

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 81-19

NPDES PERMIT NO. CA 0038415

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
RICHMOND SUNSET SEWERAGE ZONE  
WET WEATHER DIVERSION STRUCTURES

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

1. The City and County of San Francisco, hereinafter called the discharger, presently discharges untreated domestic and industrial wastewater mixed with storm water runoff, all containing pollutants, into the Pacific Ocean, a water of the United States, through any of eight (8) wet weather diversion structures in the Richmond Sunset Sewerage Zone. These discharges occur only when rainfall exceeds 0.02 inches per hour. Discharge occurs along beaches and shoreline.
2. The wet weather diversion structures are described below:

DISCHARGE Number	DISCHARGE Name	OUTFALL SIZE	PEAK FLOW	DISCHARGE LOCATION
		Width X Height or Diameter	During 5 yr. Storm (c)-MGD (d)	
1	Lake Merced	10'x11.25'	614	Fort Funston Beach
2	Vicente	2 (a)-5'	413	Vicente Beach
3	Lincoln Way	3 -6.5'	840	Lincoln Beach
4	Mile Rock	9'x11'	514	Mile Rock Beach
5	Sea Cliff PS #1	1'6"	5	Phelan Beach
6	Sea Cliff	6'	386	Bakers Beach
7	Sea Cliff PS #2	1'	10	Bakers Beach
8	Bakers Beach	7'	710	Bakers Beach

- (a) Number of barrels
- (b) Mean Lower Low Water
- (c) These flows result for a short period from a peak rainfall intensity of 1.5 inches per hour
- (d) Million Gallons per Day

3. The discharger's long-range plans are to construct facilities to store, transport and treat the combined wastewater from the entire city for discharge to the ocean in the vicinity of Lake Merced (Southwest plant). This plan, hereinafter called the Master Plan, was approved in concept by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on January 27, 1975.

4. The Master Plan would reduce the frequency of discharge of untreated wastewater from a present citywide average of approximately 80 times per year to a long term average of eight overflows per year.
5. Initial facilities for the Richmond Sunset Zone will include consolidation of diversion structures, storage, transport and an ocean outfall off Lake Merced.
6. Overflows will occur from storage structures which will be designed to provide for additional removal of settleable and floatable solids. Removal of these solids will provide further mitigation of the aesthetic and public health impacts over and above the mitigation provided by reduction in the frequency of overflows.
7. The beneficial uses of the Pacific Ocean in the vicinity of these diversion structures are:
  - Water contact recreation
  - Non-contact water recreation
  - Marine habitat
  - Commercial and sport fishing
  - Fish migration
  - Wildlife habitats
8. The Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin on April 8, 1975.
9. The combined sewer collection system of San Francisco, designed to transport both sanitary and storm flows, presents a unique problem regarding total compliance with the Basin Plan prohibition against the discharge of untreated waste. The Basin Plan recommends that exceptions to compliance be allowed for wet weather discharges, provided that beneficial uses are not adversely affected.
10. The Regional Board adopted Order No. 79-12 on January 16, 1979, which amended Order No. 76-23 and contained the following finding:

"Based upon the presently available planning information contained in these findings and evidence presented at the public meeting concerning the cost differences of facilities necessary to achieve specific overflow frequencies and the water quality benefits derived from construction of those facilities and considering the location and intensity of existing beneficial uses; a long term average of eight (8) overflows per year for diversion structures No. 1 through 8, will provide adequate overall protection of beneficial uses; provided, however, that further study to comply with the discharge prohibitions No. A.2 and A.3 is required by the discharger especially where existing discharge points are located in areas which do not have adequate exchange with ocean water and may not provide adequate protection of adjacent nearshore beneficial uses. Further mitigation may be required in the future, after facilities are placed in operation, if it is determined that beneficial uses are not adequately protected."

11. The State Water Resources Control Board adopted Order No. WQ 79-16 on March 23, 1979 which granted an exception to the State Ocean Plan prohibition against the bypass of untreated waste for the eight overflows per year.
12. The Environmental Protection Agency in a letter dated August 21, 1979 concurred in the granting of an exception.
13. The discharger completed a final EIR/EIS for the Wastewater Master Plan in May 1974. The discharger completed a final EIR for the Westside Transport Facility in July 1977 which addressed overflows from diversion structures Nos. 2 and 3. This EIR identified potential adverse water quality impacts from this project related to seismic activity and the project has been modified to mitigate this potential impact. This EIR was amended by the discharger in August 1979 to reflect the requirements of Order No. 76-23. The project has been modified to incorporate baffling as a mitigation measure to reduce discharge of floatable material. The discharger has commenced preparation of draft EIRs for both the Richmond Transport and the Lake Merced Transport which will address overflows from diversion structures Nos. 4 through 8 and diversion structure No. 1, respectively. Upon completion of the final EIRs for these projects the Board will review any adverse water quality impacts identified, and if necessary, make appropriate revisions of this Order. The issuance of waste discharge requirements for this project is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21000) of Division 13 of California Public Resources Code (CEQA) in accordance with Water Code Section 13389.
14. Order No. 76-23, as amended, allowed for consideration of an exception to the prohibitions against discharge of waste to dead-end sloughs (A.2.) and where initial dilution is less than 10:1 (A.3). Reports submitted by the discharger to the Board in March 1980 and November 1978, concluded that an inordinate financial burden would be placed upon the discharger relative to the increased protection of beneficial uses that would be gained by requiring a minimum initial 10:1 dilution of wastes. In addition, an equivalent level of environmental protection can be achieved by alternate means.
15. Based upon the evidence presented at the public hearing, this Board finds that exception to discharge prohibitions cited in finding 14 above is appropriate and said prohibitions are not included in this Order.
16. The prohibitions and provisions contained in this Order will mitigate the potential adverse water quality impacts of this project.

