



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

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FILE



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14 February 2001

Mr. Tim Turner, Region Chief
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710-7899

Ms. Becky Robertson
Miramonte Conservation Camp
49039 Orchard Drive
Miramonte, CA 93641

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-10-DWQ-R5016, GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO LAND BY SMALL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS, MIRAMONTE CONSERVATION CAMP, FRESNO COUNTY

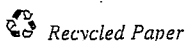
The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (hereafter CDF or Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD), dated 16 June 1999, for a modification in CDF's discharge of waste to land at the Miramonte Conservation Camp (hereafter Camp). The Discharger submitted a supplement to the RWD, dated 29 February 2000, to complete the necessary information. The RWD describes proposed modifications and upgrades to the Camp's Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). The Discharger owns the property and operates the Facility.

Based on information provided in the RWD, we have determined that this project meets the conditions for approval under the enclosed Water Quality Order No. 97-10-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (General Order). All the requirements contained within the General Order described as applicable to "All Small Domestic Systems", "Activated Sludge Systems", "Aerated Pond Systems", "Subsurface Disposal Systems", and "Surface Disposal Systems" apply to your discharge. You are hereby assigned General Order No. 97-10-DWQ-R5016 for your Facility.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Camp is at 49039 Orchard Drive, approximately 3 miles west of Miramonte, Fresno County, as shown on Attachment A, which is attached hereto and made a part of this Notice of Applicability by reference. The Camp occupies the southwest quarter of Section 30 and the northeast quarter of Section 31, respectively, of T14S, R27E, MDB&M, at approximately 2,960 feet elevation. The area landscaping is typical Sierra foothill oak woodland and primary land uses are limited agriculture, cattle grazing and native wildlife habitat.

California Environmental Protection Agency



The nearest surface water is Persian Creek, an ephemeral stream, which flows in a southerly direction through the Camp. The beneficial uses of Persian Creek are municipal and agricultural supply, contact and noncontact recreation, ground water recharge, warm fresh water habitat, and wildlife habitat. Groundwater is found in fractures in the underlying granite, typical of hard-rock wells. Piezometric measurements taken from several nearby wells indicate that the "water table" in the area generally follows the contours of the surface topography at a depth of approximately 30 feet below ground surface. Beneficial uses consist of agricultural and municipal supply. Based on excavation work that has been conducted at the site, the shallow soil profile can be described as 1 to 10 feet of light and dark brown soil with minor clay content.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Camp currently houses 95 inmates and has the potential to expand to 120 inmates including a staff of 12. Wastewater is generated from domestic sources including restrooms, a kitchen and a laundry room. Design flow for the upgraded WWTF is 15,000 gallons per day (gpd) and the estimated flow for the planned population is 12,000 gpd. Due to the nature of Camp operations, daily wastewater flows are expected to remain relatively constant with fluctuations occurring when crews are away from Camp on prolonged firefighting duty. Design peak hourly flow is 2,500 gallons per hour. The Camp's wastewater is considered "typical" for medium to strong domestic waste streams with design total suspended solids (TSS) of 250 mg/l and 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) of 350 mg/l.

Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 86-231 currently regulates the discharge of up to 12,500 gpd from the Facility. Prior to the recent modifications, the Facility consisted of a septic tank that discharged to either a leachfield or to three evaporation/percolation ponds and a spray field. The leachfield was used in the winter months and the three stabilization ponds and spray fields in the summer months. Modifications to the Facility included a new 2,000-gallon grease trap to service the kitchen, a new 25,000-gallon fiberglass septic tank with design effluent TSS of 100 mg/l and BOD₅ of 225 mg/l, and a 1,470-gallon wet well/lift station with two pumps that will operate alternately on float sensors except during heavy flows when both will run. A float switch in the main leachfield distribution box will prevent overflow of the distribution box and overcharging of the leachfield. The leachfield consists of approximately 3,000 lineal feet of trench spread over two acres. A 100-foot buffer zone will be maintained between the leachfield and Persian Creek.

The modified system operates different from its predecessor in that primary disposal will be via the leachfield. The leachfield design incorporates three independent "fingers" where any two provide the design capacity of 15,000 gpd. This is so that one finger will always be "resting/recovering" on a six-month rotation. It is anticipated that the ponds/spray fields will only be used for overflow and backup disposal.

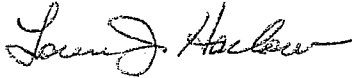
This Notice of Applicability regulates both Facility disposal systems.

FACILITY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. The Facility shall be constructed and operated in accordance with the Discharger's submittals (RWD, Attachments and Supplements) and the requirements contained in the General Order.
2. Influent flow to the septic system shall not exceed a total of 15,000 gallons per day. Discharge of material other than domestic wastewater, or the discharge of any other contaminants is prohibited.
3. Sludge removal and septage hauling records shall be kept and reported annually in the July monitoring report.
4. Discharge of wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Project Description is prohibited.
5. By **1 August 2001** the Discharger shall submit a report from a California registered civil engineer that documents a construction inspection and certifies that the facility was constructed as designed, and is consistent with the rules and regulations of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Fresno County Environmental Health Department.
6. Prior to transfer of Facility ownership from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or prior to authorization of a new site operator, the Discharger shall submit an amended Report of Waste Discharge to document the change.
7. The required annual fee of \$400, which corresponds to threat to water quality and complexity of 3b (as specified in the annual billing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board), shall be submitted yearly until this Notice of Applicability is officially revoked.
8. Failure to abide by the conditions of the General Order and this letter authorizing applicability could result in enforcement actions as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.
9. The Discharger shall comply with the requirements of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. 97-10-DWQ, as well as the additional monitoring.

