

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
March 11, 2009

- ITEM: 9
- SUBJECT: Update of Waste Discharge Requirements: Ramona Municipal Water District San Vicente Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Diego County, Issuance of Master Reclamation Permit (Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005) (*Cathryn Henning*)
- PURPOSE: To adopt tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005, which will update the requirements for the treatment and reuse of up to 0.8 million gallons per day of recycled water by the Ramona Municipal Water District (District).
- PUBLIC NOTICE: The public was notified of this agenda item by posting the tentative Order on the Regional Board web page on February 9, 2009, and an announcement was mailed to the District and other interested persons (Supporting Document No. 1). These public notification actions satisfy the requirements of California Water Code section 13167.5.
- DISCUSSION: Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005 (Supporting Document No. 2) updates the master reclamation requirements for discharges from the District's San Vicente Wastewater Treatment Plant. This facility is located at 22758 San Vicente Road, Ramona and consists of bar screens, an aerated grit chamber, oxidation ditches, clarifiers, dual media pressure filters, a reverse osmosis system, disinfectant chlorine contact basins, and sludge drying beds. The facility has been regulated with waste discharge requirements since December 1971 and is currently subject to Order No. R9-1993-0003 (Supporting Document No. 3).
- The District currently distributes recycled water to the San Vicente Golf Course and Spangler Peak Ranch, a nearby citrus and avocado ranch. Order No. R9-2009-0005 would allow the District to expand its distribution of recycled water to any other site within the watershed that complies with the District's rules and regulations for recycled water use.
- Order No. R9-2009-0005 prescribes the same discharge specification for the concentration of total dissolved solids in the effluent as is specified in the current Order. In the past, the

District had frequently violated this discharge specification, but recently, a new reverse osmosis system was installed at the San Vicente Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is expected to result in full compliance with the Order.

The final item of note is that the monitoring and reporting program includes a requirement for the District to conduct influent and effluent monitoring, comply with sewage solids and biosolids requirements, report data on potable supply water, and conduct a special study of the Gower Hydrologic Subarea (Gower HSA). The purpose of the special study is to assess the condition of the Gower HSA, identify salt and nutrient loading, determine what reductions to the loading rate, if any, are necessary, and propose mitigation measures to manage the salt and nutrients.

KEY ISSUES: Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005 would supersede existing Order No. R9-1993-0003 and Order No. R9-1986-0074 and prescribe a master reclamation permit for the production and use of recycled water.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

- SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**
1. Public Notification for Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005
 2. Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005
 3. Order No. R9-1993-0003

- SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:**
1. Tentative Order No. R9-2000-0005 clarifies the discharge specifications for secondary and tertiary treated wastewater, establishes a limit on total nitrogen, and recalculate discharge specifications based on data submitted in monitoring reports. The tentative Order requires monitoring of all parameters for which there are discharge specifications and decreases the monitoring frequency for Title 22 inorganic chemicals.
 2. The monitoring of groundwater required by Order No. R9-1993-0003 was expanded into a special study to reflect future requirements of the State Recycled Water Policy. The purpose of the monitoring is to assess the condition of the Gower HSA, identify salt and nutrient loading, determine what reductions to the loading rate, if any, are necessary, and propose mitigation measures to manage the salt and nutrients.

3. The order was rewritten as a new order for clarity and to update language of certain Findings and Standard Provisions.

COMPLIANCE
RECORD

Five notices of violations and numerous staff enforcement letter were issued for approximately 200 violations. These violations were primarily regarding exceedances of the discharge specifications for total dissolved solids. In May 2003, a 13267 order was issued directing the Ramona Municipal Water District to comply with Order No. R9-1993-0003. The District proposed a salt reduction plan that was found to be inadequate to address the salt loading to the Gower HSA, subsequently the District has installed and begun operating a reverse osmosis system to comply with the discharge specification for total dissolved solids prescribed in the tentative Order.

RECOMMENDATION:

Regional Board staff recommends adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 1

Public Notification for Consideration of
Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 2

Tentative Order No. R9-2009-0005

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 3

Order No. R9-1993-0003