount up to \$21,000. Pay the balance of the penalty within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective. The sum of the SEP amount and the amount of the fine to be paid to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account shall equal the full penalty of \$27,000.
3. If the Discharger chooses to propose an SEP, it must submit a preliminary proposal by December 23, 2004, to the Executive Officer for conceptual approval. Any SEP proposal shall also conform to the requirements specified in Section IX of the Water Quality Enforcement Policy, which was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on February 19, 2002, and the attached Standard Criteria and Reporting Requirement for Supplemental Environmental Projects. If the proposed SEP is not acceptable to the Executive Officer, the Discharger has 30 days from receipt of notice of an unacceptable SEP

to either submit a new or revised proposal, or make a payment for the suspended penalty of \$21,000. All payments, including money not used for the SEP, must be payable to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account. Regular reports on the SEP implementation shall be provided to the Executive Officer according to a schedule to be determined. The completion report for the SEP shall be submitted to the Executive Officer within 60 days of project completion.

4. The signed waiver will become effective on the next day after the public comment period for this Complaint is closed, provided that there are no significant public comments on this Complaint during the public comment period. If there are significant public comments, the Executive Officer may withdraw the Complaint and reissue it as appropriate.
5. If a hearing is held, the Water Board may impose an administrative civil liability in the amount proposed or for a different amount; decline to seek civil liability; or refer the matter to the Attorney General to have a Superior Court consider imposition of penalty.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Table 1 – Violations Summary  
Attachment A- Standard Criteria and Reporting Requirement for Supplemental Environmental  
Projects

**WAIVER**

(The signed waiver will become effective on the next day after the public comment period for this Complaint is closed, provided that there are no significant public comments on this Complaint during the public comment period. If there are significant public comments, the Executive Officer may withdraw the Complaint and reissue it as appropriate.)

- Waiver of the right to a hearing and agree to make payment in full.  
By checking the box, I agree to waive my right to a hearing before the Board with regard to the violations alleged in Complaint No. R2-2004-0073 and to remit the full penalty payment to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account, c/o Regional Water Quality Control Board at 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612, within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective as indicated above. I understand that I am giving up my right to be heard, and to argue against the allegations made by the Executive Officer in this Complaint, and against the imposition of, or the amount of, the civil liability proposed.
  
- Waiver of right to a hearing and agree to make payment and undertake an SEP.  
By checking the box, I agree to waive my right to a hearing before the Board with regard to the violations alleged in Complaint No. R2-2004-0073, and to complete a supplemental environmental project (SEP) in lieu of the suspended liability up to \$21,000. I also agree to remit payment of the balance of the fine to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective. I understand that the SEP proposal shall conform to the requirements specified in Section IX of the Water Quality Enforcement Policy, which was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on February 19, 2002, and be subject to approval by the Executive Officer. If the SEP proposal, or its revised version, is not acceptable to the Executive Officer, I agree to pay the suspended penalty amount for the SEP within 30 days of the date of the letter from the Executive Officer denying the approval of the proposed/revised SEP. I also understand that I am giving up my right to argue against the allegations made by the Executive Officer in the Complaint, and against the imposition of, or the amount of, the civil liability proposed. I further agree to satisfactorily complete the approved SEP within a time schedule set by the Executive Officer. I understand failure to adequately complete the approved SEP will require immediate payment of the suspended liability to the CAA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Organization

Table 1: Violations –Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District (February 2000 to February 2004)

Item No.	DATE	POLLUTANT	EFFLUENT LIMIT	DAILY VALUE	Penalty / Comment		Start of 180 days
					Chronic	Serious	
1	2/28/2000	Chlorine residual, mg/L	0.0	0.3		\$3,000	
2	3/5/2001	Chlorine residual, mg/L	0.0	1.8		\$3,000	
3	1/1/2002	pH	6.5 to 8.5	6.26	C1		7/3/2001
4	4/5/2002	Copper interim daily average, mg/l	17	25		\$3,000	
5	12/23/2002	Total coliform 5-sample moving median, MPN/100 mL	240	310	C1		6/26/2002
6	12/26/2002	Total coliform 5-sample moving median, MPN/100 mL	240	310	C2		
7	12/27/2002	Total coliform 5-sample moving median, MPN/100 mL	240	250	C3		
8	12/30/2002	Total coliform 5-sample moving median, MPN/100 mL	240	250	\$3,000		
9	3/14/2003	pH	6.5 to 8.5	5.25	\$3,000		9/15/2002
10	5/3/2003	Total settleable solids weekly average, ml/L-hr	0.2	0.4		\$3,000	
11	5/19/2003	Chlorine residual, mg/L	0.0	0.52		\$3,000	
12	12/24/2003	Total coliform daily limit, MPN/100 mL	10,000	>16,000	C1		6/27/2003
13	12/26/2003	pH	6.5 to 8.5	6.18	C2		6/29/2003
14	12/30/2003	Total Suspended Solids daily maximum, mg/L	60	60.5	C3		7/3/2003
15	2/2/2004	Enterococcus daily maximum, colonies/100 mL	276	680	\$3,000		8/5/2003
16	2/25/2004	Enterococcus daily maximum, colonies/100 mL	276	2000	\$3,000		
Number of Fineable Chronic Violations			4		\$12,000		
Number of Serious Violations			5			\$15,000	
<b>Total Penalty</b>					<b>\$27,000</b>		
<b>Notations</b>							
C(x) - Running chronic violation. First three are not penalized, fourth and subsequent violations are penalized at \$3,000 per violation.					ORDER NOs. 98-112 and R2-2003-0108 WDID 2 215012001		
S - serious violation, penalized at \$3,000 per violation.					File No. 2159.5012 NPDES PERMIT NO. CA 0037851 Previous Enforcement: Complaint Nos. 00-076 and 01-127		