It is emphasized that conformance with the monitoring and reporting requirements described in this General Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program is not optional. Failure to perform the required monitoring and reporting may result in enforcement action, which could include monetary fines.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Dale Stanton at (559) 445-5548.



for GARY M. CARLTON
Executive Officer

Enclosures - Attachments:

A - Map

General Order:

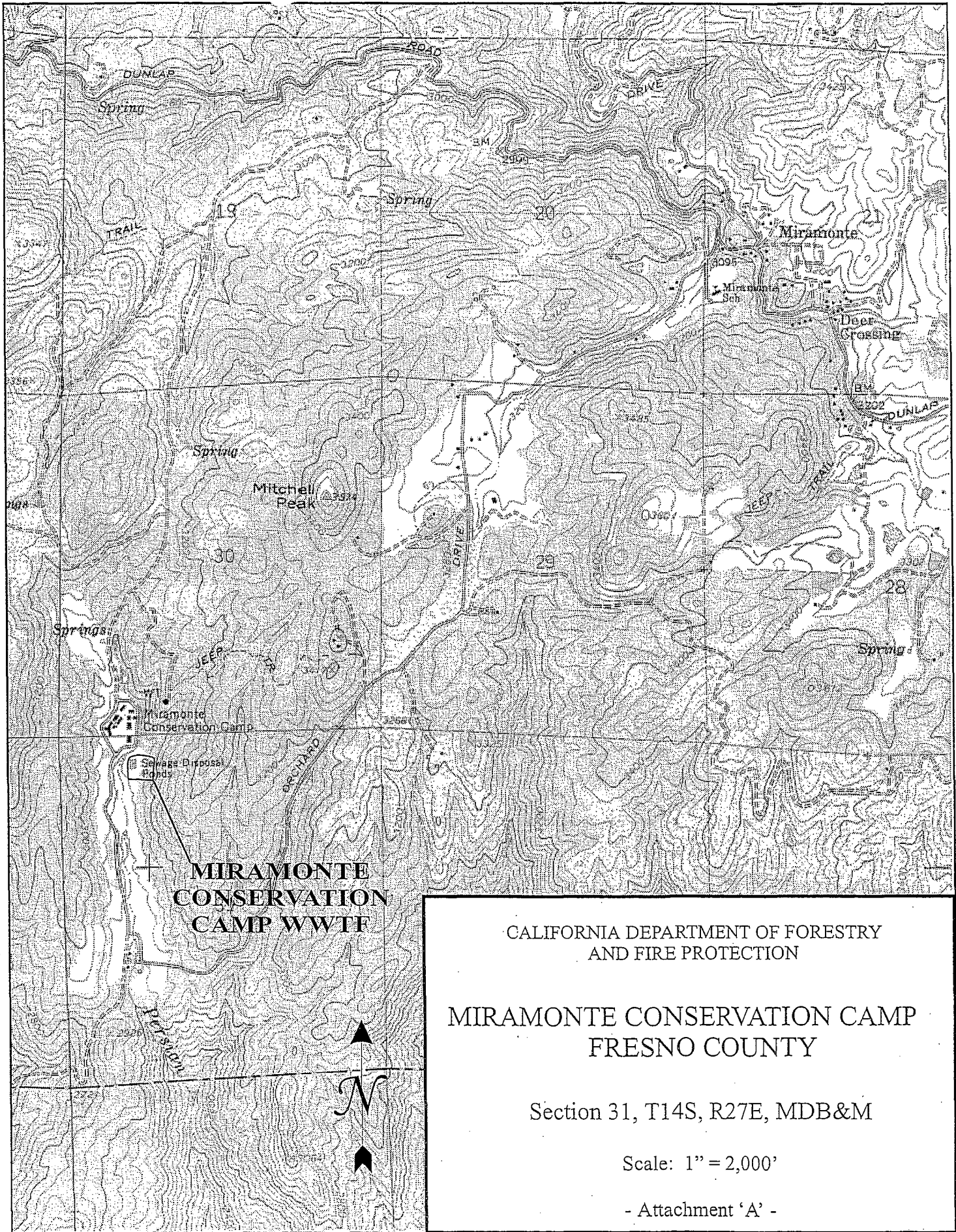
Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ

Standard Provisions and Reporting for Waste Discharge Requirements

cc: w/attachments only:

Fresno County Environmental Health Department, Fresno

Fresno County Planning Department, Fresno



**MIRAMONTE
CONSERVATION
CAMP WWTF**

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
AND FIRE PROTECTION

**MIRAMONTE CONSERVATION CAMP
FRESNO COUNTY**

Section 31, T14S, R27E, MDB&M

Scale: 1" = 2,000'

- Attachment 'A' -