

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
December 16, 2009

- ITEM: 8
- SUBJECT: Waste Discharge Requirements: California Department of Transportation, District 11, Buckman Springs Safety Road Side Rest Area, San Diego County (Tentative Order No R9-2009-0105) (*Fisayo Osibodu*)
- PURPOSE: To consider adopting tentative Order No. R9-2009-0105, prescribing waste discharge requirements for the disposal of treated domestic wastewater and recreational vehicle holding tank waste at the Buckman Springs Safety Road Side Rest Area.
- PUBLIC NOTICE: Notification of this action was posted on the Regional Board web page on July 15, 2009. This action satisfies the public notification requirements of California Water Code, Division 7 section 13167.5 for a 30 day notice.
- DISCUSSION: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has been operating the Buckman Springs Safety Road Side Rest Area (Rest Area) since 1979. The Rest Area includes restrooms and a recreational vehicle (RV) dumpstation. Until recently, it was assumed that the dumpstation was an impervious tank with the wastewater hauled for disposal in the metropolitan sewage collection system. Based upon that assumption, the issuance of a waiver of waste discharge requirements for the Rest Area was considered appropriate.
- In 2008, Caltrans informed the Regional Board that the dumpstation at the Rest Area was connected to the onsite septic tank/leach field system that served the restrooms. As a result, the discharge fails to comply with the waiver conditions, resulting in the need for waste discharge requirements. Proper operation of the Rest Area's treatment and disposal system is necessary to protect public health and prevent pollution or contamination of groundwater. Consequently, this Order will require Caltrans to initiate a program to verify that chemicals are not being discharged with the RV waste at concentrations posing a threat to groundwater quality.

Comments on the tentative Order have been submitted by Caltrans, and a written response to those comments with an Errata sheet have been included as part of the agenda package.

KEY ISSUES: No groundwater monitoring has been conducted in the vicinity of the discharge in the past 20 years. As a result, the tentative Order requires Caltrans to conduct groundwater and effluent monitoring, and submit results of a water quality investigation that demonstrates whether the discharge will or will not threaten groundwater quality.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: Not applicable

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Location Map
2. Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0105
3. Comment letter from Caltrans dated September 23, 2009
4. Regional Board Response to Comments
5. Errata Sheet

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0105.

Supporting Document No. 1

Location Map

Supporting Document No. 2

Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0105

Supporting Document No. 3

Comment letter from Caltrans

Supporting Document No. 4

Regional Board Response to Comments

Supporting Document No. 5

Errata Sheet