

ITEM: 21

SUBJECT: Von Bargaen Ranch Septage Disposal Facility, Glenn County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of New Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)*

BACKGROUND: Scott and Sandy Von Bargaen (Discharger) own and operate the Von Bargaen Septage Ranch Septage Disposal Area, Glenn County. Septage haulers throughout Glenn County have transported domestic septage / wastewater to the 40-acre disposal area since at least 1975 and possibly since 1950. Historical disposal practices have consisted of lime stabilization to raise the pH to a minimum of 12.0 for one half hour for pathogen destruction and vector prevention, followed by land application. Domestic septage is spread by septic trucks, which drive to the south end of the disposal area, where they turn around and open their discharge valve, and drive north while the septage is released. Current practices also include planting oat crops on half of the land application area each year during the fall. The oats are harvested during the spring and used as animal feed. The area where septage is land applied is tilled with a disc about once every other month. The other half of the land that is planted is rotated each year.

The tentative WDR permit proposes new discharge prohibitions and specifications. New discharge specifications set cumulative loadings and maximum concentration limits for metals, new pH limits, nitrogen application rates, narrative specifications and groundwater limitations. The Discharger will have to install a groundwater monitoring system, with quarterly groundwater monitoring.

ISSUES: This item was originally circulated for public comment in April 2011. During the Public comment period, comments were received from an anonymous source and Nor-Cal Environmental Solutions Inc. Staff responded to these comments. The item was scheduled to be heard at the June 2011 Board Meeting, but was continued from the Agenda due to Nor-Cal Environmental Solutions Inc. indicating at the June Board Meeting that they contested the tentative permit. The item is being continued as a "contested" item. The contested issue is that there is already a facility in Glenn County that services septage disposal, and the Regional Board should not permit multiple septage disposal facilities in Glenn County.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review__BJS____
Legal Review_____

5 August 2011
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