ATTACHMENT A



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
**SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**  
JANUARY 2004

STANDARD CRITERIA AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT  
FOR  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

A. BASIS AND PURPOSE

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) accepts and encourages Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) in lieu of a portion of the ACL imposed on Dischargers in the Bay Area.

The Water Board does not select projects for SEP; rather, the Discharger identifies a project it would like to fund and then obtains approval from the Water Board's Executive Officer. The Water Board facilitates the process by maintaining a list of possible projects, which is made available to Dischargers interested in pursuing the SEP option. This list is available on the Water Board web site:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/>

Dischargers are not required to select a project from this list. Dischargers may contact local governments or public interest groups for potential projects in their area, or develop projects of their own.

B. GENERAL SEP QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

All SEPs approved by the Water Board must satisfy the following general criteria:

- (a) An SEP shall only consist of measures that go above and beyond all legal obligations of the Discharger (including those from other agencies). For example, sewage pump stations should have appropriate reliability features to minimize the occurrence of sewage spills in that particular collection system. The installation of these reliability features following a pump station spill would not qualify as an SEP.
- (b) The SEP should benefit or study groundwater or surface water quality or quantity, and the beneficial uses of waters of the State. SEPs in the following categories have received approval from the Water Board's Executive Officer:
  - Pollution prevention. These are projects designed to reduce the amount of pollutants being discharged to either sewer systems or to storm drains. Examples include improved industrial processes that reduce production of pollutants or improved spill prevention programs.
  - Pollution reduction. These are projects that reduce the amounts of pollution being discharged to the environment from treatment facilities. An example is a program to recycle treated wastewaters.
  - Environmental restoration. These projects either restore or create natural environments. Typical examples are wetland restoration or planting of stream bank vegetation.

- Environmental education. These projects involve funding environmental education programs in schools (or for teachers) or for the general public.

Further, an SEP should be located near the Discharger, in the same local watershed, unless the project is of region-wide importance.

C. APPROVAL PROCESS

The following information shall be submitted to the Executive Officer for approval of an SEP:

1. Name of the organization and contact person, with phone number.
2. Name and location of the project, including watershed (creek, river, bay) where it is located.
3. A detailed description of the proposed project, including proposed activities, time schedules, success criteria, other parties involved, monitoring program where applicable, and any other pertinent information.
4. General cost of the project.
5. Outline milestones and expected completion date.

Generally SEP proposals are submitted along with waivers of hearings. In such a case the approval of a proposal will not become effective until the waiver goes into effect, i.e. at the close of the public comment period. There will not be a public hearing on the SEP proposal unless new and significant information becomes available after the close of the public comment period that could not have been presented during the comment period.

If the Discharger needs additional time to prepare an SEP it may waive its right to a hearing within 30 days of the issuance of a Complaint (and retain its right to a hearing to contest the Complaint at a later date), and request additional time to prepare an SEP proposal. Any such time extension needs to be approved by Water Board staff.

D. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

On January 15 and July 15 of each year, progress reports shall be filed for the SEPs with expected completion date beyond 240 days after the issuance of the corresponding complaint.

E. FINAL NOTIFICATION

No later than 60 days after completion of the approved SEP, a final notification shall be filed. The final notification shall include the following information:

- Outline completed tasks and goals;
- Summary of all expenses with proof of payment; and
- Overall evaluation of the SEP.

F. THIRD PARTY PROJECT OVERSIGHT

For SEPs of more than \$10,000 the Water Board requires there to be third party oversight of the project. The Water Board has made arrangements with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to provide this oversight, or a Discharger may choose an alternative third party acceptable to the Executive Officer. If ABAG is chosen, six per cent of the SEP funds shall be directed to ABAG for oversight services (the remaining 94% of funds go directly to the SEP). If an alternative third party is chosen, the amount of funds directed to the SEP, as opposed to oversight, shall not be less than 94% of the total SEP funding. For projects greater than \$10,000 the Discharger shall indicate when submitting the information required under C. above whether ABAG or an alternative third party oversight entity will be used.