



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 29, 2009

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MPWMD

Joseph Oliver
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Bldg. G
P.O. Box 85
Monterey, CA 93942-0085

Dear Mr. Oliver:

MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER; AQUIFER STORAGE RECOVERY PROJECT, SEASIDE, MONTEREY COUNTY; WATER CODE SECTION 13267 ORDER

Staff of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Water Board) reviewed your February 2, 2009 letter regarding *Phase I Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project in the Seaside Basin*, and attached documents¹. I requested these documents in our April 14, 2008 letter addressed to you and Leslie Jordan of California American Water (CAW).

Based on our review of these documents I am requiring the following modifications to the proposed sampling and analysis plan:

1. Add nickel to the metals constituent list and include it on the supplemental monitoring program as part of analyte group (S-1) contained within Table 2 of the proposed water year 2009 sampling and analysis plan.
2. Specify and use a flow-thru cell device for analyzing dissolved oxygen (DO) and redox potential/Eh (ORP) parameters.
3. Include the Peralta and Ord Grove CAW production wells as far-field monitoring wells for semiannual monitoring of analyte groups F-1, S-1 and DBP within Table 3 of the sampling and analysis plan.

Regarding item number three above, we understand efforts are underway to site and install project-specific far-field monitoring wells screened within the Santa Margarita Sandstone given that the two CAW production wells are screened within the both the

¹ General Information for ASR Discharge (per RWQCB Form 200) (Enclosure 1); August 2008 Ecoengineers report titled Assessment of Geochemical Effects, MPWMD Phase 1 ASR Project and associated October 7, 2008 Pueblo Water Resources cover letter (Enclosures 2 and 3); Summary of Operations, Phase 1 ASR Project, Water Year 2008 draft report (Enclosure 4), and; proposed Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan for Water Year 2009 (Enclosure 5).

California Environmental Protection Agency

Santa Margarita Sandstone and Paso Robles Formation. These wells shall act a far-field monitoring wells until new monitoring wells are added to the sampling and analysis plan subject to my approval as noted below.

Consistent with our April 14, 2008 letter to you and Leslie Jordan, my staff and I are in full support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) Phase I Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project given its potential benefits in restoring the Carmel River and Lagoon habitats due to decreased diversions during the dry season, offsetting overdraft conditions within and decreasing the resultant seawater intrusion into the Seaside Groundwater Basin (SGB), and augmenting a sustainable water supply for the Monterey Peninsula area. Although staff's review of the hydrogeologic, geochemical and water quality data you provided indicates the proposed project does not pose a significant threat to water quality within the SGB, ongoing monitoring and reporting are warranted to document water quantity and quality conditions to ensure the project is protective of water quality. Consequently, I am requiring implementation of the annual ASR sampling and analysis plan and submittal of annual water year summary of operations reports to this office and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency for the life of the project.

Contrary to statements in our April 14, 2008 letter that the Water Board will formally require monitoring and reporting via a project-specific resolution or general ASR waiver resolution (for a waiver of waste discharge requirements), we will regulate your and other ASR projects under our existing General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges and through requirements for technical reports pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code. Therefore, implementation of the MPWMD Phase 1 ASR Project and CAW [proposed] ASR Coastal Water Project are still subject to my July 11, 2007, and June 1, 2007 authorization letters, respectively, pursuant to the Water Board's General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges, Resolution R3-2008-0010 (formerly Resolution R3-2002-0115) in addition to the requirements specified within this letter. I anticipate that the subsequent renewal of Resolution R3-2008-0010, to be developed some time in 2013, will contain provisions specific to ASR projects similar to the requirements imposed on your project.

You are required to submit annual water year summary of operations reports [technical reports] to our office by **July 1 of each year** following the water year. You shall also submit copies of these reports to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency². These technical reports shall be consistent with previous summary of operations reports prepared by Pueblo Water Resources containing injection and extraction (production) summaries and with your proposed water year 2009 sampling and analysis plan including the above required modifications. Any changes in the sampling and analysis plan are subject to my review and approval prior to any water year for which the changes are proposed. In addition, please note that the implementation of the proposed CAW ASR project will be subject to our review of site specific hydrogeologic,

² To the attention of Robert Johnson, Water Resources Planning and Management, MCWRA

geochemical and water quality investigation reports and the implementation of an approved sampling and analysis plan.

The Water Board's requirement that you submit technical reports is made pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code. Failure to provide the complete technical reports by the date specified above may subject you to administrative civil liability and is considered a misdemeanor. Pursuant to Section 13268 of the Water Code, a violation of Water Code Section 13267 requirement may subject you to administrative civil liability of up to \$1,000 per day for each day in which the violation occurs.

The Water Board needs the required information in order to evaluate the long-term stability and water quality of the Santa Margarita aquifer as a result of the SGB Phase I ASR project. You are required to submit this information because of the potential for the ASR project to result in water quality impacts as a result of constituents contained within the injected water such as disinfection byproducts or changes in the geochemistry of the Santa Margarita aquifer in a manner that may result in the leaching of metals from minerals within the aquifer formational material.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Coast Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of the order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of the order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact **Matthew Keeling at (805) 549-3685, or mkeeling@waterboards.ca.gov**, or Burton Chadwick at (805) 542-4786.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

e-file: S:\WDR\Waived Discharges\Monterey Co\MPWMD ASR\ASR requirements 041609.doc
paper file: Discharger files, Seaside Groundwater Basin ASR Project.
task code: 126-01
CIWQS Place ID No. 654817 and 654821

cc:

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