



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 26, 2025

Thaxton Van Belle
General Manager of Utilities
City of Beaumont
550 E 6th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223
tvanbelle@beaumontca.gov

NOTICE OF VIOLATION – CITY OF BEAUMONT, UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE, WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND MASTER RECYCLING PERMIT, ORDER NO. R8-2022-0042 AND STATEWIDE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS GENERAL ORDER NO. 2022-0103-DWQ

Dear Mr. Van Belle:

On March 2, 2025, the City of Beaumont (Discharger) experienced a sewage overflow, which resulted in a discharge of untreated sewage. As a result of this unauthorized discharge of raw sewage, the City of Beaumont violated prohibitions outlined in the Waste Discharge Requirements and Master Recycling Permit, Order No. R8-2022-0042 (NPDES Order) and the Statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ (General Order).

On Monday, March 3, 2025, at 12:52 PM, Santa Ana Water Board staff received an email notification from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), with the associated notification number, CalOES#25-1088. According to the CalOES report, on Monday March 3, 2025, the City of Beaumont experienced a sanitary sewer overflow when a manhole was destroyed due to soil erosion on the slope of the drainage conveyance system along Tukwet Canyon Golf Course.

Following notification of the spill, Santa Ana Water Board staff conducted an inspection of the spill site on March 3 and 6, 2025. During the inspections, the City of Beaumont staff showed Santa Ana Water Board staff the bypass system, soil conditions of the drainage channel along the Tukwet Canyon Golf Course, and location where a road closure sign had been posted. According to the Certified Spill Report dated March 18, 2025, the bypass system was installed at 5:08 PM on March 3, 2025, ending the spill. Based on further clarification received during the site inspections, the City of Beaumont staff did not receive notification of the spill until Monday morning on March 3, 2025, however the spill was initially observed by golf course staff as early as Sunday morning

KRISTINE MURRAY, CHAIR | JAYNE JOY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

on March 2, 2025. The Discharger estimates approximately 61,200 gallons of sewage was discharged from the 12-inch gravity main line considering the observed peak flow.

As a result of this unauthorized release of raw sewage (untreated wastewater), the City of Beaumont has violated Discharge Prohibitions III.A and III.B of the NPDES Order, and Prohibition 4.2 of General Order. These violations are discussed in detail below.

Prohibition III.A of the NPDES Order states,

“The discharge of wastewater at a location or in a manner different from those described in this Order is prohibited.” The wastewater discharge cited in this letter occurred at a location along the City of Beaumont’s gravity sewer line, which is not an authorized discharge point under the Order and, therefore, the City of Beaumont has violated Prohibition III.A of the NPDES Order.

Prohibition III.B of the NPDES Order states,

“The bypass or overflow of untreated wastewater or wastes to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited, except as allowed in Standard Provision I.G. of Attachment D, Federal Standard Provisions.” The wastewater discharge cited in this letter occurred at a location along the City of Beaumont’s gravity sewer line, which constitutes a bypass and an overflow of untreated wastewater into a drainage conveyance system along the Tukwet Canyon Golf Course and therefore, the City of Beaumont has violated Prohibition III.B of the NPDES Order.

Prohibition 4.2 of General Order states,

“Any discharge from a sanitary sewer system, discharged directly or indirectly through a drainage conveyance system or other route, to waters of the State is prohibited.” The wastewater discharge cited in this letter occurred at a location along City of Beaumont’s gravity sewer main, which ultimately discharged into the drainage conveyance system along Tukwet Canyon Golf Course, and therefore, has violated Prohibition 4.2 of General Order.

The magnitude of this unauthorized release of untreated wastewater and circumstances that caused the unauthorized release pose a major threat to receiving water quality, groundwater, and public health. Therefore, please submit a corrective action plan (CAP) detailing how the City of Beaumont’s unauthorized release of untreated wastewater will be addressed by **April 30, 2025**. The CAP must include a detailed description of the noncompliance and its cause, the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, interim actions being implemented to ensure integrity of bypass system during storm events, and estimated timelines for implementation of the corrective action. Based on an email from City of Beaumont staff on March 19, 2025, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians is the property owner of the golf course and the land surrounding the spill site. Additionally, the City of Beaumont has a utility easement for the construction and maintenance of the sewer line that crosses through the golf course. While the City of Beaumont believes it is the property owner’s responsibility to maintain their property, including the slopes of the drainage conveyance system, the

City of Beaumont remains responsible for maintaining the sewer line. Therefore, the CAP should also include additional sewer maintenance and inspection measures in an area vulnerable to soil erosion, and planned steps or actions that will be taken to prevent recurrence of noncompliance.

Please note that the City of Beaumont is required to also report the violations discussed in this letter in the cover letter for the self-monitoring reports to be submitted for the period of March 2025 to the Santa Ana Water Board, as required under section X.B.7.b. in Attachment E of the NPDES Order. Lastly, note that the City of Beaumont is also required to submit a Spill Technical Report for Category 1 spills within **45 days** of the spill end date under Section 3.1.3 of Attachment E1 of the General Order. The Spill Technical report is due by **April 17, 2025**.

Please be advised that failure to provide the requested CAP by the assigned due date may lead to further enforcement action. We also request an in-person meeting with your team, to be scheduled for early May 2025, to discuss your proposed corrective action.

