

Poche Water Quality Discussion – June 16/17, 2011

ITEM J.1

Tom:

Thank you. We look forward to the followup and success in influencing the Regional Water Board on this issue. Your logic is very sound. I sometimes am concerned that there is an inertia in this process because of the multiple agencies involved that doesn't allow logic to surface and then prevail.

regards,

Jack Tarr

From: Bonigut, Tom [mailto:BonigutT@san-clemente.org]

Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 8:58 PM

To: Jack Tarr; Edwards, George

Cc: patbates@ocgov.com; sschoeffel@danapoint.org; Don Russell; Donchak, Lori

Subject: RE: Poche Scour Pond; San Clemente

Hi Jack:

I can't speak to how others characterize the treatment system, but I noted that the system operates well, based on the County's data which shows an overall treatment efficiency of about 94%. There is a report prepared by County staff (and available at www.sccleanocean.org) that provides more detail. There are some times when the system doesn't meet required bacteria standards, especially for enterococcus. County and SCWD staff are pursuing operational tweaks to address that to further increase the treatment efficiency. Despite this the data collected thus far and detailed in the County report show that if not for the discharge to the outlet pond, the system would meaningfully improve surfzone water quality.

As for the Regional Water Board, I just explained in a previous email their concern about permitting a discharge that would technically contain pollution by their definition, since the treatment system does not eliminate 100% of the bacteria 100% of the time (even though left untouched the runoff would end up at the same place with much higher bacteria levels). County staff are leading an effort to address this with Board staff in the hopes of securing a permit as soon as possible.

Feel free to contact me if you have additional questions. Thanks.

*Tom Bonigut, P.E.
910 Calle Negocio, Suite 100
San Clemente, CA 92673
(949) 361-6187*

*Assistant City Engineer
City of San Clemente*

From: Jack Tarr [mailto:jacktarr@jacktarrdc.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 6:05 PM
To: Edwards, George; Bonigut, Tom
Cc: patbates@ocgov.com; sschoeffel@danapoint.org; Don Russell; Donchak, Lori
Subject: FW: Poche Scour Pond; San Clemente
George and Tom:

FYI. (See below) SDRWQCB is opining that the effluent coming from the UV system at Poche is still not meeting what I assume is the minimum design criteria results for the UV System at Poche. This appears inconsistent with the information I have read recently in the newspaper from the June 11, 2011 gathering of Officials at the Poche scour pond setting forth that the City of San Clemente has stated that the treated water from the UV system is "clean" prior to being discharged into the scour pond? Please advise what the facts are in this situation. Is it correct to say the UV system is not treating the effluent in a manner that results in meeting the bacteria standards as stated below? I would respectfully submit that the only definition of the term "clean" in this instance is the definition that satisfies the Water Quality Control Board.

This is a significant issue that based on the email below appears to be holding up the "pilot discharge" test at Poche for an undetermined amount of time.

thank you.

Jack Tarr
(949) 240-2482

From: Chiara Clemente [mailto:CClemente@waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 4:41 PM
To: Jack Tarr
Cc: Don Russell; Alan Monji
Subject: Re: Poche Scour Pond; San Clemente

Dear Mr. Tarr,

Thank you for your comments and concern. I am aware of the situation at Poche Beach, and I assure you we are doing what we can to move a solution forward. I have assigned someone to expediting a certification for recurring inlet maintenance (i.e. breaching the pond berm) so that work may proceed soon. We should have a cert out by the time I get back (July 11). This should reduce or eliminate the stagnant water and associated odors from the pond.

As for the "pilot discharge", however, it is my understanding that the UV treatment facility does not meet the bacteria standards (specifically, enterococcus) required for a permit to discharge to the Ocean. So, in simple terms, relocating a discharge to the ocean may actually be putting swimmers and surfers at risk; and may not be compliant with the law. We still need to look into this issue further. To complicate things, I am really short-staffed right now...but I have committed to meeting with the County as soon as I get back, so we can figure out what to do.

Respectfully,

Chiara Clemente
Senior Environmental Scientist
Regional Water Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-2359
(858) 571-6972 (fax)
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

>>> Jack Tarr <jacktarr@jacktarrdc.com> 6/16/2011 4:30 PM >>>
Chiara:

I am a 31 year resident of the Capo Bay Community. I am desperately urging the SDRWQCB to approve on a priority basis the "pilot test" for distributing the polluted affluent from the Poche Scour Pond over the 'berm' to the ocean.

Except for the smell of death, I have never smelled a stench so bad as what was permeating from the Poche slough last evening. It equals or exceeds an open sewer stench. My wife and I closed all the windows to our home in an attempt to keep the smell from entering the home.

The current end results from the existing system are not in any manner tolerable or acceptable.

Please advise when you would estimate that the 401c permit for this project will be issued. I am assuming that the application has been submitted and is complete.

Respectfully,

Jack Tarr
(949) 240-2482