

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT

NO. R3-2012-0030
ISSUED TO

South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A HEARING WILL BE HELD
BEFORE THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,
CENTRAL COAST REGION, ON **September 7, 2012**

Background

On June 18, 2012, the Assistant Executive Officer of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board) issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint pursuant to California Water Code Section 13385 (CWC) against the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District (Discharger) alleging that it has violated CWC Sections 13268 and 13385(a)(2) by failing to comply with provisions of Section 301 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1311) (Clean Water Act) and CWC 13376, Central Coast Water Board Order No. R3-2009-0046, NPDES Permit No. CA0048003, the Sanitary Sewer Collection System Order 2006-0003-DWQ, and Amended MRP 2008-0002-EXEC, as described in the administrative civil liability complaint filed herewith. The Complaint proposes that administrative civil liability in the amount of \$1,383,007.50 be imposed as authorized by CWC Section 13385(c)(1). Unless the Discharger pays the proposed liability, a hearing will be held before the Central Coast Water Board during its meeting of **September 7, 2012**.

Purpose of Hearing

The purpose of the hearing is to receive relevant evidence and testimony regarding the proposed ACL Complaint. At the hearing, the Central Coast Water Board will consider whether to adopt, modify, or reject the proposed assessment, or whether to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office to seek recovery of judicial civil liability. If it adopts an assessment, the Central Coast Water Board will issue an Administrative Civil Liability Order.

The public hearing on **September 7, 2012**, will commence no earlier than 8:15 a.m. or as soon thereafter as practical, or as announced in the Central Coast Water Board meeting agenda. The meeting will be held at the Water Board office located at 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, in San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. An agenda for the meeting will be issued at least ten days before the meeting and will be posted on the Central Coast Water Board's web page at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast.

Hearing Procedures

A copy of the procedures governing an adjudicatory hearing before the Central Coast Water Board may be found at Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, § 648 et seq., and is available at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> or upon request. Except as provided in Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), § 648(b), Chapter 5 of the Administrative Procedures Act (commencing with § 11500 of the Government Code) does not apply to adjudicatory hearings before the Central Coast Water Board. This Notice provides additional requirements and deadlines related to the proceeding. THIS NOTICE MAY BE AMENDED BY THE ADVISORY STAFF AS NECESSARY. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY. Any objections to the procedure set forth in this Notice must be submitted to Frances McChesney or Jessica Jahr at the address indicated below by **June 27, 2012**.

Hearing Participation

Participants in this proceeding are designated as either “parties” or “interested persons.” Designated parties to the hearing may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses and are subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may present non-evidentiary policy statements, but may not cross-examine witnesses and are not subject to cross-examination. Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Central Coast Water Board, staff or others, at the discretion of the Water Board.

The following participants are hereby designated as parties in this proceeding:

- (1) Central Coast Water Board Prosecution Staff
- (2) South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District

Contacts

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Roger W. Briggs* (or his successor, or a staff person not previously involved with this case.)

Executive Officer

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*Please note: Mr. Briggs is retiring August 1, 2012.

Prosecution Staff:

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Separation of Functions

To help ensure the fairness and impartiality of this proceeding, the functions of those who will act in a prosecutorial role by presenting evidence for consideration by the Central Coast Water Board (Prosecution Staff) have been separated from those who will provide advice to the Water Board (Advisory Staff). Members of the Advisory Staff are: Frances McChesney, Senior Staff Counsel, Jessica Jahr, Counsel, and Roger Briggs, Executive Officer. Mr. Briggs will be replaced after July 31st. Members of the Prosecution Staff are: Julie Macedo, Senior Staff Counsel, Michael Thomas, Assistant Executive Officer, Harvey Packard, Matthew Buffleben, Leo Sarmiento, Jim Fischer, Todd Stanley, Sheila Soderberg, Katie DiSimone and Todd Stanley.

Ex Parte Communications

The designated parties and interested persons are forbidden from engaging in *ex parte* communications regarding this matter with members of the Advisory Staff or members of the Central Coast Water Board. An *ex parte* contact is any written or verbal communication pertaining to the investigation, preparation or prosecution of the ACL Complaint between a member of a designated party or interested party on the one hand, and a Central Coast Water Board member or an Advisory Staff member on the other hand, unless the communication is copied to all other designated and interested parties or made at a proceeding open to all other parties and interested persons (if verbal). Communications regarding non-controversial procedural matters are not *ex parte* contacts and are not restricted. Communications among the designated and interested parties themselves are not *ex parte* contacts.

