

DIRECTORS

PHILIP L. ANTHONY
 KATHRYN L. BARR
 DENIS R. BILODEAU, P.E.
 SHAWN DEWANE
 JAN M. FLORY
 CATHY GREEN
 VINCENT F. SARMIENTO, ESQ.
 STEPHEN R. SHELDON
 HARRY S. SIDHU, P.E.
 ROGER C. YOH, P.E.



(6/3/14) Board Meeting
 General Order for Recycled Water Use
 Deadline: 5/27/14 by 12:00 noon

OFFICERS

President
 SHAWN DEWANE

First Vice President
 CATHY GREEN

Second Vice President
 ROGER C. YOH, P.E.

General Manager
 MICHAEL R. MARKUS, P.E., D.WRE

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
 ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

May 27, 2014



Jeanine Townsend
 Clerk to the Board
 State Water Resources Control Board
 1001 I Street, 24th Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comment Letter General Order WDRs for Recycled Water Use

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft General Order WDRs for Recycled Water Use released on April 25, 2014 and subsequently revised in May. OCWD is a special district formed in 1933 by an act of the California Legislature. The District manages the groundwater basin that underlies north and central Orange County and has been involved with water recycling for over forty years.

OCWD respectfully provides the following comments:

- Water Code Section 1211 is referred to twice in the Draft Order – in Finding Number 27 on Page 11 and in the Specification B.3 on Page 15. OCWD wishes to clarify that the General Order will not alter how the State Water Board implements Water Code Section 1211 with respect to changes in the point of discharge from wastewater treatment plants. Specification B.3.a states that “*the State Water Board’s Deputy Director of Water Rights (or his or her designee) [may] indicate that an order approving such a change is not required*”. As written, this can be interpreted as an alternative to approval pursuant to Water Code 1211 as described in the immediately following Specification B.3.b. While the Draft Order may not intend to change the implementation of Water Code Section 121, the current wording in the Specifications section leaves some uncertainty in this regard. OCWD requests that the State Water Board clarify this issue by either a) removing Specification B.3.a or b) adopting clarifying language such as that suggested by WaterReuse California.

- The Draft Order states in Finding 26 on Page 9: *"If the discharge is not consistent with Basin Plan requirements, the Discharger may elect to improve treatment, or a site-specific order can be prepared."* OCWD concurs with this portion of the Order, which is consistent with the State Water Board's Rancho Caballero decision (Order No. 73-4) and the AGUA decision (Asociacion de Gente Unida Por El Agua et al., versus Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board). OCWD's understanding of the Draft Order is that it is consistent with the Rancho Caballero decision and that the Order would not authorize discharges that cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives. OCWD requests that the State Water Board provide clarification on this point.

We appreciate the efforts of the State Water Board and its staff for developing a statewide general permit for non-potable recycling. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Markus, P.E., D.WRE, BCEE, F.ASCE
General Manager