Failure to comply with the NPDES Order, General Order, or the Clean Water Act may result in the imposition of administrative civil liability. Pursuant to California Water Code sections 13385 and 13350, the Santa Ana Water Board may assess an administrative civil liability in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each day of violation and/or \$10 for each gallon discharged and not cleaned up over 1,000 gallons. The Santa Ana Water Board may also refer this matter to the Attorney General's Office. Issuance of this Notice of Violation does not limit our ability to take additional enforcement measures for this or other violations at the City of Beaumont's facilities. The Santa Ana Water Board may also consider other enforcement options including the issuance of cleanup and abatement orders or a time schedule order.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (951) 782-4997 or at Keith.Person@waterboards.ca.gov or Kayla Kawamura-Chan at (951) 782-4303 or at Kayla.Kawamura@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Keith Person
Digitally signed by Keith Person
Date: 2025.03.26 11:51:01
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Water Boards

Keith Person, P.E.
Recycled Water Section Supervisor
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Enclosure: Attachment A – Map of Spill Flow Path

City of Beaumont

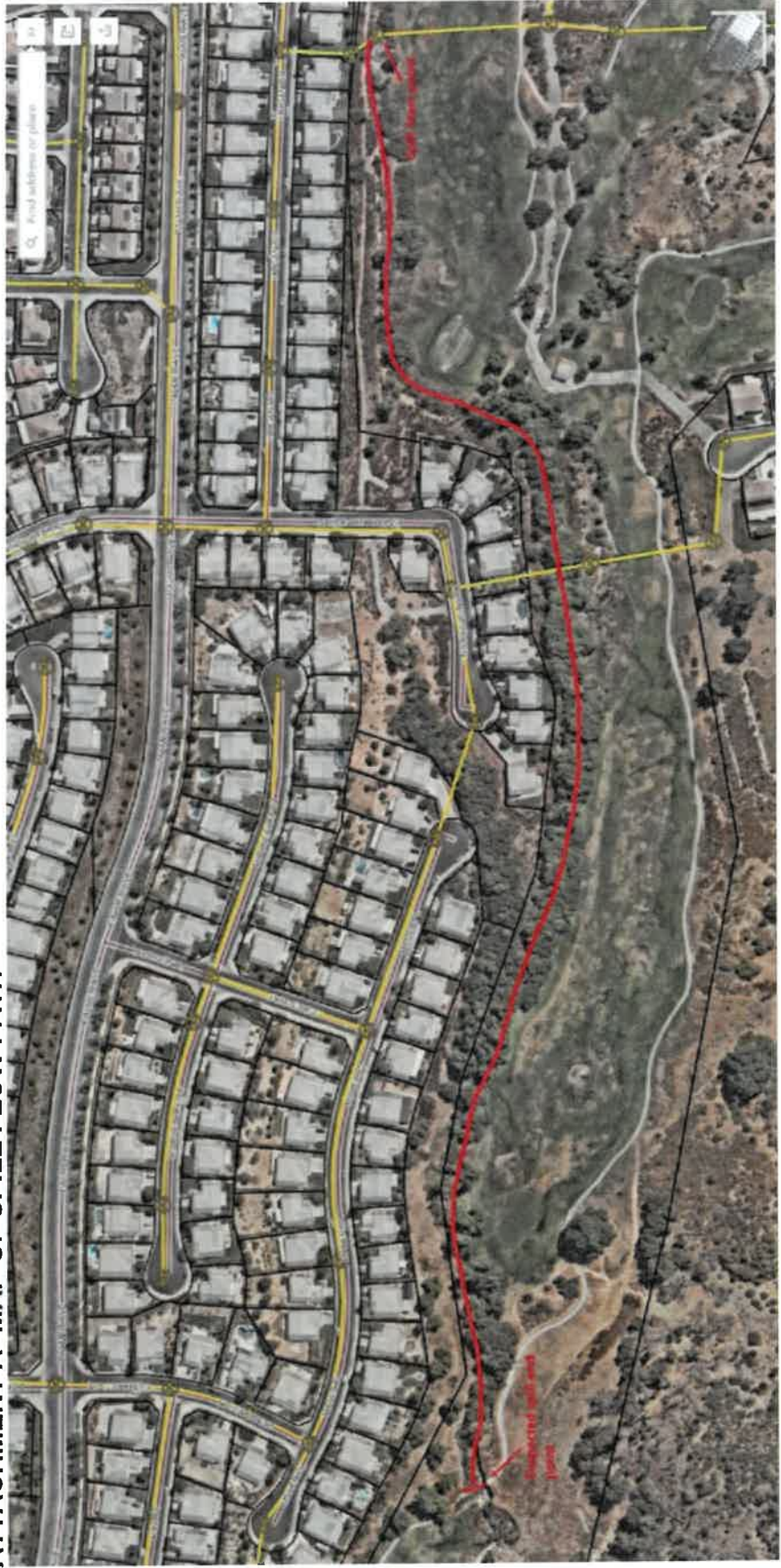
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March 26, 2025

cc: City of Beaumont - Jerome Moledor (jmoledor@beaumontca.gov)
Inland Empire WaterKeeper- Garry Brown (Garry@coastkeeper.org)
State Water Board, Office of Enforcement - Perry Elerts
(perry.elerts@waterboards.ca.gov)

CIWQS ID# 631243

ATTACHMENT A- MAP OF SPILL FLOW PATH¹



¹ Map uploaded by the City of Beaumont within the Certified Spill Report.