



**BEAR VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2009

**BEAR VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S EXISTING TREATMENT SYSTEM
PRODUCES TERTIARY QUALITY EFFLUENT**

Plans For New Plant On Hold

At a meeting on November 30, 2009 with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, Diana Messina, Chief, NPDES Program, the District was advised that the pending submittal of new information in the forthcoming application for NPDES permit renewal will likely result in the elimination of the requirement to build a new tertiary treatment plant.

The new information will include submittal of operating records over a 12-year period that document effluent quality equivalent to that produced by tertiary treatment plants for the standard wastewater strength measurements of Total Suspended Solids and Biochemical Oxygen Demand.

NPDES stands for, "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System," and is a federal program under which USEPA authorizes discharges to rivers, streams, the ocean, and lakes. In California, implementation of the program is delegated to the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

The District has not yet had to take advantage of the authorization for discharge to Bloods Creek afforded by its NPDES permit, originally issued in 2005 to enable the District to avoid overflows from its effluent storage reservoir. However, the potential for the Storage Reservoir to be overwhelmed by snowmelt and/or precipitation continues to exist regardless, so the District needs to keep the permit active.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Julio S. Guerra, General Manager at (209) 753-2112, or e-mail, gmbearvalleywater@sbcglobal.net