



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
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Protection

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18 November 2003

Mr. Jim Abercrombie
Amador Water Agency
12800 Ridge Road
Sutter Creek, CA 95685

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICABILITY OF GENERAL ORDER FOR WASTE DISCHARGE TO LAND BY SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, ORDER NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5039, AMADOR WATER AGENCY, EAGLE'S NEST COMMUNITY LEACHFIELD SYSTEM, AMADOR COUNTY

On 28 January 2000, the Amador Water Agency (hereafter referred to as "Discharger") was issued an individual waiver of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) under Waiver Resolution Order No. 5-00-003 for the Eagle's Nest Community Leachfield System (CLS). Because Senate Bill 390 amended Section 13269 of the California Water Code to cause all waivers to expire on 1 January 2003, staff required the Discharger to submit a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for coverage under a new waiver or WDRs.

On 1 May 2003, the Discharger submitted a RWD for the Eagle's Nest CLS. Based upon review of the RWD, it has been determined that the Eagle's Nest CLS meets the conditions for coverage under Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ, *General WDRs for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order), a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

FACILITY LOCATION

The Eagle's Nest CLS is within the Eagle's Nest development, off of Lambert Road approximately three miles northwest of the City of Ione, in Amador County.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The Eagle's Nest CLS serves a small development that consists of 14 lots averaging approximately 42 acres each. The CLS was designed to treat and dispose of approximately 2,800 gallons per day (gpd) of domestic wastewater, which is based on a flow of 200 gpd per unit. Currently, there are eight active connections to the CLS, which results in dry weather flows of approximately 1,300 gpd. The development is at 50% of full buildout.

The Eagle's Nest CLS consists of a 1,000 gallon septic tank at each residential unit, a collection system which relies on pumping via septic tank pumps and gravity to convey the wastewater, and a leachfield. The CLS has an influent flow meter to monitor the volume of wastewater being discharged into the

leachfield. There are approximately 1,200 lineal feet of leachlines within the leachfield area, which is divided into two different fields. Ball valves have been installed within the main leachfield distribution line to allow alternating between the two disposal fields for even distribution of wastewater. The lateral lines within each disposal area are equipped with observation port risers to monitor the water levels within the disposal trenches. Lateral distribution lines are generally rotated when wastewater in the observation port(s) is within 20 to 24 inches from the ground surface.

There are no surface water features or water supply wells in the vicinity of disposal fields. The Discharger has constructed and installed a stormwater diversion ditch to divert stormwater flows away from the leachfield. The Discharger inspects the CLS at least once per week.

There are several aviation maintenance-related businesses within the Eagle's Nest development. Typical activities include refurbishing and repairing aircraft, fueling of aircraft, and aircraft washing. Wastewater produced as part of maintenance activities does not flow into the Eagle's Nest CLS. Each business has a wash pad and maintenance pad on which all activities related to the aircraft take place. The pads are concrete lined, contain a drain(s), and are graded to prevent runoff of wash water and stormwater. Drains within the pad are connected to an underground tank, which is periodically pumped out. Wastewater is hauled off site for disposal. There are no connections from any of the pads or other outdoor sources to the CLS.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Attachment A of General Order No. 97-10-DWQ is the standard Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for Small Domestic Waste Systems. However, a Facility Specific MRP is more applicable to this facility. A draft of the Facility Specific MRP was transmitted to the Discharger on 8 October 2003 and staff has addressed the comments presented during a meeting on 30 October 2003. The final Facility Specific MRP No. 97-10-DWQ-R5039 is enclosed, and the Discharger is required to meet the monitoring and reporting requirements of this document instead of Attachment A of the General Order.

REQUIRED TECHNICAL REPORTS

Pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code, the Discharger shall submit the following technical report prepared by a registered professional with experience in water quality:

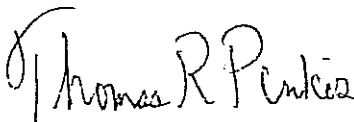
1. By 1 February 2004, the Discharger shall submit and implement an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the Eagle's Nest CLS. The O&M Plan shall instruct field personnel on how to manage the day-to-day discharge operations to comply with the terms and conditions of this Order and how to make field adjustments, as necessary, to optimize the effectiveness and life of the leachfields and preclude nuisance conditions (e.g., surfacing wastewater). It shall also include a troubleshooting flowchart with recommended remedial actions and a description of notification requirements. The O&M Plan shall address management of the CLS in sufficient detail to optimize compliance with this Order.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The monthly average flow to the CLS shall not exceed 2,800 gallons per day.
2. Discharge of material other than domestic wastewater, or the discharge of any other contaminants, to the CLS is prohibited.
3. Wastes generated during aircraft maintenance activities must be collected in tanks and hauled off-site for disposal at an appropriately regulated facility.
4. The Discharger shall comply with all aspects of General Order No. 97-10-DWQ, the Facility Specific MRP No. 97-10-DWQ-R5039, and the Standard Provisions for General Order No. 97-10-DWQ.
5. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

Based on the above conditions, the Amador Water Agency's Eagle's Nest Community Leachfield is hereby granted coverage under General Order No. 97-10-DWQ.

If you have any questions regarding this permit, please call Scott Kranhold at (916) 255-3389.



THOMAS R. PINKOS
Executive Officer

Enclosures: General Order No. 97-10-DWQ
Facility Specific Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ-R5039
Standard Provisions for General Order No. 97-10-DWQ

cc w/ enc: Michael Israel, Amador County Environmental Health Department, Jackson
Gene Mancebo, Amador Water Agency, Sutter Creek
Chris McKeage, Amador Water Agency, Sutter Creek

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

FACILITY SPECIFIC
MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5039

FOR
AMADOR WATER AGENCY
EAGLE'S NEST COMMUNITY LEACHFIELD SYSTEM
AMADOR COUNTY

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for monitoring septic tanks, effluent, and leachfields. This MRP is issued pursuant to Water Code Section 13267. The Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Executive Officer. Regional Board staff shall approve specific sample station locations prior to implementation of sampling activities.

