

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 86-51

REVISING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

BLUE MOUNTAIN CENTER OF MEDITATION  
TOMALES  
MARIN COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (the Board), finds that:

1. Blue Mountain Center of Meditation (BMCM), a non-profit corporation hereinafter referred to as the discharger, submitted a Report of Waste Discharge dated April 30, 1986.
2. BMCM has a full-time population of about 50, in addition to day use activities. The wastewater system serves single and multi-unit dwellings, school, chapel, dining hall, and other buildings. The Center is located at 3600 Tomales-Petaluma Road, about two miles east of the unincorporated town of Tomales, in Marin County. The Center is about 1,500 feet from Keyes Creek, a tributary to Walker Creek which flows into Tomales Bay.
3. The wastewater system is designed for 60 residents and has a design flow of 4,000 gallons per day (gpd). It consists of sewers, septic tanks (2) and holding tank, sump pump and force main, and two evaporation ponds. Wastewater is pumped from the sump a distance of several hundred feet to the ponds, which are in series. The ponds have a combined surface area of about 0.5 acre. There is a standby leachfield downgrade from the sump; this provides emergency disposal during power outages.
4. In 1985, influent wastewater flow averaged 3,360 gpd, or about 84% of the system's rated capacity. Flow rates were somewhat lower for the first quarter of 1986.
5. The Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin on July 21, 1982. The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of wastewater with particular constituents of concern to beneficial uses into non-tidal waters, such as Keyes Creek and Walker Creek. The Basin Plan also requires that existing groundwater quality be maintained unless otherwise provided by the State Board.
6. The beneficial uses of Walker Creek are:
  - o Freshwater habitat

- o Wildlife habitat
  - o Preservation of rare and endangered species
  - o Fish spawning
7. The discharger is currently subject to waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. 84-41, adopted by the Board on July 18, 1984.
  8. BMCM corrected a serious infiltration/inflow problem in mid-1984; I/I had caused the evaporation ponds to overflow during the prior winter. However, the ponds continued to overflow during wet-weather periods in 1984/85 and 1985/86. The ponds reached capacity in January 1986, even prior to the heavy rains in February. Additional disposal capacity must be provided if future overflows are to be avoided.
  9. BMCM proposes land disposal of a portion of the Center's wastewater as a solution to the above problem. In its Report of Waste Discharge, BMCM proposed applying up to 12,500 gpd to a 5-acre site on weekends during the months of July through September each year (see attached site map). The application rate is calculated to avoid pond overflows in wet seasons with a ten-year recurrence frequency; up to 300,000 gallons would be applied each summer. The 5-acre site is used to grow hay, which is cut and removed in May or June. Perforated pipe would be used for wastewater distribution, with flow controlled by a siphon in the second evaporation pond.
  10. Adoption of revised waste discharge requirements is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 2100 et. seq.) pursuant to Section 13389 of the California Water Code.
  11. The discharger and interested persons have been notified of the Board's intent to revise requirements for the existing discharge and have been provided with the opportunity to submit their written comments.
  12. The Board, at properly-noticed public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to the provisions of Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, that the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Prohibitions

1. Overflow from the evaporation ponds is prohibited. There shall be no bypass or overflow of waste to waters of the State from the wastewater collection, treatment, or disposal facilities.
2. Discharge of wastewater to any areas other than the

evaporation ponds and the designated land disposal area is prohibited.

3. The average wastewater flow to the ponds shall not exceed the design loading of 4,000 gpd (monthly average).
4. The average volume of wastewater siphoned to the land disposal area shall not exceed 13,000 gpd.
5. The discharge of waste other than domestic wastewater is prohibited.

B. Discharge Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of waste shall not create a nuisance, as defined in Section 13050(m) of the California Water Code.
2. The disposal of waste shall not cause degradation of groundwater suitable for domestic water supply or cause an increase in any quality parameter that would render groundwater unsuitable for irrigation use.
3. Wastewater in the evaporation ponds shall meet the following limits:
  - a. Dissolved oxygen                      greater than 1.0 mg/l
  - b. Dissolved sulfides                      less than 0.1 mg/l
  - c. pH    not less than 6.0 nor greater than 9.0 units
4. A minimum freeboard of two feet shall be maintained in the evaporation ponds at all times.

