

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT
STAFF: JOHN WEST
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2007

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **Judy Borello and Borello Sewage Treatment Facility, Point Reyes Station, Marin County** - Adoption of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements

CHRONOLOGY: October 1981 - Waste Discharge Requirements adopted
June 1992 - Revised Waste Discharge Requirements adopted
August 1997 – Cleanup and Abatement Order issued

DISCUSSION: The purpose of this Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) is to update Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Borello Sewage Treatment Facility (Facility) to reflect current conditions, including: a) updated regulatory requirements; b) Facility improvements; c) changes to the groundwater and surface water monitoring programs since WDRs were last updated in 1991; and, d) correction of small errors in previous orders. The Revised Tentative Order would also rescind the Board's previous orders.

The Facility is located above Highway 1 in the Millerton Gulch Creek drainage, which is a sub-watershed of Tomales Bay in Marin County (Appendix B). The Facility is a privately owned and operated sewage land-disposal facility that began operation in 1971 and provides disposal services for a limited number of domestic and commercial sewage haulers.

This Revised Tentative Order was initiated in response to a recent Board staff evaluation of the eleven permitted wastewater treatment facilities in the Tomales Bay Watershed. Tomales Bay and its tributaries have been identified as impaired for nutrients, sediment, and pathogens. Accordingly, Board staff have prioritized efforts to update the WDRs of the existing wastewater treatment facilities in the Watershed.

The two main issues raised in the comments received in response to this proposed update have been: 1) surface water monitoring: commenters made requests for and against the proposed required monitoring of Millerton Gulch Creek, and for an alternative monitoring approach, which would be conducted by an independent entity (i.e., not self-monitoring by the Discharger); and, 2) requests for improved notification procedures, should an accidental wastewater spill occur, as well as for public outreach materials (e.g., annual reports) and broader accountability to regulatory agencies and the public. We feel the requirement to monitor Millerton Gulch Creek is appropriate, given that

Tomales Bay is listed as impaired, but do not feel that there is any basis to change our long-standing “self-monitoring” approach to the monitoring of wastewater discharges. We also support improved notification procedures and have revised the tentative order accordingly. While we have made some additional revisions, the community has had long-term concerns about the Facility, and we anticipate possible testimony at the Board meeting. See Appendix C for staff’s Response to Comments.

RECOMMEN-
DATION:

Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

FILE No.

2159.5079 (JRW)

APPENDICES:

A: Revised Tentative Order

B: Site Location Map

C. Response to Comments and Comments Received