
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 22, 2020

Diane Gabriel, General Manager
Montecito Sanitary District
1042 Monte Cristo Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Via email to dgabriel@montsan.org

Dear Ms. Gabriel:

MONTECITO SANITARY DISTRICT, CLARIFICATION OF JANUARY 28, 2020 LETTER

We are writing this letter to clarify portions of our January 28, 2020 letter to the Montecito Sanitary District. Specifically, there is no mandate for the district or any other entity to recycle 100 percent of its wastewater.

We understand that our 100 percent recycling requirement statement has placed the district in a difficult position with respect to its ongoing coordination efforts to pilot test advanced treated wastewater for irrigation reuse on the neighboring cemetery property. We fully support this project and the district's broader coordination efforts to identify and advance projects that will maximize wastewater recycling over time. The district's primary role as a sanitation agency is to effectively and efficiently collect, treat, and dispose of the community's sanitary wastewater. Recycling of the district's wastewater is an important goal, and one that requires the participation of other community partners.

Changing climatic and hydrologic conditions in California require that we, collectively as a society, evaluate all possible ways of increasing water supply diversity and resiliency to drought. Wastewater recycling is a readily available opportunity to increase water supply diversity and resiliency. As such, we are asking wastewater agencies to evaluate how they can maximize recycling for the best possible end uses. We understand there are both opportunities and obstacles associated with implementing wastewater recycling projects, and that coordination among a group of willing and able partners is both an opportunity and a potential obstacle. This is particularly true for areas served by separate sanitation and water agencies, where the evaluation and implementation of recycling requires ongoing coordination and partnerships.

We appreciate the district's ongoing operation of its wastewater system in compliance with Central Coast Water Board requirements and we look forward to continuing our common water quality protection efforts including the implementation of wastewater

DR. JEAN-PIERRE WOLFF, CHAIR | MATTHEW T. KEELING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

recycling projects. We are committed to facilitating recycled water projects in our region and will continue to work with the district and other entities towards a goal of maximizing the beneficial reuse of wastewater.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 549-3140.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Keeling
Executive Officer

cc:

Jeff Densmore, Division of Drinking Water, jeff.densmore@waterboards.ca.gov

Janet Parrish, USEPA Region IX, Parrish.Janet@epa.gov

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