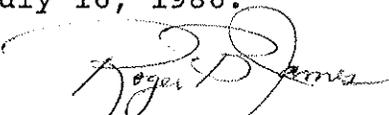
C. Provisions

1. This order supercedes Order 84-41, which is hereby rescinded.
2. The discharger shall comply with all sections of this order immediately upon adoption.
3. The public shall be effectively excluded from the evaporation ponds and the land disposal area and notified of the presence of wastewater. The discharger shall use fencing, warning signs, or both to comply with this requirement.
4. The discharger shall not apply wastewater to the land disposal site during rainfall events or when the soil

is saturated from prior rainfall.

5. Grazing animals shall be excluded from the land disposal site.
6. The discharger shall use a method approved by the Executive Officer to control and measure the volume of wastewater applied to the land disposal site.
7. In reviewing compliance with prohibitions 1 and 2, the Board will take special note of the difficulties which may be encountered in achieving compliance during entire wet seasons having a rainfall recurrence frequency greater than once in ten years.
8. In accordance with Section 13267(c) of the California Water Code, the discharger shall permit the Board or its authorized representative:
  - a. Entry upon premises in which an effluent source is located or in which any required records are kept;
  - b. Access to copy any records required to be kept under terms and conditions of this order;
  - c. Inspection of monitoring equipment or records; and
  - d. Sampling of any discharge.
9. The discharger shall comply with the self-monitoring program as adopted by this Board and as may be amended by the Executive Officer.
10. The discharger shall file with the Board a report of waste discharge at least 120 days before making any material change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.
11. This Board will review this Order periodically and may revise the requirements when necessary.

