



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region



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March 30, 2009

Mr. Tom Rosales
General Manager
South Orange County Wastewater Authority
34156 Del Obispo Street
Dana Point, California 92629

In reply refer to:
CIWQS ID: 356204

Dear Mr. Rosales:

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION NO. R9-2009-0049,
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY (MULITPLE
FACILITIES)**

You are hereby notified of the following violations of Order No. 97-52. The violations were identified upon review of the March 2008-January 2009 monthly monitoring reports; the April-June 2008, July-September 2008, and October-December 2008 quarterly monitoring reports; and the July-December 2008 semi annual monitoring report.

1. Failure to comply with Discharge Specification A.1 of Order No. 97-52.

BASIS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION:

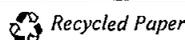
South Coast Water District, Coastal Treatment Plant

- a. Whereas Discharge Specification A.1 states that the daily maximum concentration for manganese shall not exceed 0.06 milligrams per liter (mg/L), the effluent manganese concentrations were reported as 0.08 and 0.07 mg/L on August 4, 2008 and January 7, 2009 respectively.
- b. Whereas Discharge Specification A.1 states that the 12-month average concentration for manganese shall not exceed 0.05 mg/ L, the 12-month average concentration for manganese was reported as 0.06 mg/L for January-December 2008.

Moulton Niguel Water District, Regional Plant

- c. Whereas Discharge Specifications A.1 states that the daily maximum concentration for manganese shall not exceed 0.06 mg/L, the effluent manganese concentrations were reported as 0.08 mg/L on March 5, 2008; 0.07 mg/L on May 5, July 14, August 5, September 1, and December 1, 2008; and 0.09 mg/L on January 7, 2009.

California Environmental Protection Agency



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- d. Whereas Discharge Specification A.1 states that the 12-month average concentration for manganese shall not exceed 0.05 mg/ L, the 12-month average concentration for manganese was reported as 0.07 mg/L for January-December 2008.

Trabuco Canyon Water District, Robinson Ranch Water Reclamation Plant

- e. Whereas Discharge Specification A.1 states that the daily effluent Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentration shall not exceed 1,100 mg/ L, the effluent TDS concentrations were reported as 1,125 and 1,160 mg/L on July 19, and September 4, 2008 respectively.
- f. Whereas Discharge Specifications A.1 states that the daily effluent manganese concentration shall not exceed 0.06 mg/L, the effluent manganese concentration was reported as 0.376 mg/L on September 4, 2008.

Santa Margarita Water District, Nichols Institute

- g. Whereas Discharge Specifications A.1 states that the daily effluent iron concentration shall not exceed 0.4 mg/L, the effluent iron concentration was reported as 0.8 mg/L on April 22, 2008.
- h. Whereas Discharge Specification A.1 states that the daily effluent TDS concentration shall not exceed 1,100 mg/ L, the effluent TDS concentration was reported as 1,110 mg/L on April 22, 2008.

2. Failure to comply with Discharge Specification A.5 of Order No. 97-52.

BASIS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION:

South Coast Water District, Coastal Treatment Plant

- a. Whereas Discharge Specification A.5 states that the daily average effluent turbidity shall not exceed 2 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), the effluent turbidity values were reported as 2.35, 2.37, 2.16, 2.20, 2.40 and 2.10 NTU on April 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 21, 2008 respectively.

Trabuco Canyon Water District, Robinson Ranch Water Reclamation Plant

- b. Whereas Discharge Specification A.5 states that the daily average effluent turbidity shall not exceed 2 NTU, the effluent turbidity values were reported as 2.55, 2.20, 2.11, 2.20, 2.10, 2.3, and 2.33 NTU on March 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and May 11, and 12, 2008 respectively.

Santa Margarita Water District, Oso Creek Water Reclamation Plant

- c. Whereas Discharge Specification A.5 states that the daily average effluent turbidity shall not exceed 2 NTU, the effluent turbidity values were reported as 2.1 NTU on April 10, 12, July 23, 24, September 1, 2, 13 30, December 17, 20, and 27, 2008; 2.2 NTU on April 11, July 29, August 29, and September 6, 2008; and 2.3 NTU on December 18 and 20, 2008.

Santa Margarita Water District, Chiquita Water Reclamation Plant

- d. Whereas Discharge Specification A.5 states that the daily average effluent turbidity shall not exceed 2 NTU, the effluent turbidity was reported as 2.1 NTU on May 2, 2008.

3. Failure to comply with Discharge Specification A.7 of Order No. 97-52.

BASIS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION:

Santa Margarita Water District, Oso Creek Water Reclamation Plant

Whereas Discharge Specification A.4 states that the effluent total coliform concentration shall not exceed 240 Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (mL), the effluent total coliform concentration was reported as 1,600 MPN per 100 mL on August 19, 2008.

4. Failure to comply with Facility Design and Operation Specifications C.6 of Order No. 97-52, which specifies that the discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-52:

BASIS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION:

Moulton Niguel Water District, Regional Plant

- a. Whereas *Section B.1* of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-52 states that the effluent Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS) concentrations shall be measured once a week, the effluent BOD, TSS, and VSS concentrations were not reported between July 1 and July 8, 2008.

Santa Margarita Water District, Oso Creek Water Reclamation Plant

- b. Whereas *Section B.1* of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-52 states that the effluent VSS concentration shall be measured once a week, the effluent VSS concentration was not reported during the period of May 20-31, 2008.

- c. Whereas *Section B.1* of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-52 states that the effluent flow rate shall be monitored on a continuous basis, the daily effluent flow rates were not recorded on May 27, 28, and 29, 2008.

Santa Margarita Water District, Nichols Institute

- d. Whereas *Section B.1* of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-52 states that the effluent VSS concentration shall be measured once a week, the effluent VSS concentration was not reported during the period of July 15-27, 2008.

5. Failure to comply with Discharge Specification A.7 of Order No. 97-52.

BASIS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION:

Santa Margarita Water District, Oso Creek Water Reclamation Plant

Whereas Discharge Specification A.6 states that the effluent CT value (chlorine concentration times contact time) shall not be less than 450 mg-min/L, the effluent CT value was reported as 415 mg-min/L on May 27, 2008.

Please take adequate measures to prevent further violations of Order No. 97-52. Pursuant to the California Water Code, any violation of waste discharge requirements is subject to potential enforcement action(s) by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) including a time schedule order, cease and desist order, cleanup and abatement order, imposition of an administrative civil liability, referral to the district attorney for criminal prosecution, or referral to the attorney general. Administrative civil liability amounts that may be imposed by the Regional Board under authority of Water Code section 13350(c) include the sum of \$5,000 per day, and up to \$10 per gallon for each gallon of waste discharged.

The heading portion of this letter includes a Regional Board code number noted after "In reply refer to". In order to assist us in the processing of your correspondence please include this code number in the heading or subject line portion of all correspondence and reports to the Regional Board pertaining to this matter.

Mr. Tom Rosales
Order No. 97-52

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March 30, 2009

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Mr. Fisayo Osibodu at (858) 637-5594 or via e-mail at Oosibodu@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julie Chan, P.G.
Supervising Engineering Geologist
Ground Water Basins Branch

JC: rwm: oo

Violations: (1) 795238, 795239, 795241, 795242, 795243, 795244, 795245, 795246 (2) 795503, 795505, 795506, 795535 (3) 795513 (4) 795516, 795517, 795523, 795526 (5) 795529
Enforcement: (SEL) 356204