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GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 28, 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 WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY,
ORDER NO. R3-2012-0016, NPDES NO. CA0047899, MONTECITO, SANTA
BARBARA COUNTY**

This letter is to update the district on the Central Coast Water Board's progress on reissuing your National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for discharge of treated water into the Pacific Ocean from your wastewater treatment facility. Due to a backlog of permitting work, we have not yet begun drafting the new permit. However, we anticipate working on the permit in early 2021 and plan on issuing a draft for public review in the spring of 2021. These are estimates and could change.

This delay is not due to any action or inaction by the district. The district submitted its permit application on time, and the Central Coast Water Board has administratively extended the permit, as described in our February 7, 2018 letter to you. The administratively extended permit is in full force and effect and binding on the district.

It appears this permitting time frame may allow time for the district to complete its pilot testing of a recycled water production system and time for the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water to complete its review of the district's Title 22 engineering report. That will enable us to include recycled water production requirements in the permit. After our review and approval of the recycled water system, we will issue the district separate permitting coverage to operate the system and distribute and use recycled water.

DR. JEAN-PIERRE WOLFF, CHAIR | JOHN M. ROBERTSON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast

We support the district's progress toward water recycling. We encourage all wastewater treatment agencies to plan for increased and improved water recycling, in accordance with the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy. It's likely that your new NPDES permit will include enforceable provisions requiring the district to evaluate how it can increase recycling production beyond what we understand to be currently envisioned. In the future, we anticipate requiring all ocean dischargers to recycle 100 percent of their treated wastewater.

Your new permit will also likely include provisions requiring that you study the potential effects of climate change, including sea level rise, at the facility and implement measures to mitigate those effects. If you have already completed any evaluation of climate-change effects, please submit that information to us so that we can evaluate it as we develop your permit.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter von Langen at (805) 549-3688 or peter.vonlangen@waterboards.ca.gov or Phil Hammer at (805) 549-3882 or phil.hammer@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small "for" written below the name.

John M. Robertson
Executive Officer

cc:

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

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

Nick Turner, Montecito Water District, nturner@montecitowater.com

Larry Fay, Santa Barbara County Environmental Health, Lawrence.fay@sbcphd.org

Das Williams, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, dwilliams@countyofsb.org

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