



WATER DEPARTMENT

809 Center Street, Room 102, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 420-5200 • Fax (831) 420-5201



April 29, 2004

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
County Governmental Center  
701 Ocean St. Fifth Floor  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: CSA #7 Wastewater Treatment System Fees, Boulder Creek County Club

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

As you know, the City of Santa Cruz Water Department is responsible for providing drinking water for approximately 55,000 customers in the City of Santa Cruz and 35,000 in unincorporated area of the County (Live Oak, Santa Cruz Gardens, etc). The water supply for our customers is comprised almost entirely of surface water - of which approximately 50% is provided by the San Lorenzo River. Boulder Creek, the "receiving" water body for discharges from the CSA #7 wastewater treatment system, is one of the major tributaries of the San Lorenzo watershed.

Therefore the City is very concerned with the ongoing discharges (see table below) from the CSA #7 - Boulder Creek County Club Wastewater Treatment System, the most recent of which is the discharge of 27,500 gallons of raw sewage to Boulder Creek. The City is aware of and fully supports the County's efforts to operate and maintain the treatment system in a manner that protects the environment and the many beneficial uses of the San Lorenzo River. We also appreciate County staff's efforts to provide notification when a spill is discovered. Nevertheless, a discharge of raw sewage to a critical source of drinking water is unacceptable.

Date	Spill Volume (gal.)	Discharge Type	Description	Maximum Potential Liability
5/14/02	1,080	Secondary treated effluent	Due to force main failure	\$ 10,800
6/13/02	13,000	Combination of fresh water and untreated sewage	Contractor broke fresh water main while repairing sewer lateral for residence - caused sewer pump station to overflow	\$ 130,000
11/5/02	45,000 - 63,000	Tertiary treated effluent	Due to force main failure	\$ 630,000
5/27/03	1,000	Secondary treated effluent	Due to force main failure	\$ 10,000
9/8/03	40	Untreated sewage	Low volume, but significant because caused by force main failure (chronic in nature)	\$ 400

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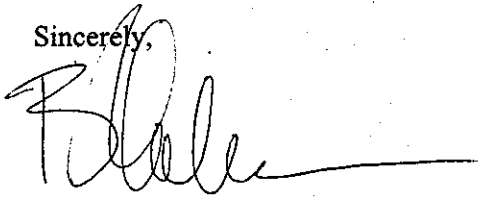
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We understand the current difficult financial situation that the County government and its residents find themselves in and recognize the difficulty of maintaining a water treatment system within the context of other regulatory obligations. However, the continual and worsening nature of these discharges clearly indicate the treatment system, its alarm capability, and the level of maintenance staff is able to carry out, no longer meet requirements and that a program of capital and operational improvements is necessary.

Along with the County's obligation to comply with the Clean Water Act and protect beneficial uses of the San Lorenzo River, the potential for civil penalties (which presumably are now in excess of the figure reported to be required for the system's necessary capital improvements) it seems that the approval of a new fee structure for the CSA that provides funding for facility upgrades, operating and monitoring improvements, and adequate maintenance, is the most expedient and sensible method of abating this situation.

Please give our thanks to County staff who have been very helpful to us during this process. Thank you also for your continued attention to the protection of our valuable water resources. Please feel free to contact me at 420-5200 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Bill Kocher  
Water Director, City of Santa Cruz

cc: Richard Wilson, City Manager, City of Santa Cruz  
✓ Tom Bolich, Director, County of Santa Cruz Public Works  
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

H:CSA #7 Wastewater Treatment System Fees, Boulder

	ROUTE DATA	COPY	ATT.
1	DIRECTOR	✓	
2	ASST DIR SPEC SVCS	✓	
	SOLID WASTE ENG.		
	LANDFILL OPERATIONS		
	WATER CON/FLOOD CONT.		
	STORM WATER MANG.		
3	CONSTRUCT. ENG.		
	SANITATION ENG.	✓	
	WATER & WASTEWATER		
	ASST DIR TRANSPORT		
	ROAD OPS. ENG.		
	PERMITS / ENCROACH.		
	DRAINAGE OPERATIONS		
	RD. MAINT. OPERATIONS		
	RDA ENG.		
	ROAD DESIGN ENG.		
	SURVEY / DEVELOPMT.		
	TRANSP / RD. PLANNING		
A	ASST DIR ADMIN SVCS	✓	
	REAL PROPERTY / FLEET		
	CSA / PRGM ADMIN.		
	SAFETY OFFICER / LIVE OAK P.		