17. This Order shall serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit pursuant to Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or amendments thereto, and shall take effect at the end of ten days from date of hearing provided the Regional Administrator, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, has no objections.
18. Effluent limitation, national standards of performance, and toxic and pretreatment effluent standards established pursuant to Sections 208(b), 301, 302, 303(d), 304, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and amendments thereto are applicable to the discharge.
19. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
20. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the City and County of San Francisco in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder and the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Prohibitions

1. Discharge of untreated waste to waters of the State is prohibited with the exception of allowable overflows as defined below. The City shall design and construct facilities for diversion structures No. 1-8 to achieve a long term average of eight (8) overflows per year from these facilities. These long term overflow frequencies shall not be used to determine compliance or noncompliance with the exception. Allowable overflows from these facilities are defined as those discharges which occur when all of the following criteria are met:
  - a. All storage capacity within a storage facility is fully utilized; and
  - b. Maximum installed pumping capacity or some lower rate based on limits of downstream transport or treatment capabilities is being utilized to withdraw flows from the storage facility; and
  - c. All citywide treatment facilities, excluding the Golden Gate Park reclamation facility, are being operated at capacity or at some lower rate consistent with the maximum withdrawal and transport rates; and

- d. Overflow occurs from a facility employing baffles or other equivalent means to reduce the discharge of floatables.

Overflows which occur when criteria a, b, c, and d are not being met shall be considered violations of this discharge prohibition.

2. Discharge of dry weather waste from wet weather diversion structures is prohibited.

B. Provisions

1. The discharge of pollutants shall not create a nuisance as defined in the California Water Code.
2. Specific effluent and receiving water limitations applicable to wet weather discharges from the Southeast and proposed Southwest Plants to the ocean are prescribed in separate waste discharge requirements as issued by both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Board.
3. The discharger shall comply with the following time schedules to assure compliance with all discharge prohibitions and provisions of this Order:

TASK

COMPLETION DATE

Full Compliance

July 1, 1977

4. The long term average overflow frequency prescribed in this Order is based on information available at the time of adoption of this Order. If the Board finds that changes in the location, intensity or importance of affected beneficial uses or demonstrated unacceptable adverse impacts as a result of operation of the constructed facilities have occurred, they may modify the long-term average overflow frequency. Such action could require the modification of constructed facilities, the modification of the operation of constructed facilities or the construction of additional facilities.
5. The City and County of San Francisco shall perform a self-monitoring program in accordance with the specifications prescribed by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board. The City's and County's Health Department is requested to post warning signs on all beaches and shellfish areas, when designated by the Regional Board, affected by the wet weather overflows for a period of time commencing with the day of overflow or at 8:00 a.m. the following day if the overflow occurs after 4:00 p.m., and continuing until the water analyses indicate the water quality of the affected areas have recovered and are meeting bacteriological standards for water contact sport recreations in the beach areas or bacteriological standards for shellfish harvesting in shellfish areas, whichever is longer. The current practice of posting signs along the beaches that warns of the possibility of polluted waters from October to April is acceptable for the present estimated 80 overflows per year. However, upon completion and operation of the storage/transport systems, thereby reducing the overflows to approximately 8 per year, each overflow point should be posted individually as described above.

6. The requirements of this Order supersede those of Order No. 76-23, as amended. However, this Order does not revoke Order No. 76-23 (as amended). Order No. 76-23 (as amended) shall remain in full force and effect until Order No. 79-120 is rescinded.
7. The City and County of San Francisco is required to submit to the Regional Board by the first day of every month a report, under penalty of perjury, on progress toward compliance with this Order. Said report shall include the status of progress made toward compliance with all tasks of this Order. If noncompliance or threatened noncompliance is reported, the reasons for noncompliance and an estimated completion date shall be provided.
8. This Order includes items 1, 4, and 5 of the attached "Reporting Requirements", dated August 8, 1973.
9. This Order includes all items of the attached "Standard Provisions", dated August 8, 1973.
10. This Order expires on April 15, 1986, and the discharger must file a Report of Waste Discharge in accordance with Title 23, California Administrative Code, not later than 180 days in advance of such date as application for issuance of new waste discharge requirements.
11. In the event of any change in control or ownership of land or waste discharge facilities presently owned or controlled by the discharger, the discharger shall notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by a letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to this Board.

I, Fred H. Dierker, 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 April 15, 1981.

FRED H. DIERKER  
Executive Officer

Attachments:

Reporting Requirements 8/8/73  
Standard Provisions 8/8/73