

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 7, 2007
Prepared on November 14, 2007

ITEM NUMBER: 18

SUBJECT: Enforcement Report

DISCUSSION

Violations Listing

Staff uses the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) to track Water Board data, including violations and enforcement actions. The following pages contain a list of violations generated from CIWQS that occurred between July 1, 2007, and August 31, 2007.

CIWQS is still a work in progress, and the attached report has some deficiencies. However, we are providing the report to demonstrate the current and future capabilities of CIWQS. This listing has improved and should continue to improve in future editions.

Summary of Enforcement Activities

The following information summarizes significant enforcement action taken by the Water Board during the period between September 1, 2007 and October 31, 2007.

Staff Enforcement Letters

- Sycamore Mineral Springs

Notices of Violation

- King City Closed Landfill
- Brookdale Lodge
- Ventana Inn and Spa
- Diago Chateau and Estate Wines

13267 Letters

- Tres Pinos CSD

Cleanup and Abatement Orders

- Ventana Inn and Spa

Update on Sewer System Management in Cities of Pacific Grove and Salinas

At its October 2007 meeting, Water Board members had questions regarding management of sewer systems in the cities of Pacific Grove and Salinas. This report intends to address those questions.

The cities of Pacific Grove and Salinas both own and maintain sewer collection systems tributary to the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) wastewater treatment and reclamation facility in Marina. These entities, along with several other Monterey area cities and sanitation districts, are enrolled under *Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2002-0078, for Local Sewage Collection Agencies Tributary to Monterey Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant* (Order). This Order is nearly identical to the recently adopted *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ for Sanitary Sewer Systems* (Statewide General Permit).

Both Pacific Grove and Salinas have sewer system management plans (SSMP) in place pursuant to the Order, and are several years ahead of the SSMP schedule per the Statewide General Permit. Both entities actively manage their respective collection systems with designated staff and resources. They respond to sewer system overflows (SSO) and track them, have regularly scheduled inspection and maintenance programs that are adjusted accordingly based on SSOs, and have programs in place to inspect grease traps and address problem private sewer laterals. Pacific Grove has a grant and loan program to encourage homeowners to voluntarily inspect and repair or replace problem sewer laterals. Pacific Grove also mandates private lateral video inspection and repair or replacement, as determined by Pacific Grove personnel review of the inspection, upon sale, major remodeling, or the occurrence of a reported spill. The Pacific Grove private lateral program is a supplemental environmental project implemented as part of a lawsuit settlement with the Ecological Rights Foundation.

The City of Salinas also has a private lateral program. Salinas has a special ordinance specifying minimum construction standards, as verified by City staff inspection, and inspection and repair after a reported spill. If private property owners do not promptly address SSOs and repair the lateral with a private contractor, the City will conduct the necessary cleaning and repair of the private lateral and charge the property owner. Salinas also has a loan program in place to help low-income families replace or repair private laterals.

Managing a sewer collection system to reduce and prevent SSOs is a formidable task. This is especially the case for large systems like the City of Salinas, whose collection system consists of approximately 270 miles of sewer lines, eleven pump stations, and an unknown but significant (tens of thousands) number of private laterals. A smaller aging system such as the one in Pacific Grove has its own set of special problems that are compounded by a limited tax and fee base to fund the SSMP. Private lateral SSOs and blockages downstream of problem private laterals generally constitute a majority of the SSOs. These entities are using SSO tracking to identify and address problem private laterals, in addition to areas of their respective systems that need repairs or upgrades. The overall intent of the SSMPs is to reduce if not eliminate all SSOs and eventually upgrade all publicly-owned sewer lines and private laterals to existing standards. Regularly submitted SSMP annual reports for Pacific Grove and Salinas generally show decreasing trends in SSOs as a result of system inspection and repairs.

Based on the violation list in this Enforcement Report, Pacific Grove and Salinas apparently stand out among the other MRWPCA tributary entities as having more problematic collection systems or poorly managing their systems. This is not actually the case. The large list of violations for Pacific Grove and Salinas is caused in part by differences in SSO reporting criteria being implemented by the various entities, inconsistencies in individual Water Board staff tracking and designation of what constitutes an SSO violation, and the conflicting Water Board and State Board tracking mechanisms currently in place. Water Board staff recently decided to track and report all SSOs in CIWQS as violations, regardless of volume and whether the SSO affects surface water or occurred as a result of the private lateral spill.

Early next year, Water Board staff intends to rescind Order No. R3-2002-0078 for Pacific Grove and Salinas, so they may become enrolled under the Statewide General Permit. Pacific Grove and Salinas will then be required to report SSOs directly into the CIWQS database. These changes will eliminate reporting inconsistencies and will reveal the true compliance status of Pacific Grove and Salinas, relative to all other sewerage entities in the Central Coast Region.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for Board information. The Board may provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENT

1. Violation List

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