Requesting Designated Party Status

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a designated party, and not already listed above, shall request party status by submitting a request in writing (with copies to the designated parties) no later than 5 p.m. on **July 20, 2012**, to Frances McChesney and Jessica Jahr, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA, 95812. The request shall include an explanation of the basis for status as a designated party (e.g., how the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the potential actions by the Central Coast Water Board affect the person) and a statement explaining why the party or parties designated above do not adequately represent the person's interest. Any opposition to the request must be submitted by 5 p.m. on **July 27, 2012**. The parties will be notified by 5 p.m. on **August 3, 2012**, as to whether the request has been granted or denied.

Hearing Time limits

To ensure that all participants have an opportunity to participate in the hearing, the following time limits shall apply: each designated party shall have 90 minutes to testify, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses, and 5 minutes for

closing statements, and each interested person shall have 3 minutes to present a non-evidentiary policy statement. Participants with similar interests or comments are requested to make joint presentations, and participants are requested to avoid redundant comments. Additional time may be provided at the discretion of the hearing officer upon a showing that additional time is necessary.

Written Evidence, Exhibits and Policy Statements

Designated parties shall submit in writing one paper copy and an electronic file (e.g., pdf via email or CD) of the following information to Frances McChesney and Jessica Jahr, at the above listed address and nine paper copies and an electronic file to Cyndee Jones, Central Coast Water Board's Regional Administrative Officer (cjones@waterboards.ca.gov), at the above listed addresses, no later than 5 p.m. as described herein:

1. All documentary evidence and exhibits proposed to be offered at the hearing.
2. All legal and technical arguments or analysis.
3. A list of witnesses that will be testifying at the hearing, including the subject of each witness' proposed testimony, the estimated time required by the witness to present direct testimony, and the qualifications of each expert witness.¹

For the Prosecution Team's Initial Production: no later than 5 p.m. on **July 27, 2012**. For the Discharger and each Designated Party's Evidentiary Submission, no later than 5 p.m. on **August 17, 2012**. For the Prosecution's Rebuttal Submission, no later than 5 p.m. on **August 24, 2012**. For every evidentiary deadline, each designated party shall send one electronic copy of the above materials to each of the other designated parties at the address or addresses provided above by 5 p.m. on the deadline described above.

Interested persons may submit one (1) copy of non-evidentiary policy statements by the start of the hearing.

Evidentiary Objections

A designated party objecting to evidence proposed by another party must submit a written objection by 5 p.m. on **August 29, 2012**, to Frances McChesney and Jessica Jahr, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA, 95812, and in electronic format to fmcchesney@waterboards.ca.gov and jjahr@waterboards.ca.gov and a copy to all other designated parties. The Advisory Staff will notify the parties about further action to be taken on such objections.

¹ The Prosecution Team may amend their witness list in their Rebuttal Submission to include any rebuttal witnesses added because of the Discharger's or Designated Party's Evidentiary Submission.

Questions

Questions concerning this proceeding may be addressed to Frances McChesney and Jessica Jahr, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA, 95812; tel. (916) 341-5174 and (916) 341-5168, respectively, or by electronic mail, as indicated above.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- June 19, 2012 ACLC and Proposed Hearing Procedures Issued
- June 27, 2012 Comments due on draft Hearing Notice
- July 6, 2012 Advisory Team issues final Hearing Notice
- July 20, 2012 Deadline for submission of request for designated party status and objection to Notice.
- July 27, 2012 Deadline for opposition to request for designated party status.
- July 27, 2012 Deadline for Prosecution Team's Initial Evidentiary Submission of evidence and legal argument.
- August 3, 2012 Decision issued on request for designated party status, if any.
- August 17, 2012: Deadline for Discharger/Designated Party Evidentiary Submission of evidence and legal argument.
- August 24, 2012: Deadline for Prosecution Team Rebuttal Evidentiary Submission of evidence and legal argument.
- August 29, 2012 Deadline for submission of evidentiary objections.
- September 3, 2012 Rulings on evidentiary objections, if any.
- September 7, 2012 Hearing Date



Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

June 29, 2012

DATE