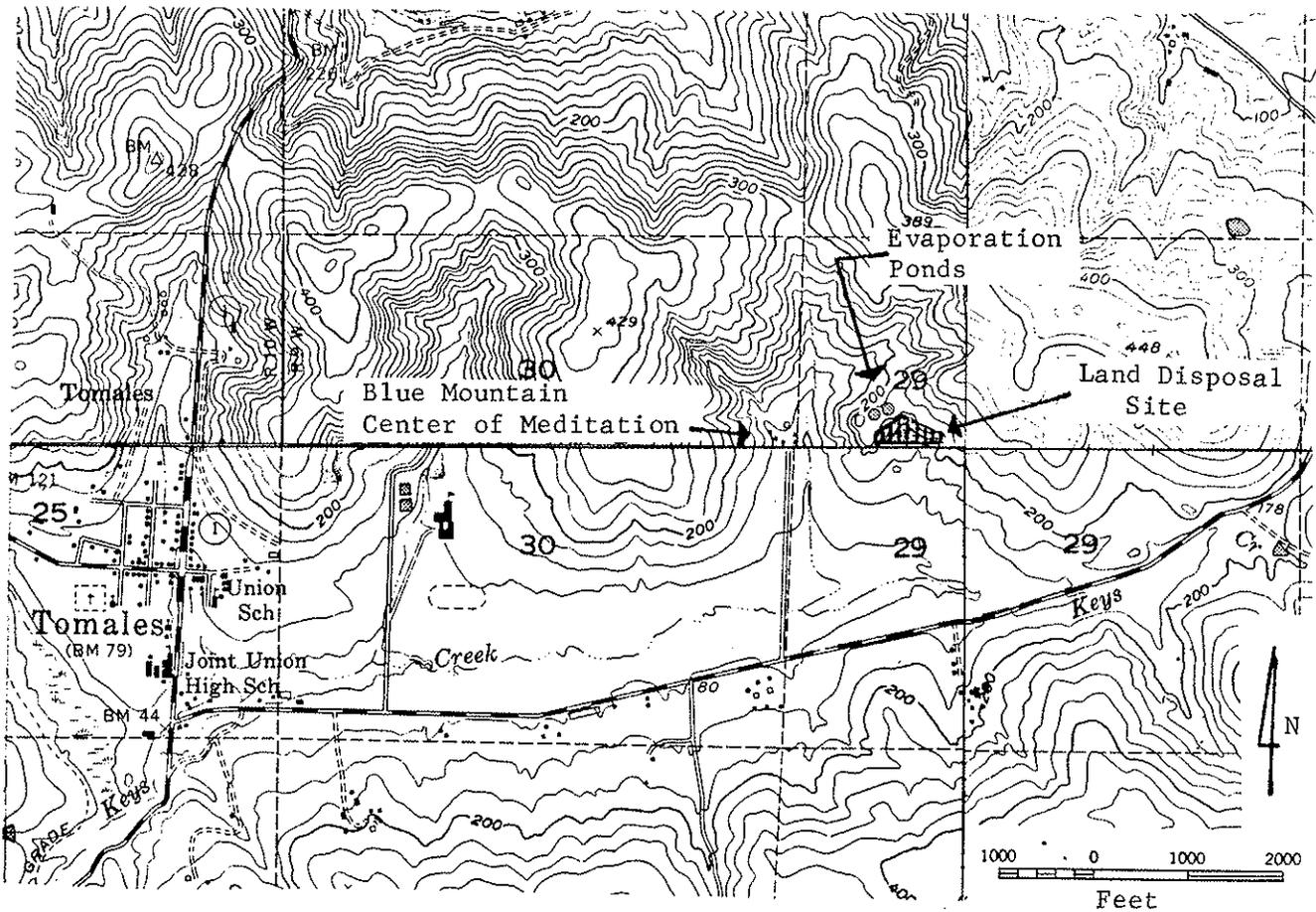
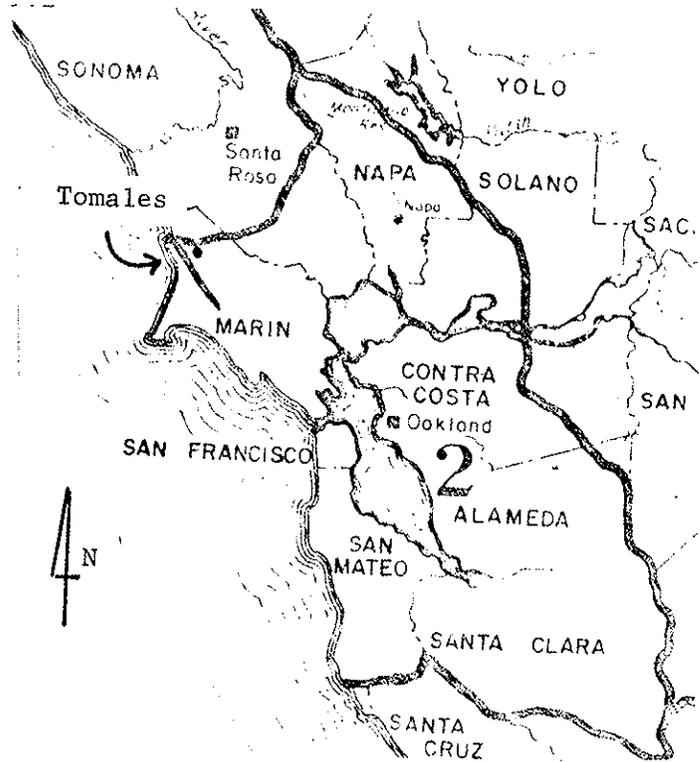
I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on July 16, 1986.

