



Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 17, 2023

Matthew Machado
Director of Community Development & Infrastructure
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street #410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Email: matt.machado@santacruzcounty.us

via Electronic Mail only

Dear Matthew Machado:

BIG BASIN WOODS SUBDIVISION WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, HWY 236 AND FALLEN LEAF DRIVE, BOULDER CREEK, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS IMMINENT THREAT TO WATER QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH DUE TO OPERATION OF NON-FUNCTIONING WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) regulates the Big Basin Woods Subdivision wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) pursuant to Order No. 97-26, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Big Basin Water Company Inc., Big Basin Woods Subdivision, Santa Cruz County* (Permit), for the discharge of domestic wastewater to land. The purpose of this letter is to request assistance from the County of Santa Cruz to help protect water quality and public health from the unauthorized discharges of wastewater from the WWTP.

The Central Coast Water Board issued a notice of violation to Big Basin Water Company, Inc. on November 10, 2022 and a cleanup and abatement order on November 21, 2022. As described in the notice of violation and cleanup and abatement order, Big Basin Water Company, Inc. is collecting untreated wastewater at the WWTP, providing no treatment, and the WWTP components are overflowing with unauthorized discharges of raw sewage and creating a nuisance condition and posing an imminent threat to waters of the state and waters of the United States.

Based on our discussions with County of Santa Cruz staff, we understand that four properties (three homes and a fire station) currently have occupancy permits and are sending wastewater to the WWTP. The Central Coast Water Board strongly recommends that the County of Santa Cruz not issue any additional occupancy permits until the Central Coast Water Board determines that wastewater is being disposed of in a manner that does not threaten water quality or create nuisance conditions that result in public health impacts.

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | MATTHEW T. KEELING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We appreciate the coordination with County of Santa Cruz staff to date and we look forward to further coordination and collaboration to address the serious and imminent threat to water quality and public health caused by the unauthorized discharges of wastewater from the WWTP. If you have any questions please contact Danial Woldearegay at 805-549-3892 or Danial.Woldearegay@Waterboards.ca.gov or Jennifer Epp at Jennifer.Epp@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

for Matthew T. Keeling
Executive Officer

cc:

Big Basin Water Company, Inc

Thomas James and Shirley Moore, sjm16595@gmail.com

Santa Cruz County (County)

Carolyn Burke, Assistant Director of Community Development & Infrastructure, Permit Center, Carolyn.Burke@santacruzcounty.us

Kent Edler, Assistant Director of Community Development & Infrastructure, Sanitations and Engineering, Kent.Edler@santacruzcounty.us

David Reid, Director Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience, David.Reid@santacruzcounty.us

Andrew Strader, Interim Director of Environmental Health, andrew.strader@santacruzcounty.us

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Bruce DeBerry, Water Division Program Manager, bruce.deberry@cpuc.ca.gov

Moises Chavez, Water Division Program and Project Supervisor, moises.chavez@cpuc.ca.gov

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board)

Mark Lemus, Mark.Lemus@Waterboards.ca.gov

Danial Woldearegay, Danial.Woldearegay@Waterboards.ca.gov

Jennifer Epp, Jennifer.Epp@Waterboards.ca.gov

Matthew Keeling, Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov

Harvey Packard, Harvey.Packard@waterboards.ca.gov

Thea Tryon, Thea.Tryon@waterboards.ca.gov

Tamara Anderson, Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov

Jesse Woodard, Jesse.Woodard@Waterboards.ca.gov

WDR Program, RB3-WDR@Waterboards.ca.gov

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Office of Enforcement

Paul Ciccarelli, Paul.Ciccarelli@Waterboards.ca.gov

Laura Mooney, Laura.Mooney@Waterboards.ca.gov

ECM/CIWQS = 147027

GeoTracker No. = WDR100027894

ECM Subject Name = Big Basin Woods Subdivision WWTP NOV

\\ca.epa.local\RB\RB3\Enforcement\Case Files\Big Basin WWTP\Letter to County\letter
to county_final.docx