All samples should be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The time, date, and location of each grab sample shall be recorded on the sample chain of custody form.

SEPTIC TANK MONITORING

The Discharger shall monitor the septic tanks and report this information in the annual reports. Septic tanks shall be inspected annually as described below.

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Minimum Units</u>	<u>Type of Measurement</u>	<u>Minimum Inspection</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Current and projected ^{1,2} sludge depth and scum thickness in the first compartment of each septic tank	Feet	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually
Current and projected ^{1,2} distance between bottom of scum layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually
Current and projected ^{1,2} distance between top of sludge layer and bottom of outlet device	Inches	Staff Gauge	Annually	Annually

¹ Depth and distance projected to occur one year from the date of measurement based on historical patterns and professional judgement.

² Visual inspection for signs of damages, leakage, or deterioration

The Discharger shall retain records of each inspection, by street address, noting the date, measured readings and calculations. The Discharger will also record when cleaning is required, the date of notice to the homeowner, the condition of the tank, and the date that cleaning or repair occurred and by

whom. Copies of the Liquid Waste Hauler manifests shall be retained for review as with any other record concerning documentation of compliance with the Order.

SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT MONITORING

The Discharger shall monitor the wastewater entering the leachfield system. Effluent monitoring shall include, at a minimum, the following:

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Total flow to leachfield	gpd	Meter	Monthly	Bi-Monthly ³
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	Grab	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual ¹
Nitrates as Nitrogen	mg/l	Grab	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual ¹
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/l	Grab	Semi-Annual	Semi-Annual ¹
Standard Minerals ²	mg/l	Grab	Annually	Annually

¹ Results shall be submitted with the July and December bi-monthly monitoring reports

² Standard Minerals shall include, at a minimum, the following elements and compounds: Boron, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Manganese, Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, Sulfate, Total Alkalinity (including alkalinity series), and Hardness.

³ Every other month.

LEACHFIELD DISPOSAL AREA MONITORING

The Discharger shall conduct a visual inspection of the leachfields on a monthly basis. Results shall be recorded and submitted with the bi-monthly monitoring report. Photocopies of entries into an operator's log are acceptable. Evidence of surfacing wastewater, erosion, field saturation, runoff, or the presence of nuisance conditions shall be noted in the report. If surfacing water is found, then a sample shall be collected and tested for total coliform organisms and total dissolved solids. In addition to the visual inspections, monitoring of the leachfields shall include the following:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Application Rate ¹	gal/acre·day	Calculated	Monthly	Bi-Monthly ³
Leachfield Riser Inspection ²	Inches	Measurement	Each inspection	Bi-monthly ³

¹ The application rate for each leachfield

² Amador Water Agency shall measure and record the distance from the surface of the liquid in the observation port to the surface of the ground in the active lateral(s). In addition, AWA shall record when lateral distribution lines are switched.

³ Every other month.

REPORTING

In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, sample type (e.g., effluent, leachfield, etc.), and reported analytical result for each sample are readily

discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to clearly illustrate compliance with waste discharge requirements and spatial or temporal trends, as applicable. The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the locations specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be reported in the next scheduled monitoring report.

A. Bi-Monthly Monitoring Reports

Bi- Monthly reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board for the months of January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October, and November-December on the **1st day of the second month following the reporting period** (i.e. the January-February Report is due by 1 April). At a minimum, the reports shall include:

1. Results of septic tank effluent and leachfield monitoring;
2. A comparison of monitoring data to the discharge specifications and an explanation of any violation of those requirements. Data shall be presented in tabular format;
3. If requested by staff, copies of laboratory analytical report(s); and

B. Annual Report

An Annual Report shall be prepared as the November-December bi-monthly monitoring report. The Annual Report will include all monitoring data required in the bi-monthly schedule. The Annual Report shall be submitted to the Regional Board by **1 February** each year. In addition to the data normally presented, the Annual Report shall include the following:

1. If requested by staff, tabular and graphical summaries of all data collected during the year;
2. Results of the effluent annual monitoring;
3. A description of any activity to control vegetation in the leachfield area;
4. The results of the inspection, and if necessary, the maintenance activities performed on the stormwater diversion ditch;
5. An annual summary of the septic tank inspections for the year, including the number of tanks on which notifications for cleaning were issued, the volumes of waste removed from the septic tanks, and the entity which pumped the tanks.;
6. A statement of when the O&M Manual was last reviewed for adequacy, and a description of any changes made during the year;
7. A summary of any maintenance and repairs activities which were performed on the effluent collection system;
8. A statement regarding whether flow meter was calibrated during the year; and

9. A discussion of any compliance and the corrective actions taken, as well as any planned or proposed actions needed to bring the discharge into full compliance with the waste discharge requirements.

A letter transmitting the self-monitoring reports shall accompany each report. Such a letter shall include a discussion of requirement violations found during the reporting period, and actions taken or planned for correcting noted violations, such as operation or facility modifications. If the Discharger has previously submitted a report describing corrective actions and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. The transmittal letter shall contain the penalty of perjury statement by the Discharger, or the Discharger's authorized agent, as described in the Standard Provisions General Reporting Requirements Section B.3.

The Discharger shall implement the above monitoring program as of the date of this Order.

Ordered by:



THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer

18 November 2003

(Date)