  
ROGER B. JAMES  
Executive Officer

Attachments:

- A. Site Map
- B. Self-Monitoring Program

ATTACHMENT A: MAP



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM  
FOR

Blue Mountain Center of Meditation

Tomales

Marin County

ORDER NO. 86-51

CONSISTS OF

PART A

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

PART A

I. GENERAL

Reporting responsibilities of waste dischargers are specified in Sections 13225(a), 13267(b), 13268, 13383, and 13387(b) of the California Water Code and this Regional Board's Resolution No. 73-16. The principal purposes of a self-monitoring program are:

1. To document compliance with waste discharge requirements and prohibitions established by this Regional Board; and
2. To facilitate self-policing by the waste discharger in the prevention and abatement of pollution arising from waste discharge.

II. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLING AND OBSERVATION

A. Pond Influent

Weekly, determine average flow in gallons per day (gpd). Calculate monthly average (also in gpd).

B. Evaporation Ponds

Monthly, sample wastewater from each pond at any point one foot below the pond surface for the following:

- o Temperature
- o pH
- o Dissolved oxygen concentration (mg/l)
- o Dissolved sulfides (mg/l), if DO concentration is below 1.0 mg/l

Weekly, perform standard observations along the perimeter of each pond for the following:

- o Freeboard (vertical distance from dike crest to water surface)
- o In pond 2, vertical distance from overflow pipe to

water surface

- o Evidence of leaching liquid from the pond and estimated size of affected area (include sketch)
- o Odor (if evident, note source and area affected)

C. Land Disposal Site

Daily, determine volume of wastewater siphoned to disposal site (in gpd) and perform the following observations around the perimeter of the disposal site:

- o Evidence of runoff from site (if evident, use sketch map to show location and area affected)
- o Odor (if evident, note area affected)
- o Verify that warning signs or fencing in place

Monthly, during land disposal period, determine total volume of wastewater for the month and perform the following observations at the disposal site:

- o Evidence of erosion caused by wastewater disposal
- o Verify that wastewater is evenly distributed through distribution system

III. REPORTS TO BE FILED WITH THE BOARD

A. Violations of Requirements

In the event the discharger is unable to comply with the conditions of the waste discharge requirements due to:

- (a) maintenance work, power failures, or breakdown of waste treatment equipment; or
- (b) bypassing of untreated or partially treated wastewater; or
- (c) accidents caused by human error or negligence; or
- (d) other causes such as acts of nature;

the discharger shall notify the Board office by telephone (415-464-1255) as soon as he or his agents have knowledge of the incident and shall confirm this notification in writing within two weeks of the telephone notification. The written report shall include

pertinent information explaining reasons for the non-compliance and shall indicate what steps were taken to prevent the problem from recurring.

The discharger shall report any use of the standby leachfield, due to pump failure or other cause, in the Self-Monitoring Report (see below).

B. Self-Monitoring Reports

Written reports shall be filed regularly for each calendar quarter and submitted by the fifteenth day of the following month (i.e. April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15). The reports shall include:

1. Letter of Transmittal

A letter transmitting self-monitoring reports shall accompany each report. Such a letter shall include a discussion of requirement violations found during the past quarter and actions taken or planned for correcting violations, such as plant operation modifications. The letter transmitting monitoring reports shall be signed by a responsible official. The letter shall contain a statement by the official that to the best of the signer's knowledge the report is true and correct.

2. Data

All results observed or analyzed in section II, including dates and times of sampling and observations.

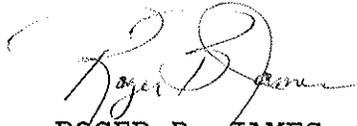
3. Map

A map shall accompany the report, showing the location of the evaporation ponds, land disposal site and sampling/observation points.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the foregoing Self-Monitoring Program:

1. Has been developed in accordance with the procedure set forth in this Regional Board's Resolution 73-16 in order to obtain data and document compliance with waste discharge requirements established in Regional Board Order No. 86-51.
2. Is effective on the date shown below.
3. May be reviewed at any time subsequent to the effective date upon written notice from the Executive Officer or request

from the discharger, and revisions will be ordered by the Executive Officer.



ROGER B. JAMES  
Executive Officer

Effective Date July 21, 1986