

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. R5-2010-0068

RESCISSION OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R5-2007-0129
PIXLEY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
TULARE COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Central Valley Water Board) finds that:

1. The Pixley Public Utility District (hereafter Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), at 2051 Avenue 96, which serves the unincorporated community of Pixley. The WWTF provides secondary treatment of effluent and discharges to unlined storage/percolation ponds, or supplements irrigation water on pasture and fodder crops.
2. The WWTF was running at or near capacity and had trouble meeting effluent limits. To address these problems the Discharger set a moratorium on new connections and proposed to expand and upgrade its treatment system.
3. On 14 September 2007, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2007-0123 that addressed the expansion and upgrade of the WWTF to 0.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The WDRs also required the Discharger to meet an effluent limit for total nitrogen of 10 mg/L or to line the effluent storage/percolation ponds.
3. Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2007-0129, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 14 September 2007, provided a time schedule for the Discharger to complete the WWTF expansion and comply with effluent limitations prescribed in WDRs Order R5-2007-0123.
4. The Discharger began construction on the expansion in March 2008. Construction was completed in November 2008 and the Discharger began discharging to the new/expanded WWTF starting in February 2009. Average flows to the WWTF range from approximately 0.23 to 0.33 million gallons per day (mgd) which is well within the capacity of the expanded WWTF and the monthly average flow limit of 0.5 mgd stipulated in the WDRs.
5. During initial operation of the new/expanded WWTF, the new treatment system had difficulty treating the wastewater to meet effluent limits prescribed in the WDRs. By April 2009 the WWTF was meeting effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), and electrical conductivity (EC). By October 2009 the WWTF was meeting all effluent limits in the WDRs, including the monthly average total nitrogen limit of 10 mg/L. In addition, all technical reports required by the CDO have been submitted.

6. As the Discharger is currently in compliance its WDRs and has complied with all conditions specified in CDO R5-2007-0129, rescission of CDO R5-2007-0129 is appropriate.
7. The Discharger and interested agencies and persons were notified of the intent to consider rescission of the CDO and provided an opportunity for public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
8. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15321.
9. Any person adversely affected by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to review the action. The petition must be received by the State Board Office of the Chief Counsel, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA, 95812-0100, within 30 days of the date on which the action was taken. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided on request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Cease and Desist Order R5-2007-0129 is rescinded.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, 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, Central Valley Region on 27 May 2010.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

KC/WDH: 5/27/10