

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT

JUNE 9, 2021

ITEM NO. 6

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038, *An Order Rescinding Order No. 94-114, Waste Discharge Requirements for State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, San Diego County* (Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038). (Sherrie Komeylyan)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038.

KEY ISSUES

Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038 (**Supporting Document 1**), if adopted, rescinds Order No. 94-114, *Waste Discharge Requirements for State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, San Diego County* (Order No. 94-114). The onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) at the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (Facility), owned and operated by State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (Discharger), will be regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order).¹

PRACTICAL VISION

Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038 is consistent with the Strategizing for Healthy Waters chapter of the *San Diego Water Board Practical Vision*.² The use of statewide permits, like the General Order, help the San Diego Water Board focus staff resources on larger projects and facilities within the region that pose a greater threat to water quality. Additionally, enrolling dischargers in the General Order maintains consistent regulation of small domestic wastewater systems throughout the state.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this item is to provide the San Diego Water Board with information to assist in its consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038. If adopted, Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038 will rescind Order No. 94-114 and the Facility's enrollment in the General Order will be activated.

¹ General Order:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2014/wqo2014_0153_dwq.pdf

² Practical Vision: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/

The Facility is located at 13652 South Highway 79, Descanso, California (**Supporting Document 2**). San Diego Water Board staff conducted an inspection of the Facility on July 26, 2017, and did not observe any violations of the requirements specified in Order No. 94-114.

San Diego Water Board staff reviewed the requirements specified in Order No. 94-114 and determined the Facility OWTS is eligible for enrollment in the General Order. Furthermore, Order No. 94-114 is outdated and is not as protective of water quality as the requirements specified in the General Order. Implementation of the General Order provides a more appropriate, consistent, and streamlined statewide approach to regulating small domestic wastewater treatment systems. Discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems have certain common characteristics, such as similar constituents, concentrations of constituents, disposal techniques, and flow ranges, and require the same or similar treatment standards. While the Discharger may request to be regulated under individual waste discharge requirements, the Facility's enrollment in the General Order allows the San Diego Water Board to effectively and efficiently regulate discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems, while prioritizing the agency's limited resources.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The significant differences between the General Order and Order No. 94-114 are:

1. Order No. 94-114 includes specific individual waste discharge requirements for the Facility, whereas the General Order regulates small domestic wastewater facilities statewide.
2. The monitoring required by the General Order is less stringent than the monitoring required by Order No. 94-114. The monitoring and reporting program required by the General Order, however, is more appropriate because it is consistent with the monitoring and reporting requirements for facilities of similar size and discharge across the state.

COMPLIANCE RECORD

The San Diego Water Board issued three staff enforcement letters for the following 10 violations of Order No. 94-114:

- Failure to submit an annual monitoring report in 1993, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001.
- Failure to submit a complete annual monitoring report in 2002.

Since January 2003, no violations of Order No. 94-114 have occurred.

PUBLIC NOTICE

San Diego Water Board staff sent notification of this action to the Discharger and known interested parties on March 10, 2021 (**Supporting Documents 3 and 4**). Additionally, San Diego Water Board staff posted Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038 on the San Diego Water Board website on March 10, 2021. The San Diego Water Board received no comments during the public comment period. These actions satisfy the 30-day public notification and comment period requirements of Water Code section 13167.5.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038
2. Vicinity and Facility Map
3. Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0038 Transmittal Letter
4. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period