

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 7, 2016

Sent Via Email Only

Mr. Don Bunts
Santa Margarita Water District
26111 Antonio Parkway
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
donb@smwd.com

In reply refer to / attn:
631542:DQuach

**SUBJECT: Notification of Category 1 Sanitary Sewer Overflow Violation(s),
Santa Margarita Water District Collection System, WDID NO. 9SSO10697**

Mr. Bunts:

The California Regional Water Quality Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) has completed a review of the Category 1 Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) events¹ certified in the California Integrated Water Quality System² (CIWQS) SSO database from August 1, 2014 through August 31, 2016, and has determined the following event(s) to be violation(s) of the discharge prohibitions contained in *State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems*:

CIWQS EVENT ID	CIWQS VIOLATION ID	SSO LOCATION	SSO DATE	VOLUME (GAL) DISCHARGED TO SURFACE WATER	CAUSE
810837	980773	La Paz Apartments	11/21/2014	400.0	Debris from Lateral
810783	980385	Rancho Mission Viejo, CA. tract # 17453 PA-2	11/15/2014	200.0	Debris from Construction
Total (Gal) Spilled				600.0	

¹ Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ defines Category 1 SSOs as “Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater of **any volume** resulting from an enrollee’s sanitary sewer system failure or flow condition that: 1) Reach surface water and/or reach a drainage channel tributary to a surface water; or, 2) Reach a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and are not fully captured and disposed of properly. Any volume of wastewater not recovered from the MS4 is considered to have reached surface water unless the storm drain system discharges to a dedicated storm water or groundwater infiltration basin (e.g., infiltration pit, percolation pond).”

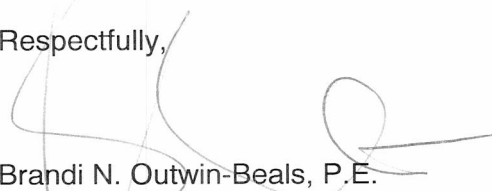
² CIWQS reports are publicly available at
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/publicreports.shtml

Sewage spills to waters of the State can create a major public health threat to recreational water users at the point of the spill and downstream. Elevated levels of fecal bacteria are one of the greatest causes of local water body impairments. In response, the San Diego Water Board has adopted 22 Total Maximum Daily Loads for beaches and creeks. The prohibition on sewage discharges is fundamental to achieving water quality objectives for the TMDL water bodies and all other beach, creek, and wetland waters in our region. Thus, the San Diego Water Board is concerned by all sewage discharges and expects all discharges of sewage to be taken seriously by responsible sewage wastewater collection agencies.

Please take steps necessary to ensure that violations of this type do not occur in the future. These violations are subject to possible further enforcement action by the San Diego Water Board, including administrative enforcement orders, administrative assessment of civil liability in amounts up to \$10,000 per day, referral to the State Attorney General for injunctive relief, and referral to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the San Diego Water Board's SSO program, please contact Mr. Dat Quach at (619) 521-5899 or at Dat.Quach@waterboards.ca.gov. In the subject line of any response, please include 631542:DQuach.

Respectfully,



Brandi N. Outwin-Beals, P.E.
Senior Water Resources Control Engineer
Source Control Unit

Tech Staff Info & Use	
Order No.	2006-0003-DWQ
Party (GT/CIWQS) ID	39979
WDID	9SSO10697
Reg. Measure ID	300511 (2006-0003-DWQ), 409492 (SEL)
Place ID	631542
Violation ID	980773, 980385